History of The Basin

By

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Front cover shows a drawing depicting Smiths Store c1925.
Back cover shows pen drawings courtesy Knox Historical Society.

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure information in this book is complete, some information may be inaccurate or missing.

Composed using LibreOffice in Times New Roman.

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Chapter 1 Foundation

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Summary

The first recorded white visitor to The Basin was W. H. Hovell who explored the area in 1827.

The Dandenong Creek Run at Bayswater was established in 1843 and included the area in 2025 known as The Basin.

William Turner and his family are believed to be the first long term residents of The Basin, settling in 1851. No official records support the claim they resided in The Basin, except in some letters written by Turner and unvalidated claims by other authors. However, a detailed argument is provided supporting the claim.

The name "*The Basin*" is attributed to Baron Von Mueller, who in 1853 camped on the creek flats near the corner of The Basin-Olinda and Sheffield Roads. The flat area of land combined with the surrounding hills form a distinct basin. Von Mueller, musing as he camped in this area, named it "*The Basin*". In 1868, John Hardy created the first map of the Dandenongs and was the first to officially pen the name "*The Basin*" on a map.

William Peverill Watson was the first official freehold occupier of land in The Basin. On the 5th February 1867, Watson was granted title to Crown allotment A.

The Dobson, Chandler, and Wicks families settled in The Basin in the 1870s as market gardeners. These families and their descendants made enormous contributions in influencing development in The Basin area.

James John Miller, James and Emily Griffiths and Sir Matthew Davies all built palatial houses in The Basin. In 2025, only James John Miller's house remains and is owned and maintained by The City of Knox. The other two houses were destroyed by bushfire.

James and Emily Griffiths were religious people and devoted their time as benefactors to the local community. Both were killed in a tragic railway crossing accident in Bayswater. In 2016, the railway crossings were removed with the railway relocated underground.

Distinguished Resident

Helen Chandler

Helen Chandler was one of The Basin's most distinguished residents having been awarded an MBE in 1967 for services to the community. Helen lived in The Basin for over 60 years after marrying Bert Chandler, who inherited Como Nurseries from his father, William Chandler.

The Red Cross, Royal Children's Hospital Auxiliary and Glengollan Retirement Village were just a few of the community organisations she devoted her life to. Her community work involved much car driving and when she obtained her drivers license in the 1930's she was one of a rare breed of female drivers.

The MBE award was a fine tribute to this great lady who devoted her life to those less fortunate than herself.

Helen Chandler passed away in August, 1987.

Foundation of The Basin

In 1770, the British ship "*The Endeavour*" was nearing the end of a three-year voyage. The year before, on 1st June 1769, the captain, Lieutenant James Cook, had observed from Tahiti the crossing of the sun by the planet Venus. Cook then sailed around New Zealand and headed west. He discovered the east coast of Australia on the 20th April 1770 and sailed north along it for eight days. Stepping ashore at Botany Bay on 28th April, he proclaimed the land "*New South Wales*". A nation was born.

On his voyage, undertaken for scientific observation and discovery, Cook had with him two eminent botanists, Joseph Banks and Dr. Carl Solander. Both were greatly interested in the many new plant species they found around Botany Bay.

In later years, after Batman and Fawkner had started a settlement at Port Phillip in 1835, the fauna and flora in the nearby hills attracted other botanists. These hills, known by the Indigenous Australians as "*Coran warabile*", revealed the most exquisite and unique flora and fauna found anywhere in the world.

The First Inhabitants

Indigenous people inhabited Australia for many thousands of years, and The Basin area was part of the territory of the Wurundjeri tribe. Early white settlers had contact with the Indigenous people and implements (stone axes, knives, and spearheads) have been found by men ploughing and cultivating The Basin's soil.

The Indigenous Australian tribes knew of the fertility of The Basin area, and indeed even up to the 1860s members of tribes hunted the forest and fern gullies for wallaby, possum and native bear. Some trekked through The Basin and Bayswater foothills en route to hunting grounds in the Warburton Ranges.

Depasturing Licenses

Depasturing Licenses were issued to allow the grazing of stock on Crown Land and part of the "*Act to restrain unauthorised occupation of Crown Lands*" passed in 1836 in Sydney by the Legislative Council.

Soon after the foundation of Melbourne in 1836, settlers flooded into Victoria, and by 1840 had settled on, and "*claimed*" most of pastural Victorian land. The land claimed was vacant Crown Land. These settlers were known as "*squatters*" and had no legal claim to the land until they applied for, and were granted, a Depasturing License for the land. The land was then known as a "*pastoral run*" or a "*run*". Initially, the license fee was set at 10 pounds per year irrespective of the size of the run. In later years, the fees and allowed land sizes were varied.

Pastural runs were leased from the Crown, and the lease holder had no title to the land. In 2025, a number of pastural runs still exist in northern parts of Australia.

Pastural runs were usually given a distinctive name by the original license applicant and boundaries loosely defined, usually by geographical features. The first licenses were not issued until 1838, and one of the first was to Rev. James Clow for the Corhanwarrabul run in the territory in 2025 known as The City of Knox.

The First White Visitor

The first recorded European visitor to The Basin area was explorer W. H. Hovell.

In late 1826, Captain Samuel Wright arrived off Phillip Island in command of the vessels Dragon and Fly. He carried orders to establish a convict settlement in Westernport to discourage French interest in the area.

Captain Wright's group consisted of soldiers, convicts, and a few civilians. One was W. H. Hovell who intended to survey the country around the settlement before heading across country toward Sydney. Hovell came well-equipped, with four fine horses, two pack saddles, horseshoe nails, and presents for the Indigenous Australians. Three Indigenous convicts were assigned to go with him.

On Hovel's fifth exploratory trip in February 1827, he explored the southern and western faces of the Corhanwarrabul and Westernport Ranges. This would have taken him through the area of The Basin and Ferntree Gully.

Hovell's explorations were so successful he abandoned the idea of crossing to Sydney overland and instead returned by boat.

The Westernport settlement was abandoned in February 1828.

Prominent Early Visitors

Daniel Bunce

The settlement at Port Phillip was five years old when Daniel Bunce, a botanist, arrived from Hobart. The blue range of hills lying some 25 miles (40 km) east of Melbourne attracted his attention and, helped by a group of Indigenous Australians, he explored the area.

In 1840, he most likely followed a traditional Indigenous track east of Melbourne through to the foot of the Dandenongs and ascended to the top. The Basin is the most likely place for him to commence his ascent of the Dandenongs as it is a direct route east of Melbourne. Following the Dandenong Creek was a logical route for Bunce. Allan Dodd, a descendant of George Dodd, who selected land below Sassafras in 1878 (*known as* "*Dodd's Gully" and later, "Rainbow Gully*"); claimed Bunce's route passed through his ancestor's property located below the source of the spring feeding the Dandenong Creek.

Others may have previously ventured into the Western Port Range, as The Dandenongs were then called, but Bunce must be accorded the distinction of having been one of the first known white men to ascend the Dandenongs. During his ascent, he made copious notes of the area and collected botanical specimens.

In later years Bunce joined Leichardt's expedition along the Condamine in Queensland, and later again

became curator of the Geelong Botanic Gardens.

Baron Von Mueller

Botanist Baron Ferdinand Jakob Heinrich Von Mueller showed real interest in The Basin.

Appointed Government Botanist to the State of Victoria in 1852, "*The Doctor*" as he was known, spent a week in The Dandenongs and became enthralled with their beauty. He camped in The Basin in 1853 on the creek flats near what became William Chandler's property at the corner of The Basin-Olinda Road and Sheffield Road. From this and other camps he made excursions into the bush collecting botanical specimens.

Eastern Rosella
The Basin Emblem

Von Muellers account reads in part:

"*...fortunately we got onto a road leading to the very top of the mountain and along which timber had been brought down...*"

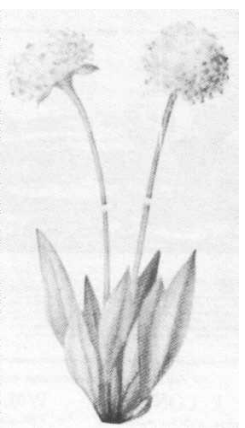
This road was most likely Range Road, first known as the Bullock Track, which passed through The Basin.

Von Mueller, born in Germany in 1825, came to Australia because of poor health. In 1852, he was appointed the State's first Government botanist. It was in this capacity he first visited the Dandenongs in 1853.

From 1857 to 1873 Von Mueller was Director of the Melbourne Botanical Gardens. Von Mueller first exported eucalypts to many parts of the world and introduced many valuable plants, including the Monterey pine to Australia. It has been said he also introduced the blackberry.

During the 1870s, Mueller established a permanent camp in The Basin.

For his outstanding work Mueller received many honours. The King of Wurttenburg made him a baron, Queen Victoria knighted him, and he received honours from France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Austria, Denmark, Holland, and Sweden.



Blue Pincushion
The Basin Symbol

The Name

The name "*The Basin*" is attributed to Baron Von Mueller, a botanist, who established a camp in 1853 on the creek flats near what later became William Chandler's property at the corner of The Basin-Olinda Road and Sheffield Road. The flat area of land combined with the surrounding hills form a distinct basin. Von Mueller, musing as he camped in this area, named it "*The Basin*".

The earliest written record of the name "*The Basin*" is on a plan of the Dandenong State Forest prepared by Surveyor John Hardy in 1868 (see map on page 14) and in his field book described later. It has been suggested "*The Basin*" was added on the map later. However, Hardy entered information in his field book as he surveyed the area, so it is unlikely he entered the name later.

Early surveyors used field books to record raw survey information used for the later creation of plans and maps. They also showed physical features on the ground. Page 21 in Hardy's field book number 17 dated March 20, 1868, has the location "*The Basin*" written and page 22 has a rough map showing Crown allotments in The Basin marked "*Wm Turner*" and "*Watson*". Numerous references mention "*One Tree Hill*".

William Chandler referred to "*The Basin*" when in 1872 he applied for a license to occupy 40 acres (see page 24).

Mail to The Basin originally came addressed "*Macauley via Ringwood*" but later Macauley became known as Bayswater.

In some early land transactions, The Basin area was called "*North Scoresby*" because it was in the northern section of the Parish of Scoresby in the Shire of Berwick.

The Primary School, when first opened, was called "*The Dandenong Ranges School*". During 1883, under Head Teacher Alice Hammond, the Dandenong Ranges School was renamed "*The Basin*" as the previous name was too indefinite. This arose after a visit by Inspector Walter Gamble in November 1883 (when the average attendance was 20). He recommended:

"...the school be known as "The Basin" State School No. 2329, North Scoresby. Dandenong Ranges is too indefinite and is not recognised in the district. "The Basin" is the local name and is likely to be permanent."

The Education Department officially adopted the name in 1884.

Residents in the early 1890s referred to the area near the corner of The Basin-Olinda Road and Sheffield Road as "*The Little Basin*". The low area west of the Salvation Army buildings in Sheffield Road (known as the "*Army flats*") was known as "*The Big Basin*".

The Oakleigh & Ferntree Gully Times reported on 18th July 1891 Cr. Chandler of "*The Little Basin*" lost many plants in a flood.

Advertisements for the guest houses Hazel Dell and Clevedon used Sassafras and Bayswater up until about

1930 and then used The Basin.

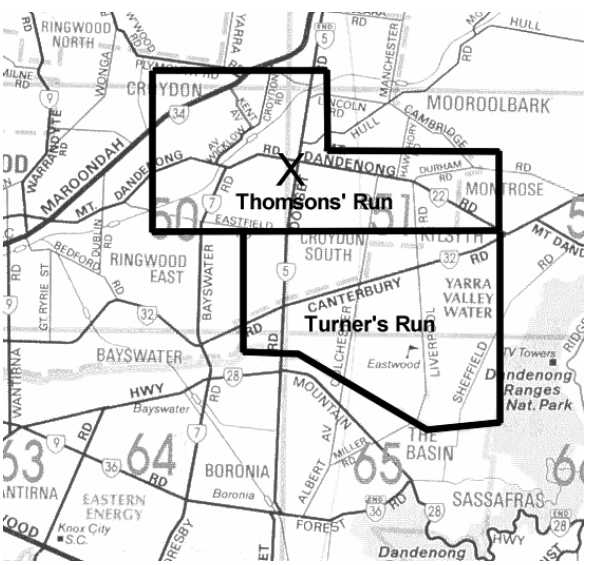
At the second meeting of the newly inaugurated The Basin Progress Association in July 1926 at The Basin State School, it was suggested the name "*The Basin*" might be changed to something more in keeping with the grandeur of the Dandenong Ranges. A motion was put, supported by Guest House proprietors, and some who had weekend cottages to let, to change the name because of its "*ludicrous nature*". The names of "*Eurimbla*", "*Echo Valley*", "*Eigenia*", "*Veronica*", "*Lower Sassafras*" and "*South Sassafras*" were suggested.

The motion to change the name was opposed by the Chandlers and Dobsons, pioneer families for whom the name had its roots in family traditions. They claimed the name had "*distinction*". The motion was lost by a narrow margin.

Early land sales used Sassafras and Bayswater to refer to The Basin.

In the 1920s and 1930s, the area around Mountain Highway, Claremont Avenue, and Toorak Avenue was known locally as "*Switzerland*" and later "*Somerville"* after the estate names. Later, the Claremont and Inverness Avenue areas became known as The Ravine.

Associated with the name was the emblem of The Basin (see picture on page 4). The Football Club, The Primary School and the Scout Troop all originally chose the Rosella as their emblem because of the numerous Eastern Rosellas in The Basin. The Basin Football Club won their first premiership as the "*Rosellas*" and later changed to be known as "*The Bears*".



A 1990s map overlaid with the approximate boundaries of John Thomson and William Turner's runs.
In 1851, Turner and his family were living on a lot marked with the X above. It is on the corner of Mt Dandenong and Dorset Roads in Croydon. Turner applied for a Pre-Emptive Right on the land but was ordered off as the lot was on Thomsons run.
The land is marked "Wm Turner" on the map on page 11.

The Basin Progress Association adopted as their symbol a small blue native flower, Brunonia Australis, commonly known as Blue Pincushion (see photo on page 4). This little blue flower used to "*carpet the ground*" between The Basin and Bayswater.

The First Residents

William Turner (see photo on page 9), his wife Margaret and their children were the first known long term residents of The Basin. However, the only written evidence to support the Turners living in The Basin in the 1850s is in a letter written by Turner (see Letter 5 on page 10) and claims from descendants of the Turners. Thomas Turner, the Turners' second son who died in 1932 at the age of 88, was well known for making this claim. He told his descendants it was well remembered in his family that he was only 2 weeks old when they moved to the area known as The Basin. He also claimed their house was located on what is in 2025 The Basin-Olinda Road. Tom was a long term and prominent resident of Croydon. The Croydon Historical Society has many photos of Tom and his family.

Other publications also make the claim the Turners were the first white residents of The Basin.

Turner's descendants claim the Turners first lived in The Basin and then moved to Croydon. However, as will be shown later, the available evidence shows the Turners first lived in Croydon, then moved to The Basin and then moved back to Croydon. It is also most likely the Turners first settled in Croydon in the late 1840s.

William Turner was born in Yorkshire in 1813 of a Quaker family and died in Ringwood in 1893. Turner was a Captain in the English army. His commission took him first to Sydney in 1837 and then to Melbourne, where he arrived in 1840 (according to his death certificate). Turner gave up his commission soon after his arrival because the public flogging of convicted persons for petty offences conflicted with his Quaker upbringing. After arriving in Melbourne, Turner opened the first tailors shop in Elizabeth Street, and conducted brick making works in partnership with Goliath Chatterton. On his death certificate, Turner's profession is listed as a Tailor.

Turner married Margaret Jane Killean in 1847 at St James Cathedral, Melbourne. She was born in Ireland in 1825 and died in Mooroolbark in 1882. The death certificates of both parents list they had 10 children, but some children's Date of Birth (DOB) computed from the two death certificates do not correlate. The children were: William Hector (1842-1899), Thomas (1844-1932), Janet (1847-1904), Joshua Moxon (1850-1870), Louisa (1851-1868), Catherine Harriet (1855-1949), Hector (1857-1940), Rose, (1858-1897), May Anne (1861-1940), and Annie (1865-1911). Louisa was the firstborn at their house in The Basin in 1851 and was the

first known white child born in The Basin district. Tragically, Louisa died at the age of 17 and Joshua died at the age of 20.

Turner claimed in a letter dated 1855 (see Letter 2 on page 7) he had a family of 9 children. However, records show the Turner's only had 7 children in 1855. Either the Turner's had other children dying young, or Turner was exaggerating his situation to support his claims. From Government and Church records, sketchy accounts indicate a possible 4 other births to the Turner name in the 1840s, but these cannot be confirmed.

In the 1840s, Turner held a Depasturing License for a run known as "*Western Port*". This run encompassed the areas of Lilydale and Croydon. In June 1849, he took up the Depasturing License for a pastural run known as "*Stringy Bark Forest Run*" or "*Mooroolbark*", which he held until 1869. Rob Bennet first leased this run in 1840 and held it until 1842. William Cole held it from 1842 to 1843 and Rogerson and Dick held it from 1846 to 1847.

Turner also held a Depasturing License for an unnamed run, located north of the Dandenong Creek extending from The Basin to the west (see map on page 5). He held this license in 1852 (from the description of the run) but no other records can be found to establish the full period he held the run.

In the late 1840s, Turner erected a house near the area in 2025 known as Croydon South and moved there with his wife and children. The land he erected his house on was supposedly part of his Western Port run but later revealed to be on John Thomsons run.

In 1851, Turner applied to purchase, under Pre-

Pre-emptive Right

In 1847, an act was passed giving settlers holding a license for a Pastural Run an exclusive right to purchase part of the land, and later on, all of it. This was known as giving the settler a "*Pre-emptive Right*" to the land.

To qualify for a Pre-emptive grant, the applicant must be living in a homestead on the land, and it must be inside a run licensed to the applicant. Granted land was almost always in increments of 80 acres, rectangular and with one side pointing north-south.

The Turner's house in The Basin circa 1860. Turners descendants claim this house was located near The Basin-Olinda Road near the corner of Sheffield Road but may have been his house in Croydon.
Photo courtesy Croydon Historical Society.

Letter 1

May 1854

To His Excellency
Charles Joseph Latrobe Esquire
Lieut. Governor
of Victoria

The Humble Petition of Wm Turner
Licensed occupant of Crown Lands
in the County of Evylin
Humbly sheweth
That your petitioner having
been a licensed occupant of Crown
Lands for several years applied about
of Three years ago under the pre-emptive
right for permission to purchase (160)
On hundred and sixty acres of land for
a homestead which application had been
about 12 months ago but of which permission
your petitioner has never received any
official information that your petitioner
having repeately applied to the Post
Office Melbourne was assured by the
Post Master General that no official
communication for him had reached
that office that your petitioner
applied to the Hon the Colonial
Secretary, who gave your petitioner an
order addressed to the Hon. the Colonial
Treasurer, directing that officer to receive
the amount for said land that your
petitioner being compelled to return home
to his family, placed the requisite funds
in the hands of his agent, who neglected
to present the money at the proper
time that your petitioner on returning
to Melbourne, was exceedingly distressed
to find, that this neglect had occurred
that you petitioner then personally
tendered the money, but was informed
that it could not be received without
the special permission of Your Excellency
That your petitioner is married, has
a large family & is poorly of but limited
means, & is compelled to cast up the
whole of his possessions from home.
Your petitioner therefore
humbly prays that your Excellency will be
pleased to take the matter into your
favourable consideration, and grants per
mission to your petitioner to pay the
money into the Treasury for the said land
And your petitioner, as in duty bound
I will ever pray
W. Turner

Letter 2

To the Honorable
The Colonial Secretary
Sir
The humble Petition of
William Turner humbly shewith that
your petitioner did on the 16 th June 1854
pay into office of the Colonial Treasurer
£160 for One Hundred and Sixty Acres
Land (granted under Pre-emptive right)
at Cohanwarranbull Dandenong Creek
(known by the name of the White Flat)
& which your petitioner resided on when he
made application for same land and your
petitioner has not been able to obtain the
Grant in consequence of the land applied for
being decided to be on Thompson's Run
and as there is no land on your petitioners
land fit for Agricultural purposes (and
your petitioner being in a very humble position)
having borrowed the said sum of £160
to pay for the said land, and in consequence
of not being able to obtain same, has not
been able to pay the party from whom
the money was borrowed and an executor
is now pending on your petitioner for
recovery of said £160.
Your petitioner therefore humbly
beg that you will direct the return of
the said sum of £160 otherwise it will result
in the ruin of your petitioner and family
consisting of nine children, and who are
entirely dependant on your petitioner
And your petitioner in duty bound
will ever pray

William Turner

Letter 3

Melbourne 27 April 1855
To the Honorable
The Colonial Secretary
Sir
I applied to you by
Petition on the 19th ? relative
to the refunding of £160 for land
granted to me under preemptive right
at Corrwarrabul Dandenong Creek
Not having yet received an answer to
the same I take the liberty of writing
to ascertain if the same has been received
I am Sir
Your best Humble Servant
M. Carlton
for Wm Turner

emptive right (see inset on page 6), 160 acres of land surrounding his house. Assistant Surveyor H. B. Foot had instructions to:

"*…mark lots for Turner and Thompson etc on the White Flats of Dandenong near the northern bend of Dandenong Creek connecting the survey with the southern boundary of the Parish of Warrandyte*". This area was north of the Dandenong Creek.

In the 1850s, the plains north and south of the Dandenong Creek where it flows west from the Dandenongs were known as the "*White Flats*".

Surveyor Clement Hodgkinson marked Turners lot, but he discovered the lot was part of John Thomson's run (see map on page 5). On 15th March 1851, the Lands Department ordered Turner off the land (see letter 4 on page 8).

Letters from Turner on page 7 confirm he was ordered off the land and his Pre-emptive right annulled. He also states he resided on the land when ordered off. He claims to have paid 160 pounds for his Pre-emptive right and requested repayment several times after annulment. Eventually, he was granted return of the money (see letter 4 on page 8).The publication: "*Crown Lands Pre-Emptive Right Applications: Victoria 1850-1854*" by Marjorie Morgan, lists William Turner in the County of Evelyn as having a Pre-emptive application as follows:

Name of Run: *Head of Dandenong Ck*
Area applied: *160 acres*
Application Date: *20 Feb 1851*
Area granted: *160 acres*
Approval Date: *30 Apr,1852*
Amount: *160 Pounds*
Payment Date: *16th June 1854*

The name of the run is "*Head of Dandenong Ck*" but this is a position description and not the name of the run, as Turner's was an "*unnamed run*" (according to Government records). It is unclear if this is the same land Turner was ordered off on 15th March 1851, but Payment Date correlates with the date quoted by Turner (see letter 2 on page 7). However, the Approval Date is 30th April 1852; after Turner was ordered off the land deemed to be on Thomson's run

Interestingly, in 1855, Turner requested the land he was ordered off be put up for sale by auction, and he purchased it (see Letter 5 on page 10) The map on page 11 shows the land he purchased.

Turner used the term "*Corrwarrabul Dandenong Creek*" at least twice in his letters, implying the two names were used synonymously in those days for the Dandenong Creek which sources below Mt Corhanwarrabul. Early minute books of the Berwick Road Board used the term Corranwarrabul.

A detailed 1855 map of a part of the County of Evelyn (see page 11) shows 160 acres of land marked "*Wm Turner*" on what in 2025 is the southwestern corner of the junction of Dorset Road and Mount Dandenong Road in Croydon. The land is marked with an "*A*" indicating this land may be part of a pre-emptive right application. A track is marked running from his land to a sawmill. Turner ran a sawmill and supplied wooden casks for a boiling down works in Mooroolbark. Also marked on Turners land is the geographical feature "*The White Flat*".

This land is almost certainly the land originally part of John Thomson's run Turner applied to have surveyed for his Pre-emptive right in 1851. Turner was ordered off this land but later purchased it at auction.

Turners Pre-emptive application is also entered in the "*Applications Register for the purchase of Land under Pre-Emptive Right*" held by the Public Records Office. In the remark's column it states:

"Measured by Mr Hodgkinson — but on Thompson run land put up for auction & purchased by Turner £160". The entry is dated 1852.

When Turner was ordered off Thomson's run in 1851, the family moved to, and established a residence, in The Basin (see photo of Turner family house on page 6).

In 1856, Victoria had its first election for Upper and Lower houses. Victoria was divided into Divisions. The Basin was in Evelyn Division. The boundary between Evelyn and Mornington was a line running approximately east of Oakleigh. Persons eligible to vote in the Lower house were:

- *Owners of freehold land to a value of £50.*
- *Owners of leasehold land to value of £10 annually.*
- *Crown tenants of wastelands or miners' rights.*

Potential voters sent an appointed Collector their names, surnames, places of abode and qualifications to the Collectors office or the Collector would call.

The Collector for Evelyn was Andrew Ross, and for Mornington was J. R. Hudson.

Collectors made an alphabetical list of all the qualified persons within their area of collection and published the lists. Other potential voters could dispute any name on the list, and there was a mechanism for

Letter 4

I have reason to suppose that at the time Turner paid the purchase money, he was fully aware that he could not obtain a grant of the portion of land at the locality called the White Flat as I find that on the 15th of March 1851 he was ordered by the Commissioner of Crown Lands for the County of Bourke to remove from the locality,
which formed part of the run leased to Mr Thomson. That being the case there appears to be no reasonable ground for complying with the Petitioners request, except under his plea of poverty, and therefore His Excellency is pleased to sanction the refund of the money as an act of grace
12 June 1855
F. H. Powlett

resolving these disputes. After resolving any disputes, a final electoral roll was created.

Collectors verified if a person was "*qualified*" by a dispute mechanism, but it is unknown how the validity of a potential voter submitted information was checked.

Three listings referring to Turner were recorded for the 1856 election. These listings are reproduced on the inset on page 10.

Extracts for Turner from the final electoral roll are as follows:

- ***Mornington Div***.
  769 Turner, William Cohanwarranbul, Farmer The White Flats, Dandenong. Freehold.
- ***Evelyn Div***.
  403 Turner, William Warrandyte, grazier, depasture license. Warrandyte

It is difficult to correlate any of the election records with what is known of Turner's holdings. Although Turner is listed as holding freehold land in the Mornington Division, this seems unlikely as this Division is well south of his known holdings. Turner may have been confused about the Division boundary and as the extent of checking the validity of voter's details is unknown, the information in the electoral records cannot be taken as correct.

William Turner
First White Resident of The Basin
Photo courtesy Croydon Historical Society

In 1858, Turner applied to purchase, under Pre-emptive right, 160 acres of land (see Letter 5 on page 10). To purchase land under Pre-emptive right, the land must be on a licensed run. Turner held the license to an unnamed run north of the Dandenong Creek.

Turner states in his letter he is residing on the land, and situated "*about 2 Miles East of H. Rourke's purchased Land*". Hugh and Henry Rourke held the Dandenong Creek Run from 1843 to 1853 and in 1854 Henry Rourke took over the run in his name only.

Rourke applied for, and in 1854 was granted, 160 acres of land within his run under Pre-emptive right. Rourke's Pre-emptive land was located on the south-east corner of the junction of Mountain Highway and Scoresby Road. On later maps, Rourke's land is marked with an "*A*" indicating the land was originally part of a Pre-emptive right application.

The statement in Turner's letter "*about 2 Miles East of H. Roukes purchased Land*" would place Turner's land near The Basin township. This means in 1858 the Turners were living in The Basin, and most likely they arrived in 1851 after he was ordered off Thomson's run.

Crown allotment maps of The Basin in the area pointed to by Turner show a Crown allotment marked with an "*A*", which may indicate the Pre-emptive right application made by Turner. This Crown allotment was on the southwest corner of the junction of Pavitt Lane and Sheffield Road. William Peverill Watson is recorded as gaining freehold title to this land in 1867 (see map on page 13). The land was not of 160 acres as claimed by Turner, but the land boundaries may have been adjusted between Turner's application and Watson's purchase. Crown allotment A extends north of the Dandenong Creek into land part of Turner's run.

William Watson and David Dobson were the first freehold owners of Crown allotment A and Crown allotment 72A respectively, but no official records can be located to indicate William Turner senior had an interest in Crown allotment A or any other Crown allotment in The Basin.

The Crown allotment to the south of Crown allotment A (marked as 72A) is recorded as leased in 1867 to Wm. Turner Jn., of Lilydale, the Turner's first son. He lost the license for encouraging "*illicit distillation*". Also, on this land, Turner's descendants claim the Turner house was located. The name "*Turner*" appears on an 1867 map prepared by John Hardy (see maps on pages 14 and 33). William Chandler stated his land was "*east of Turner's 42nd Section"* when applying for a lease in 1872.

TURNER, William
Cohanwarranbul creek, Dandenong
(farmer)
freehold of the White Flats

TURNER, William
Warrandyte, grazier
Depasture License
Evelyn

TURNER, William
Cohanwarranbul, farmer
Freehold
Mornington Div.

Extracts of the 3 listings of William Turner for the 1856 Victorian election.

Turners statement in his letter where he is residing, and Crown allotment A was a Pre-emptive right application gives credence to the claim by Turner's descendants the Turners once lived in The Basin. However, the Turners did not live in The Basin until at least 1851.

In 1867, the Government instructed John Hardy to survey the Dandenong Ranges to preserve sections of it as a forest. Hardy created a detailed map of The Dandenong State Forest. It included details of tracks and huts around The Basin (see map on page 14, and a more detailed section of the map on page 33). Turner's descendants claim Turner's son, Tom, guided John Hardy in his survey.

On Hardy's map, a dray track starts near land marked "*Turner*" in The Basin and then heads east splitting into two tracks, each following a ridge to the top of the mountain. These tracks are most likely the first tracks in the area and created by William Turner. The northern track became known as the "*Bullock Track*" or "*Holden's Track*" (after George Holden) and follows the route of what later became Range Road (now closed) to Olinda. The southern track follows the route of what became Cobblestone Road and later Hilton Road (in 2025 closed) to Ferny Creek. Both tracks were initially constructed to cart timber from the forest to Melbourne.

Other dray tracks start above land marked "*Watson*" and head north and east. One dray track leads to a leasehold of 320 acres held by William Turner in the forest just below Sassafras. This leasehold was used with his wood cutting operations. The detailed map shows the name "*W. Turner*" on the map near what, in 2025, is Dobson's Creek.

In the 1850s, William Turner (senior) is recorded as sought after by an inspector from the Board of Land and Works for cutting timber on the upper regions of the southern branches of the Dandenong Creek without a license. George Holden and his two sons were also cutting timber at Olinda during the 1850s and later. Both Turner and Holden had a hand in creating the tracks shown on Hardy's map.

The tracks around the land marked Turner and Watson were the main routes to the top of The Dandenongs then. They were well-used by timber cutters, settlers, and visitors as early as the 1850s.

In 1860, the Turners moved back to Croydon to the land they first settled on in 1844, were removed from in 1851 but later purchased in 1855.

After Turners wife Margaret died on 4th December 1882, he married Harlettie Louisa Groombridge on June 30th 1883, and they had three children, Sydney Groombridge Turner, born 12th July 1883, Claribell Victoria Turner, born 1886, and Myrtle Elsie Adelaide Turner, born 1889. When he remarried, his occupation was stated as a Tailor and was living at 41 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne. This was his occupation given when he resigned from the Army.

William Turner died on July 1st 1893 and was apparently well known for his humanitarianism.

See the "*Research Notes*" in Chapter 17 for information gathered by other authors about William Turner and other relevant information.

Founder

Founder is defined as "*one who set up, established and originated a permanent home or edifice at a place*".

William Watson was the first person to hold title to

Letter 5

April 20 th 1858
Chief Commissioner Crown Lands
Sir Having been allowed my preemptive
rights by the Government bearing date
April 13 th 1853 which was marked of
Mr Hodgekinson by the district Surveyor for which I
paid £160 into the Treasury which was
afterwards Annulled As forming part
of Thomsons Run. Eighteen Months after
I applied to the Surveyor General to have
the land Above Mentioned put up for
Sale which I purchased
I humbly beg to have one Hundred
and sixty Acres Marked of for my
preemptive right which was allowed me
by the Government
The Ground I now apply for is Situated
about 2 Miles East of H. Roukes
purchased Land on the
Dandenong Creek where
I now reside
The Improvements Consist of my House
outbuildings Garden Etc
stock Yard Etc
Your Obedient
Servant
W Turner
Address Mr Turner
Dandenong Creek
To be left at ? ? ? ? ?
No 79 Elizabeth Street Melbourne

land in The Basin, but did not reside there long.

The Dobsons and Chandlers came later and had a large influence in establishing The Basin with their involvement in local affairs.

The Turners were the first white residents of The Basin and indeed the Dandenongs, but the significance of this fact is passed over or given little status. As Murial McGivern relates in her publication "*Founder of the Dandenongs*", William Turner is the founder of The Dandenongs and The Basin.

The First Official Landholder

William Peverill Watson is recorded as the first official occupier of freehold land in the area in The Basin. Watson was born near Butterwick, Yorkshire, England in 1808.

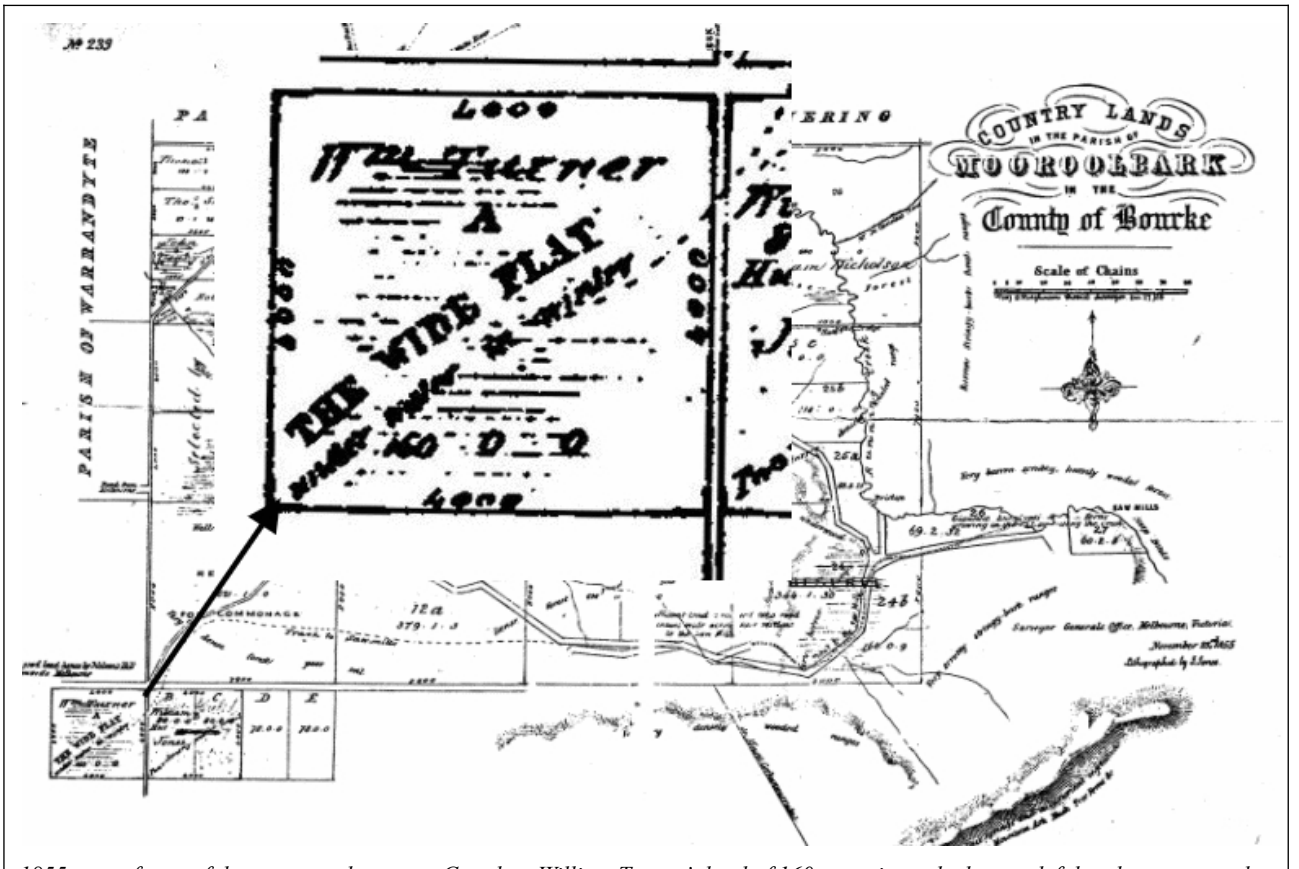
On the 5th February 1867, Watson was granted title to Crown allotment A (see map on page 13). Watson paid cash for the 102 acres at 1 pound per acre. Improvements were already valued at 345 pounds, and they included a homestead, outbuildings, some fencing, and cultivation.

Watson selected the land in 1866, well before implementation of "*The Land Act 1869*", which governed most settlement in this locality. Records show in 1866 there was already a "*W Watson homestead*" towards the north-eastern corner, and a small area of "*cultivation*" on the creek flat (see map on page 13). Presumably Watson, or someone else, had been in possession unofficially before that date.

Instrument number 8849 shows that on 22nd August 1867, William Peverill Watson of Scoresby, in the County of Victoria, a farmer, sold Crown allotment A to Emma Rachel Dorrington, wife of John Dorrington, of Brunswick Street, near the City of Melbourne, Grocer, for 400 pounds. Emma was Watson's daughter.

On 9th December 1872, David Dobson purchased the land from Dorrington for 350 pounds to add to his existing holdings.

To the south of Crown allotment A is Crown allotment 72A. William Turner Jnr had a license on this Crown allotment in 1867, but had his license cancelled for involvement in "*illicit distillation*". William Hall Watson held the lease in 1870 and David Dobson was granted title in 1872. William Turner senior may have had an earlier interest in this land, but no records could be found to confirm this.



1855 map of part of the area now known as Croydon. William Turner's land of 160 acres is on the bottom left hand corner on what is the corner of Dorset Road and Mt. Dandenong Road. This land was purchased at auction by Turner in 1852.
Turner's land is marked with an "A". This indicates the land may have been part of a Pre-emptive right claim. Note the "Track to Saw Mills" between Turner's land and the Saw Mills on the RH side. Also, the geographical feature on his land marked as the "THE WIDE FLAT" and "under water in winter".

Prominent Early Settlers

Fertile creek flats at The Basin attracted many early settlers. The most productive land was Crown allotments A, 72A, 72B and 75 (see maps on pages 13 and 36) with the Dandenong Creek, Dobson Creek and their tributaries running through them. The astuteness of the early settlers confirmed by Robert Thompson, Government inspector, who wrote in 1870:

"The command of water here for irrigation over an extent of 65 acres might turn out six loads of vegetables every day round the year".

Other early settlers were attracted by the forest and easy access to large tracts of timber or the scenic beauty of the streams and fern gullies in the foothills of the mountains.

David Dobson

David Dobson was born in 1838 in Newcastle on Tyne, England, and arrived in Melbourne on the "*Persia*" on 20th March 1854. The ship's register described him as a 16-year-old agricultural labourer from Cumberland. It also stated he was travelling to Melbourne with his "*uncle*". Later official records show him as the son of Thomas and Susan, and the brother of Thomas 13, Charlotte 11, and Jane 9, who had boarded the ship in Liverpool, having come from "*Gifford, East Lothia*" in Scotland. An older brother, John Thomson, also emigrated to Melbourne. The Victorian government was advertising for people with farming experience, and the Dobsons were exactly the family they were looking for.

Thomas Dobson senior began by felling timber for ships' masts (thus the naming of "*Mast Gully Road*" at Upwey), and lived in the Ferntree Gully National Park area. David's mother Susan died in 1858 aged 45. His father Thomas later married Susan's younger sister Christina Cree.

Members of the Dobson family settled in Scoresby and carried out farming and grazing. Apparently, David

David Dobson Family and Friends Circa 1905.
Back Row: Herbert Pegler, Maud Pegler, Albert Nicol, Mary (Pollie) Nicol, Henry Kleinert.
On Right: Elsie Dobson, David Dobson.
Middle Row: Charlotte Dobson, Charlotte Unthank, Jane Hodgins, Jane (Jenny) holding baby Arthur Kleinert.
Bottom Row: Albert Nicol, Helen (Nellie) Kleinert, Gilbert Nicol.
Photo courtesy Knox Historical Society.

had his first introduction to the locality, which became The Basin, when working with stock from their farm "*Rushdale*". At that time, The Basin was part of the area known as North Scoresby (northern section of the Parish of Scoresby).

In 1867, David married Mary Ann Lum, born in Lambeth, Surrey, England. They had 9 children:

1. Robert Lum (1868-1902). Married Janet Wicks (daughter of Edmund and Janet Wicks). They had 3 children. Janet Mary (Jean), James David (Jim), and Robert John (Bobbie).
2. Mary Anne (Polly) (1869-1925). Married Albert Ferry Nicol. They had 3 children. Albert David, Gilbert Arthur and Joyce Elaine.
3. James Henry (1871-1891).
4. Jane (1873-1945). Married Heinrich (Henry) Kleinert. They had 5 children. Mary Helen Grace (Nellie), Arthur Henry, Olive Winifred, Ethel Maud and Herbert Leslie.
5. Flora (1875-1951). Married Alfred Ferry Nicol. They had 2 children. Flora Mary and Marian Ena.
6. Charlotte (1878-1965).
7. Alice Maude (1880-1959). Married Herbert Marshall Pegler. They had 5 children. Edgar Horace, Herbert Marshall, Phyllis Mary, Robert Alexander and Walter James.
8. Agnes Susan (1882-1889).
9. Elsie Grace (1885-1957).

See photo of David Dobson and friends on page 12.

Davids land first purchase in The Basin area was Crown allotment A. Instrument number 28253 shows that on 9th December 1872, Emma Rachel Dorrington, wife of John Dorrington, of Brunswick Street, Fitzroy Grocer, in the County of Bourke, sold Crown allotment A to David Dobson, of the parish of Scoresby, in the County of Mornington, farmer for 350 pounds. See page 11 for early information on Crown allotment A

Dobson may have been living on that land before the purchase, most likely in the dwelling built by William Watson.

Crown allotment A comprised 102 acres adjoining the northern boundary of Crown allotment 72A and stretching across from what in 2025 is Dobson's Creek to Sheffield Road to Liverpool Road and North to Pavitt Lane. See map on page 36. The map shows Liverpool Road (then Fern Glen Road) had a kink at the western end of Crown allotment A. Later subdivisions and realignments straightened Liverpool Road and created Dobsons Lane.

David obtained more land in The Basin when he was granted title to Crown allotment 72A, consisting of 81 acres, on 16th December 1872 for which he paid 81 pounds. In 2025, this land is on the corner of The Basin-Olinda and Sheffield Roads. W. Turner (Jnr) and William Hall Watson were earlier occupants of the land. David Dobson may have taken over the licence or lease.

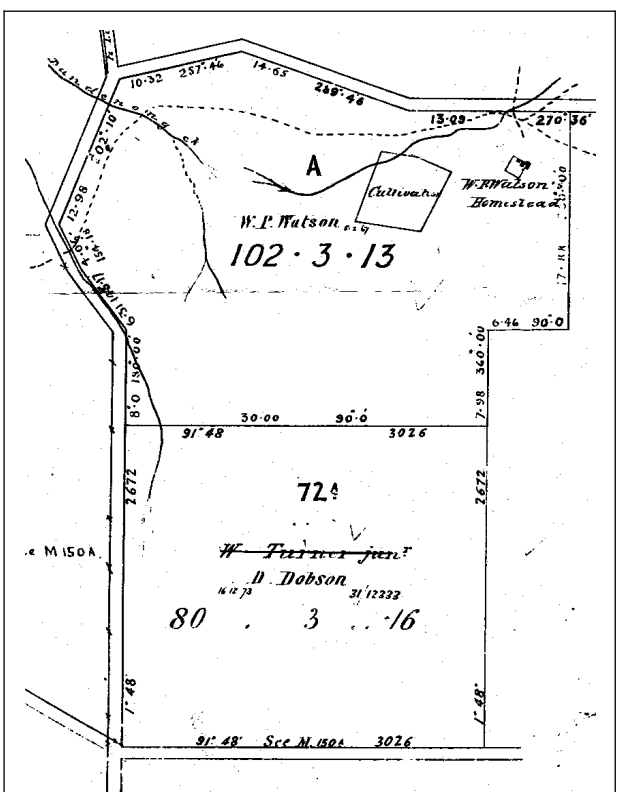
Crown allotments A and 72A brought David Dobson's total holding in The Basin to about 180 acres.

David did not bring his young family to The Basin immediately. For a time, members of the Dobson family came over from Scoresby to work there.

A family home was built close to what in 2025 is Sheffield Road. It was used as the manager's residence after the Salvation Army purchased the property in 1897, and demolished in the 1970s.

David increased his Basin holdings in 1874. Instrument number 42116 shows that on 2nd November 1874, William Hill, of Ballyshannassy, in the Parish of Boroondara, in the County of Bourke, farmer, sold Crown allotment 63A to David Dobson, of the Parish of Scoresby, in the County of Mornington, farmer, for 200 pounds. The Dandenong creek ran through the land, making it fertile. Crown allotment 63A was to the West of Crown allotment A and in 2025, is part of the Liverpool Retarding Basin.

Instrument number 59537 shows that on 31st January 1877, David sold Crown allotment 63A to Samuel Collier and James Collier both of the Parish of Scoresby aforesaid farmers, for 425 pounds.



1866 map showing Crown allotments A and 72A in The Basin. The Basin roundabout is located at the bottom left. Pavitt Lane is at the top. The road running up the LH side was never proclaimed except at the top where in 2025 it is Liverpool Road. On the RH side is in 2025 Sheffield Road. Note homestead and cultivation at top RH corner.
Map copyright titles office.

In February 1879, a petition prepared by David Dobson for 17 families was presented to the education authorities requesting a school be provided in the area. The Dobson family is shown as having 5 potential students, the Chandlers 6 and Wicks 4. As the birth certificate of Charlotte Dobson, born on 30th April 1878 records, local Mrs. Wade as midwife and Mrs. Chandler as a witness, it seems certain the Dobson family was living at The Basin some time before that date.

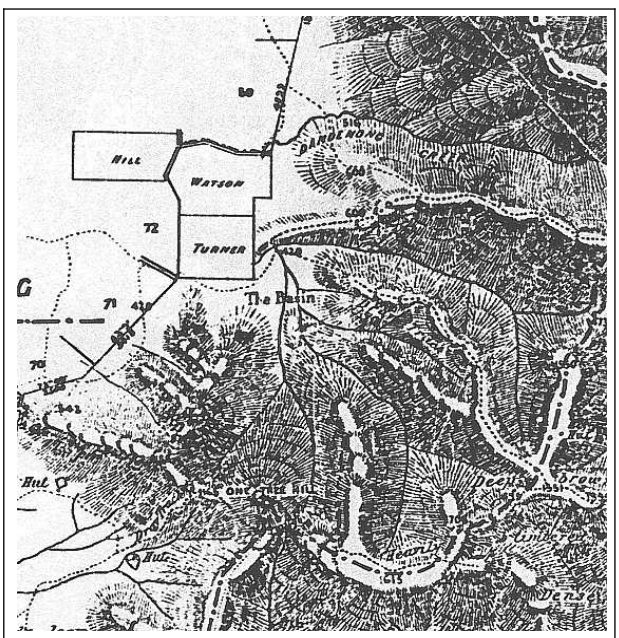
David Dobson and his family carried on dairy farming and market gardening on the property at The Basin, although apparently the running of stock on the land was later regarded by David as his main business, as he described himself as a "*grazier*" on his younger daughters' birth certificates.

David's sixth daughter, 7-year-old Agnes Susan died in 1889, and his second son James Henry died in 1891 at the age of 20.

In 1895, his elder son, Robert Lum Dobson, married Janet Wicks (daughter of Edmund and Janet Wicks).

In 1897, David subdivided Crown allotment A into 2 parcels. The first parcel was 20 acres bounded by Fern Glen Road, and the creek centreline (later named Dobsons Creek) running through the property. To verify the Dobsons Creek land boundary, in 2018, survey instrument number PS8085378 determined the creek course had not been altered.

Instead of paying wages for his years of hard work on the family property, David built Robert and Janet a home on the first subdivided parcel described above. It was situated near the western boundary of the property on Fern Glen Road (later Liverpool Road). David later sold the parcel to Robert as detailed in instrument number 385202. On 13th August 1897, David Dobson, of the Parish of Scoresby, in the County of Mornington, sold part of Crown allotment A to Robert Lum Dobson, of Bayswater, farmer, for 150 pounds.



Portion of a 1868 map by John Hardy of the Dandenong State Forest. Two dray tracks are shown starting at The Basin. The Basin roundabout is located on the bottom LH side of the land marked "Turner".

David sold the remainder of his The Basin holdings in 1897 as recorded in instrument number 382057. On 8th May 1897, David sold part of Crown allotment A and all of Crown allotment 72A, to Herbert Henry Booth and William Peart, both of Bourke Street Melbourne Salvation Army officers for 6,508 pounds 5 shillings.

On 5th June 1896, instrument number 371028 shows that David purchased from Samuel Collier, land of 65 acres, part of Crown portion A. It was part of land known as the Dandenong Creek Pre-emptive Right in Bayswater originally selected by Hugh and Henry Rourke in the 1840s. On 4th March 1899, instrument number 404051 shows that David purchased from Edward Shaw land of 67 acres, also part of Crown portion A, and also 28 acres part of Crown allotment 58A.

The above 3 properties were connected, making a total of about 160 acres as stated in the 1907 probate application for Mary Ann Dobson. The land was located on the southeast corner of the junction of Mountain Highway and Scoresby Road, Bayswater.

David and Mary semi-retired on the above property, which had a 9-room weatherboard house. David died on November 8th 1906. Davids' will was simple:

"*... I devise and bequeath unto my dear wife Mary Ann Dobson the whole of my real and personal estate for her sole and separate use and benefit without any reservation whatever*".

Mary was the executor of the estate, but she died on March 7th 1907, 5 months after her husband.

Charlotte Dobson and Samuel Collier were executors of the estate, and instrument number 557457 shows on 27th September 1907, they sold the 160 acres to Adolph Charles Johnston for 4,179 pounds.

Robert Lum Dobson, the oldest son, increased his holdings in 1901, when he purchased an area of 37 acres, a northern subdivision of Crown allotment 72 as detailed in instrument number 436977. On 30th April 1901, John Lincoln Yeadon of Bayswater, Farmer, paid John Munro Bruce of Flinders Lane Melbourne, Wharehouseman, 297 pounds **[unreadable on land transfer document]** shillings and pence, and Robert Lum Dobson of Bayswater, Farmer, paid John Lincoln Yeadon 297 pounds **[unreadable on land transfer document]** shillings and pence.

Robert Lum Dobson and his wife Janet carried on vegetable growing and dairy farming, and planted fruit trees for a future orchard. Sadly, Robert died suddenly on 1st March 1902 at the age of 33. We are told his death followed a bout of rheumatic fever, which he contracted

after going out to plough a paddock, despite being ill. He found he could not continue and went to lie down under a tree on the damp ground. Robert had set off with a load for the market, but when fellow growers who had arrived earlier noticed his wagon approaching. They went to greet him, but found he had died during the trip, his horse having finished the journey unaided. His death was a shock not only to his family but to the community. Good neighbour Harry Chandler arranged the sale of the wagon load of produce.

Robert's wife Janet was left with three little children, Janet Mary (Jean) aged 5, James David (Jim) 3, and Robert John (Bobbie), less than 2 months old. Janet, a determined and independent lady, set about ensuring her family kept the property her husband had worked so hard for. She employed a "*hired man*", in the face of disapproval from some locals who believed it improper for a widow to employ a male person resident on her property. Joe Higgins, the hired man, was a hard worker and reliable not only with the everyday farm work, but in the continuing clearing and draining of the property. His only recorded failing was a tendency to stay overly long at Dodds' wine saloon at the corner of Mountain Highway and Bayswater Road on his way home from market, or after carrying out farm business in Bayswater. Janet ran the farm with Joe's help, and later, that of her children. Joe left in 1908.

For about 4 years following Robert Lum Dobson's death, one of Janet's unmarried sisters, Emily Wicks, spent most of her time at the Liverpool Road property. The two families had a reciprocal arrangement. It included Janet's farmhand spending time working on the Wicks property, and Janet's brother Jack helping on the Liverpool Road farm. The work included pruning fruit trees (which he subsequently taught Joe to do), and killing animals for meat. Both properties grew large quantities of potatoes, and two men were required to dig and bag them. Also, from time to time, Janet helped her sisters pick berries and other fruit on the Wicks farm.

Janet wrote a diary for several years after her husband's death; commenced, we are told, trying to alleviate the loneliness of her evenings. Although it was a "*farm diary*", recording times of plantings and market prices, it included personal entries. Entries about children's illnesses illustrate one of the many disadvantages of the pioneering life; the distance from medical help. Janet tells of one occasion when "*little Bobby*" was seriously ill, and driven by wagon to Ringwood. Then by train to the doctor (probably either at Box Hill or Hawthorn), while the baby had convulsions. From Janet's diary:

"***Monday January 4 1904:*** *Little Bobbie took very ill today. He was the same as usual up till dinner time except for his cough. When he fell asleep we laid him on the sofa and in a short time we heard him making a peculiar noise and found he had taken a fit. We did not know what was the matter with him. We sent Joe for Mother and Mrs Yeadon. When they came he was better but in a little while he took another, then we took him to the Doctors. Jack drove Mother and I to Ringwood to catch the train. The Dr said it was convulsions he had, we did not get home till nearly twelve o'clock. Dear little Bobbie took two or three fits while we were going and coming home.*"

Janet's diary contains numerous entries detailing help with farm duties by "*Army boys*", presumably from The Salvation Army Homes:

"***Friday January 16 1903:*** *Two Army boys came this morning to help Joe pick peas and beans they got 4¾ cwt peas and 2 cwt beans and 4 cwt potatoes.*"

Her diary outlines not just Janet's successful struggle to keep the family farm; but the neighbourhood's co-operative attitude, where members took each other's produce to market, lent horses and farm supplies, and supported each other in times of illness and bereavement.

Janet's children helped with the farm work from an early age, Jim and Bob milking the dairy cows by hand before school. The main farm income at first was from vegetables and dairy farming. Janet also sold meat, poultry, butter, and honey. As the orchard trees matured, the main emphasis of the farm's production moved from dairy (for which the land on the flat was unsuitably wet in winter) and vegetables to the fruit growing. Janet recorded marketing apples, cherries, and plums in 1903. Jim and Bob worked together on the farm until Jim's sudden death in 1939 at the age of 41. Although Bob then ran the farm, Janet continued to be involved with day to day work almost until the time of her death in 1946.

A second home was built on the Liverpool Road property in 1944. This was occupied by Janet and her sister Emily Wicks. Bob, who had married Kathleen (Kit) Burden in 1932, moved with his family from the Wicks House on The Basin-Olinda Road, to occupy Janet's former home. In 1972, this house, then used as a store shed, was burnt down by an arsonist.

Bob was active in the community, serving on The Basin School committee, and the school councils of Fern Tree Gully Technical School and Boronia High School. He was a member of The Basin Progress Association and was involved with the "*Save the Dandenongs*" campaign which successfully lobbied for a large section of the western face of the Dandenong Ranges to be declared state forest.

Bob Dobson died on 8th May 1959, having been in ill-health for some time. His son James David (Jim), then aged 16, took over full-time management of the farm with the support of his mother Kit.

The Gold Inkwells

On his stud farm, James John Miller had two sires, Honesty and Contractor, and when Honesty died, he had the four hoofs polished, shod with gold shoes and made into inkwells, two of which he presented to leading race clubs.

In 2025, Jim and Janet Dobson still live in the home that Jim moved into when he was 4 years old and three of their children have homes on the property that David Dobson originally purchased.

A family reunion was held on the property in 2022 with over 80 descendants of David Dobson gathering to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Dobson family at The Basin.

James John Miller

James John Miller was born in Bayswater, London, England, on 13th May 1831 (see photo on page 16). He was commonly referred to as J. J. Miller. He arrived in Victoria in 1848, aged 16, and moved to the goldfields near Castlemaine. Miller struck gold, moved to Melbourne in the mid 1850s, and purchased a hotel.

His hotel became a gathering place of Melbourne's sporting fraternity in the early days, and Miller became a popular bookmaker. In 1859, he started "*Miller's Sweepstakes*".

His bookmaking turned into an interest in horses, and he began searching for a suitable location to breed, and train, race horses.

He located and selected an area of 205 acres in The Basin roughly bounded by Miller Road, Mountain Highway, Forest Road, and a line running up the west side of Batterham Reserve. In early 1872, he applied for, and was granted, a residency license for land later surveyed as Crown allotment 71. See map on page 36.

James John Miller.
Photo courtesy Knox Historical Society

Six months after his first selection, he selected adjacent land of 114 acres roughly bounded by Old Forest Road, Wicks Road, Basin-Olinda Road, and Forest Road. He was granted a license in October 1872. It was referred to in early correspondence as Crown allotment 71A, but later as Crown allotment 74.

He erected a two-room cottage on Crown allotment 71, which he later extended and called "*Bayswater House*". It was built close to the present Batterham Reserve. The property, which gave Bayswater township its name, had a garden of walnut, chestnut, cherry, peach, fig, plum, filbert, apple, and pear trees.

In correspondence with the Lands Department, he called Crown allotment 71 his "*homestead block*", and later his "*Stud Farm Block*" after he established a stud farm with 2 full size training and trotting tracks. The tracks were referred to in later years as "*The Trotto*". The remains were wiped out by residential development in the Democrat Drive/Goodwin Street area. The Millers Racing Guide states:

"*There are two training areas, one a cleared space about eleven acres laid with English grass. The track is 40 feet wide, being of sandy loam without a pebble or least unevenness. The second track is for galloping, one and a half chains wide, well ploughed, sown and drained. The fame of Mr. Miller's Stable and the facilities he has for the exhibition of the qualities of his animals, will attract many hundreds daily to the training grounds.*"

The farm land was also reputed to be of the most modern standards with extensive underground drainage, complete fencing and annual fertilisation of land to produce high quality yields.

In a report to the Lands Department around 1876, he reported spending about 1,500 pounds, including "*wages ration for 3 men for 4 years at 27/6 per week*". He also stated his business was "*Breeding, Dealing and Racing Horses*".

In 1876, he applied for a lease on Crown allotment 71, but was refused "*on the grounds of insufficient compliance with the execution of residency*". Also, his license had expired on 27th June 1875. A letter from the Crown Lands Bailiff to the Bailiff at Fern Tree Gully in 1876 stated in part:

"*... The Bailiff should also inform the Licensee that as the license for the land has already expired, his present occupation is illegal, and his failing to apply for a lease or grant within a month, steps will be taken to resume possession of the land and throw the same open for selection".*

Miller advised the Lands Department that he resided at least 3 days a week in the house on Crown allotment 71, the rest at his Canning Terrace, Canning Street, Carlton residence with his family. This did not convince the Lands Department he satisfied the residency condition, but they offered if he applied, and paid for, a

crown grant, it would be accepted, which he did, and title was granted for Crown allotment 71 on 18th September 1877. Miller states the situation in the following letter, dated March 21st 1878, when applying for a lease on the adjacent Crown allotment 71A (later Crown allotment 74):

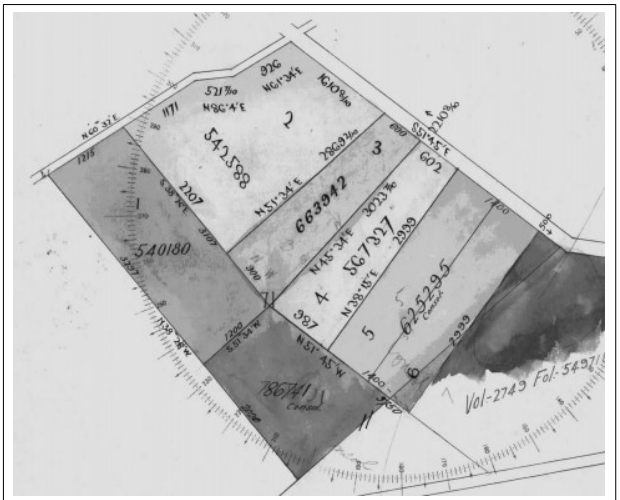
"*Sir, I respectfully ask you to grant me the lease for my selection 71A in parish of Scoresby County of Mornington.*

It is a supplementary and adjoining Block to one of 205 acres that you compelled me to purchase in consequence of being six months short of complying with the residence clause.

Now as this one of 114 acres was not selected until six months later and I have been continuously residing on the original selection since you will find I have fulfilled the residence clause and I have faithfully carried out all other conditions. As your inspector I believe can report he having been quite recently over my land. I have spent a very great deal of money on it. In fact … you take a favourable view of this and grant me my lease."

He was eventually granted a lease to Crown allotment 71A in 1878. Title was granted to Crown allotment 71A (74) on 8th April 1879.

His brother, Frederick Richard Miller, selected Crown allotment 64, of 77 acres, bounded by Miller Road, Mountain Highway and Albert Avenue. He was granted a license in 1872, and later a lease, but fell behind in payments. He died on 18th June 1875 at the age of 34. James John Miller paid the arrears, took over the lease as administer of the estate, and secured title on 24th October 1881 for which he paid 78 pounds.



First subdivision of Crown allotment 71 in 1907. Mountain Highway at top RH. The bend on the road on RH side top is where The Basin shops are located. Miller Road at top LH. Old Forest Road on bottom. Forest Road not shown and came later.

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James John Miller Family

Born: 13/05/1831 at Bayswater (England)
Died: 1/12/1922
Married: Maria Frances Standeven in 1856
Maria died 1863
Children: James Arthur born 1856

Married: Rebecca Maria Sayers in 1864
Rebecca died 1881
Children: Rebecca Maria born 1865, died 1865
Rebecca Maria born 1866, died 1957

Married: Clara Agnes Robinson 1883
Clara died 1941
Children: Frederick Francis born 1884
Clara Maud born 1886
died 1972 (Mrs Del. Sante)
Ruth May born 1887
died 1959 (Mrs A Davey)
Gwendoline Eleanor born 1892
died 1983 (Mrs W Blogg)
Winifred Jessie born 1896,
died 1971 (Mrs L Wilson)

In 1888, Miller built a house on Crown allotment 64 It was a typical gentleman's country residence, later known as "*Melrose*" when owned by J. Yeadon. This name was retained for 70 years until acquired by Council, when it became known as "*Miller's Homestead*" (see page 78).

About 1875, Miller took over a printing firm from a relative, and under his direction the business flourished. His imprint was on nearly all the theatrical printing done in Melbourne for many years. Miller produced the Millers Racing Guide, and Millers Sporting Annual, which were printed for many years.

He liberally supplied fireworks at Christmas times, and the young children appreciated the tremendous show. The display was held on his trotting track (where he trained horses) to publicise The Basin.

Miller was involved in several grandiose schemes, including a proposed tramway from Bayswater station past The Basin and terminating in the forest below Sassafras. The scheme was to take advantage of the recent rail line extension to Ferntree Gully. He was also involved in the "*Bayswater Hills Estate Company*" offering large plots of land near Bayswater, and a proposal to extend the train line to the land. None of these schemes eventuated, and land associated with the "*Bayswater Hills Estate*" sold poorly and was auctioned several times.

An entrepreneurial and influential man, he was on council from 1889 to 1897, and became first President of the Shire of Fern Tree Gully from 1889 to 1891. The Shire Council honoured his services by naming Macauley to Bayswater after his Bayswater village

property.

As reported in The Age June 1894, he submitted a resolution to the Fern Tree Gully Shire to purchase stocks for punishment of persons desecrating the Sabbath by working in gardens etc. His object to bring the matter prominently to public attention so this absurd and obnoxious law, a disgrace, be eliminated from the statute book.

He had financial interests in many properties, but did not always own them. He had a financial only interest in Hazel Dell (see page 40), but several newspaper reports implied he owned it.

In 1890, he auctioned several horses "*in consequence of Mr. Miller giving up breeding*". That same year, The Argus (Melbourne) dated 10th April, reported auctioning of several properties "*as instructed by J. J. Miller*". All were in the Parish of Scoresby and included:

BAYSWATER HILLS. Allotment 66.
BAYSWATER HILLS. Allotment 65.
THE BUSH PADDOCK. Allotment 74.
STUD FARM BLOCK. Allotment 71.
BAYSWATER HOMESTEAD. Allotment 64.
HAZEL DELL. Allotment 83.

The advertisement gives detailed descriptions of each property. No record could be found of sales.

Miller had freehold title to Crown allotments 64, 71 and 74. In 1889, he mortgaged them all to The London Chartered Bank of Australia.

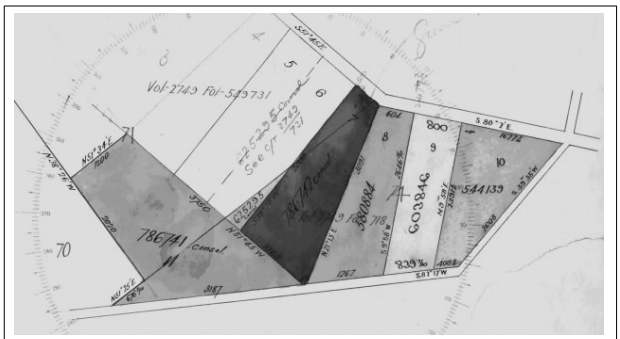
Miller operated a sweepstake in which tickets cost 1 pound, and the prize was 5,000 pounds. This was one of his main sources of income. In the early 1890s, the Victorian Government made it illegal to operate sweepstakes as a private business. He was raided many times by police, and in 1893 charged with being the keeper of a common gaming house. A Magistrate initially dismissed the charges, but in a higher court in 1894, he pleaded guilty and was fined 10 pounds.

He continued operating the sweepstakes in NSW where it was permitted. To restrict his operations, the Government forced the Post Office to restrict letter deliveries addressed to Miller in Sydney. He sued the Post Office for detaining his letters. In 1896, a court determined his letters could not be detained because sweepstakes were permitted in NSW.

In 1899 The London Chartered Bank of Australia foreclosed on Crown allotments 64, 71 and 74 taking possession of them. Titles for Crown allotments 71 and 74 were transferred to the bank on 15th January 1899. See page 78 for information on Crown allotment 64.

In 1906, the bank subdivided Crown allotments 71 and 74 into 11 parcels, as shown on the maps on pages 17 and 18 respectively. They sold the parcels referenced by the following instrument numbers, which are shown on the maps:

- **540180.** Lot 1 of 38 acres sold to Alfred Elliot Chandler of Bayswater, Nurseryman, on 18th January 1907 for 255 pounds and 5 shillings. See Batterham Reserve (page 328) and Reserve Estate (page 66) for more information.
- **542588**. Lot 2 of 51 acres sold to William Chandler of Bayswater, Nurseryman, on 28th February 1907 for 500 pounds. See Goodwin Estate (page 70) for subdivision information.
  From Janet Dobsons Diary:
  "***Friday September 7 1906:*** *I forgot to mention that Miller's paddock is cut up into 2.0 and 2.5 acre blocks and is for sale. Mr Chandler has bought the cottage and about 50 acres of ground round it and Alf has bought the one next his place.*"
- **663942**. Lot 3 of 21 acres sold to William Henry Jackson of Bayswater Farmer on 6th October 1911 for 136 pounds.
- **567327**. Lot 4 of 23 acres sold to William Henry Jackson of Bayswater, Farmer, on 13th March 1908 for 154 pounds 17 shillings and 3 pence. Jackson consolidated Lots 3 and 4, and they were sold several times. See page 70 for more info).
- **625295.** Lots 5 and 6 of combined 41 acres sold to Ada Dickson of Bayswater, Farmer, on 5th July 1910. Patrick Johnson Barrett of Number 70 Commercial Road South Yarra, Baker, paid the bank 293 pounds 18 shillings and threepence, and Ada Dickson paid Barrett 395 pounds.



First subdivision of Crown allotment 74 in 1907. Mountain Highway at top and the bend is where the The Basin Shops are located. Old Forest Road on bottom leading into Wicks Road on LH side (later, Wicks Road became part Toorak Ave and part closed). Forest Road not shown because it was created later.

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Ferntree Gully Coat of Arms

James John Miller was a well known early settler, but how many knew he chose the Ferntree Gully Shire's coat of arms. In his capacity as the first Shire President, he said he believed the design of a "*lyrebird and bower, surrounded with fern trees and the motto 'Prolific in God's Gifts' would be very appropriate*".

The land was subdivided, and parcels sold several times. James Griffiths purchased a small parcel on Mountain Highway (which Mrs Ada Dickson repurchased and used as a home and post office).

A 30 acre section was purchased by Norman Welch Augusta Welch and Alan Stuart Riach all of 241 Queensberry Street North Melbourne Estate Agents in 1925 as shown in instrument number 1215244. They created the Eden Park Estate. See page 65.

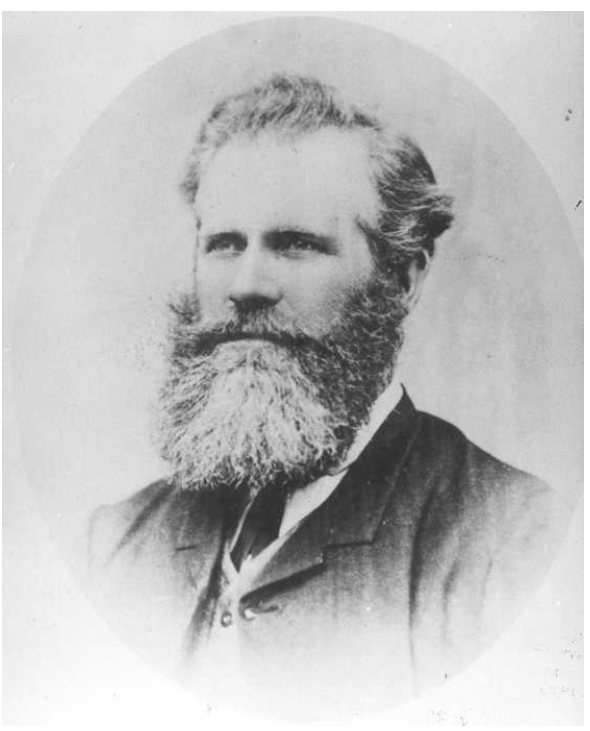
In 1985, a 5 acre portion was subdivided into 23 lots to create Christopher Avenue, Thornton, and Suzanne Courts.

In 1997, a 5 acre portion was subdivided into 22 lots as the Mount View Estate. See page 70. Previously this land was the site of Locksley Textiles and later Lowline Industries. See page 70.

- **786742**. Lot 7 of 28 acres sold to Ernest Kleinert of Bayswater, Coachbuilder, on 6th October 1915 for 150 pounds. See page 65 for further transactions on this land.
- **580884**. Lot 8 of 25 acres sold to Laurence Wreford Chandler of Como Nurseries Bayswater, Nurseryman, on 2nd October 1908 for 138 pounds 3 shillings and 9 pence. He subdivided the land to become the Chandlers Hill Estate, and The Basin "*Triangle*" was created. See page 61.
- **603846**. Lot 9 of 20 acres sold to Samuel Collier Bayswater, Gentleman, on 10th September 1909 for 100 pounds. He subdivided the land in the 1910s into 6 parcels. One parcel, which ran through the centre of the land, was purchased by the Shire of Fern Tree Gully for the route of the new 1 in 20 road to Sassafras. It connected with a road in the Chandlers Hill Estate. See page 61. The Shire of Fern Tree Gully paid Collier 30 pounds ten shillings for the land on 10th March 1917 as shown in instrument number 821784.
- **544139**. Lot 10 of 23 acres sold to John Herbert Wicks Bayswater, Farmer, on 20th March 1907 for 141 pounds. In 1917, a portion of the land was sold to the Shire of Fern Tree Gully for the new 1 in 20 road. It connected with road described above. John Wicks died in 1921 and probate granted to his sisters Annie and Emily. Later subdivided to create Wicks Reserve (page 327) and Mountain Highway Estate (page 66).
- **786741**. Lot 11 of 48 acres sold to George Albert Jones of 238 Bay Street Port Melbourne, Traveller, on 6th October 1915 for 235 pounds.

  On 21st February 1916, Jones sold a portion of the land to The Shire of Fern Tree Gully for 11 pounds and 12 shillings, as shown in instrument number 795421. The land was for a new road called Forest Road. It connected to other road sections purchased around the same time from other landholders.

  Jones sold the remaining land to Frank Gordon



Edmund Wicks circa 1878
Photo courtesy Knox Historical Society

Janet Wicks circa 1910
Photo courtesy Dobson Family

Grumont of Bayswater, Orchardist on 21st December 1917 as shown in instrument number 842624.
Grumont subdivided the land into 3 parcels and sold them as shown in the following instrument numbers:
1. **898435.** Five acres in 1919 to Blanche Gertrude Pascoe-Webbe of 102 Page Street Albert Park, Widow. See page 70.
2. **954630**. A triangular parcel of one acre in 1920 to John Maguire of Basin Bayswater, Orchardist, on the western corner of Arcadia Avenue and Forest Road.
3. **1129626**. Forty acres in 1923 to Ruby Gray of corner Alice and Munro Streets Coburg Spinster. Gray sold her parcel within a month to Alexander McClean of 298 Barkly Street St. Kilda Clerk and Lewis William Crow of No 43 Woolton Avenue Croxton Stationmaster as shown in instrument number 1139175. McClean and Crow subdivided that land creating the Nareen Park Estate. See page 61.

James John Miller died on 1st December 1922 at the age of 91 of heart failure and is buried at Melbourne General Cemetery, grave MGC-COE-Comp. X-No-19-19.

Edmund and Janet Wicks

Janet Russell (see photo on page 19) was born in England. In Melbourne in 1869, at the age of 39, she married 39-year-old widower Edmund Wicks, also English-born (see photo on page 19). Edmund was born in England in 1830 and emigrated to Australia in 1854 They lived in Moonee Ponds and the births of their 4 children were recorded at Essendon.

- John Herbert (Jack) (1870-1921).
- Janet 1871-1946) (married Robert Lum Dobson).
- Annie Victoria (1873-1955) (married Arthur Harris).
- Emily (1875-1946).

Edmund had children from a former marriage to Esther Bishop, whom he married in 1855. Mary Eliza (1857-?), Louisa Ellen Bishop (1859-?), Edmund (1861-1947), William Henry (1863-?) and Esther (1865-1943).

Edmund had an interest in Crown allotment 53K, an area of 210 acres, in 2025, part in Boronia and part in Ferntree Gully, Roughly bounded by what in 2025 is Forest Road and Nyora Avenue. He also had an interest in Crown allotment 75 in The Basin, an area of 49 acres, roughly bounded by Wicks Road and The Basin Olinda Road. The 2 Crown allotments were originally titled 69A and 69B, a total of 259 acres.

However, Edmund was not the first selector of these Crown allotments. William Edwards first selected the 2 Crown allotments and was granted a license in 1872. He stated his profession as a gold and silversmith, and his address as 85 Collins Street, East Melbourne. In 1874, Edwards forfeited his license because of non-payment of rent.

Peter Miller, who gave his address as c/o Mr R. Bain, Berwick, applied for:

Wicks House on The Basin-Olinda Road. Built in 1906. Destroyed by fire in 1962.
Photo courtesy Wicks Family.

"...a portion of the land lately occupied by Edwards in Parish of Scoresby".

The Lands Department rejected his application.

The 259 acres were offered for sale by public auction but passed in.

In 1875, Edward Perry Amesbury negotiated with the authorities and applied for a license to occupy the 259 acres forfeited by Edwards. A business card indicated Amesbury was a Surgeon Major in H. M. Indian Army, but on his license application he stated his occupation as a farmer. He stated his address as "*Fernlight*" in St Kilda. His application was granted.

A section at the western side of the 49 acre property in The Basin was excised in 1875 for a road, marginally reducing the size of the property. This road was later named Wicks Road.

In 1876, Amesbury alerted the authorities that due to his wife's ill health, he was compelled to be absent from his selections, and they be offered for sale by public auction. He valued his improvements at 150 pounds, which included a residence.

Edmund Wicks expressed interest in the 2 Crown allotments and after considerable negotiations with the government departments concerned and the departing licensee, he applied for, and was granted a license for the 2 Crown allotments in 1877. He paid 150 pounds to Amesbury for his improvements on The Basin property.

The Wicks family went to live on The Basin land, and their four children recorded as existing residents in a petition to the "*Minister of Public Instruction*" prepared by David Dobson and dated 28th February 1879.

On 29th April 1880 Edmund, in his application for a lease, reported the value of "*improvements*" on the combined acreage then totalled 635 pounds. It consisted of a five-roomed 25 foot square slab and weatherboard home with galvanised iron roof and two brick chimneys, a stable, cow house and piggery. He also reported having sunk 2 dams, put 11 acres under cultivation, planted 339 fruit trees, rung 30 acres of timber, cleared a further 20 acres of scrub, and erected many chains of fencing of various kinds.

On 18th May 1880 Edmund was granted a lease to the total acreage, but on 29th November 1880, at the age of 50, he died of a stroke.

After Edmund's death, his wife Janet sought to rationalise the estate by applying to the authorities for permission to sell the leasehold interest on the Ferntree Gully property. This allowed her to purchase a freehold title to the property at The Basin. The reason she gave on her submission was:

"...to close the administration in the most advantageous way."

Janet, described as *"administrator"* of Edmund's estate, was granted title to Crown allotment 75 in The Basin on 3rd June 1881 for which she paid 50 pounds.

The lease on the Ferntree Gully land was taken over by Ephraim Hansen in 1881, who received title on 10th March 1887. "*Ambleside Park*", in 2025, home of the Knox Historical Society, is situated on a remnant of this land. Hansen was not required to pay for any improvements on the land because all improvements were on The Basin land.

As shown in instrument number 98051, Janet Wicks sold Crown allotment 75 on 6th October 1881 to James Taylor of Essendon, Gentleman, for 300 pounds. On 25th June 1883, she purchased Crown allotment 75 back from Taylor for 310 pounds, as shown in instrument number 118941.

Janet Wicks worked The Basin property with the help of her children and others. The farm, watered by two creeks crossing the property, produced flowers, vegetables, berries and other fruit. Aided by the natural fall of the land, irrigation was possible to the lower sections without pumping and using existing dams. A fruit orchard was established on what in 2025 is Wicks East Nature Reserve. In later documentation, Jack, Janet's adult son, is described as a "*fruit grower*".

When reminiscing during the 1940s, Janet Wicks' eldest daughter Janet Dobson told her grandchildren how from the time she was about ten years old she stayed at home looking after her two little sisters while her mother and brother drove to the market in Melbourne. She prepared their meals, including boiling the big kettle to make oatmeal porridge for breakfast. The girls were not nervous of being alone, except during thunderstorms. On hearing of this, Mrs. Chandler, their neighbour on the opposite hill, would send one of her big boys to stay on market nights if thunderstorms threatened.

The preparedness of Janet Wicks to run the farm herself, to the extent of doing her own marketing, illustrates the character of this woman. However, the family suffered a severe financial setback when banks "*crashed*" in the 1890s. An emergency dash to Melbourne was not in time to withdraw their money before the bank closed its doors.

In 1895 Janet Wicks' eldest daughter Janet married Robert Lum Dobson, the handsome elder brother of her friend Polly (see photo on page 28). They took up residence in a new home on Fern Glen (later Liverpool) Road, built for them by Robert's father David, on the southwestern boundary of his property. The couple had three young children, Janet Mary (Jean), 5 years old, James David, 3 years old, and Robert John (Robbie and later Bob), less than two months old, when Robert died at the tragically young age of 33. He is buried at Box Hill Cemetery, grave site M 0488. However, Janet refused to give up the farm, which by the time of her husband's death had been increased to about 60 acres.

The first home occupied by the Wicks family was towards the front of the property, not far from the (in 2025 Basin-Olinda) road. In October 1905, as recorded in Janet Dobsons diary, work commenced on a large

attractive weatherboard home further up the hill away from the road. The building work was sufficiently advanced for the wedding of Wick's second daughter, Annie, to be held there on January 1906. This became known as "*the Wicks House*" (see photo on page 20).

Annie married Arthur Henry Harris, the caretaker of Ferndale, on 11th January 1906.

From Janet Dobsons diary:

"***Wednesday January 10 1906:*** *Annie is going to be married tomorrow. There is such a lot to do putting the house to rights, as well as preparing for the wedding and the men are working at the back. Mother came down to cook some fowls they have not any stove to use at home yet. Weather very hot and close.*"

They had three children, Janet Emily (Millie), Arthur and Edgar. In 1925, Millie died in a tragic railway crossing accident at Bayswater in a collision between a train and a wagon driven by Ferndale's owner, Mr. Griffiths. It also claimed his life, his wife, and another passenger. Arthur Harris, whom they were travelling to meet, found his daughter's body in the wreckage.

From the time of Janet Dobsons widowhood in 1902 until Annie's marriage in 1906, Emily Wicks, who did not marry, spent most of her time at Janet's Liverpool Road home. She then returned to the Wicks House, to help her mother and brother Jack, who also remained single.

Janet Wicks (senior) died in 1917 at the age of 78. Probate was granted to Jack and Emily and then transferred to Jack. He lived only another four years, before he died in 1921 at the age of 51 years. Jack served as a Shire of Ferntree Gully councillor for several years up until his death. Probate of his will was granted to his sisters Annie and Emily. John Wicks' holding included a triangular section of land to the west of Wicks Road. This section of 23 acres was purchased by Jack in 1907. It was lot 10 in a subdivision created in 1906 by The London Chartered Bank of Australia when they foreclosed on James John Miller's land. Part of this land later became Wicks Reserve. See map on page 18.

After Jack Wicks' death, some farming was done on the property by Janet Dobsons sons; although they were mainly occupied in the running of their mother's farm in Liverpool Road. From his marriage in 1932, and until 1944, Robert John (Bob) Dobson, Janet's second son, and his family occupied the Wicks House, Emily having moved in with her sister Janet. Then, the first Wicks house site, in the front paddock, was marked by a lovely red and white camellia, and flowering bulbs. Foxgloves and heather, naturalised from the earlier days, flowered on the property each year.

In the 1940s, Annie Harris and Emily Wicks subdivided the 49 acre property into 2 parcels. On 9th October 1946, they sold the 30 acre western parcel to John William Robinson of Lillimur Road Ormond Horticulturist for 1,800 pounds as shown in instrument 2034211. His family took up residence in the house. This parcel was well-developed, included an orchard, and later subdivided. Part of the land was sold to the Shire of Fern Tree Gully for the Wicks East Nature Reserve. See page 328.

After Emily died in 1946, Annie was granted probate, and on 20th December 1948, she sold the 19 acre eastern parcel to Frank William Parr of Claremont Ave, The Basin, Bayswater, Farmer, for 600 pounds as shown in instrument 2034211. This parcel was mainly bush. The transaction also included a small triangular parcel of land that William Chandler had transferred (at no cost) to Annie on 22nd January 1904. The 1904 transfer was described in instrument 483249 as:

"…the land hereafter described should be transferred to her by reason of loss of frontage owing to a certain road deviation and in order to give the said Janet Wicks an outlet to and a frontage to the said new road…". See also page 23.

Annie Victoria Harris died on 23rd September 1955.

The Wicks House was destroyed by fire in 1962.

William and Kate Chandler

When William Chandler (see photo on page 22) was 25 years of age, he married Kate Timewell (see photo on page 22), a tailoress of Hotham, Melbourne, at the Gardiner Congregational Church on 15th December 1869. His occupation stated on the marriage certificate was a gardener. He had established a nursery where Malvern station is now.

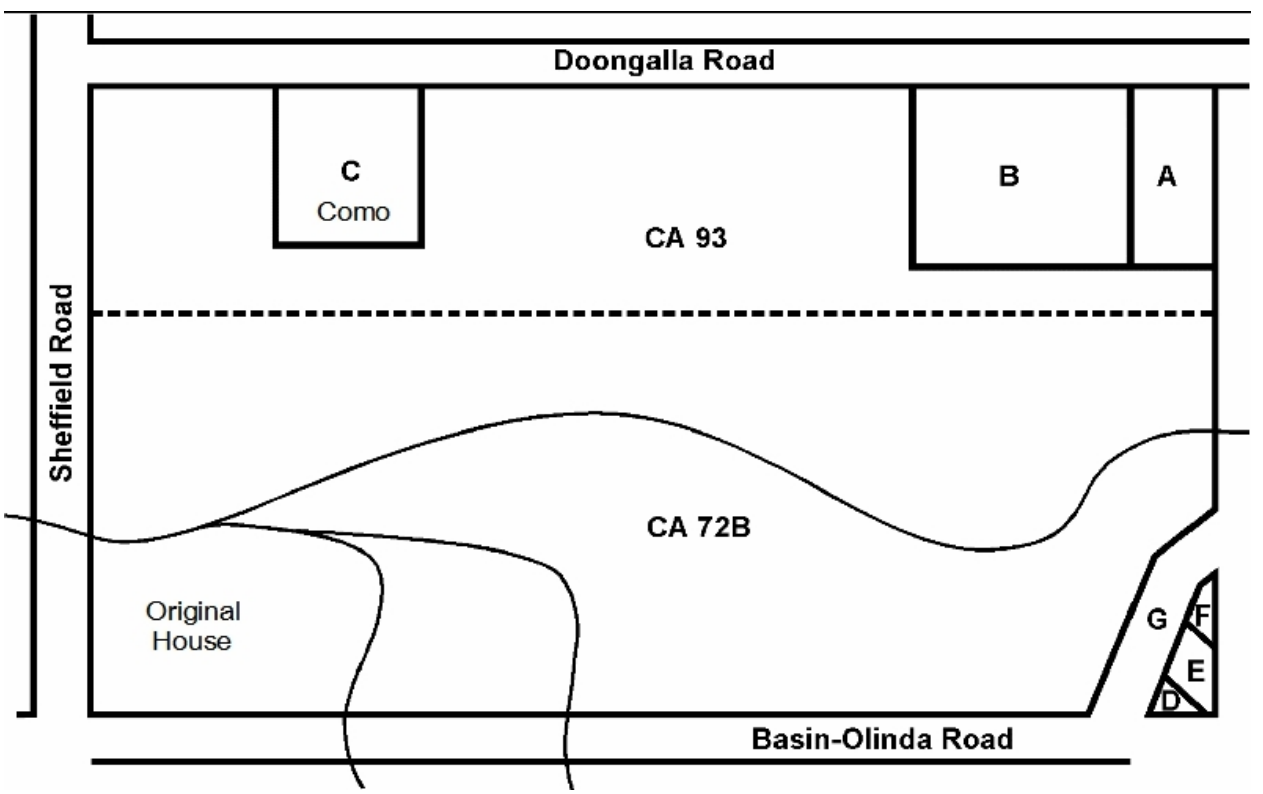
His bride, Kate Timewell, was born in Kingsbridge, Devonshire, on 15th November 1848, and came out with her family to Australia at the age of four years. Her mother, Louisa Kate Timewell, wrote a fascinating and historically valuable account of the journey out from England in the sailing ship "*Birmingham*" in September 1852. She was preoccupied with the difficulty of preparing food, which each family had to provide for themselves, and cook throughout the journey. They arrived during the gold rush period when there were 100 ships in "*Melbourne Bay*"; and she gave a detailed account of prices and housing conditions in a village called Collingwood, where the family managed to get three rooms for 35 shillings a week on their arrival.

William and Kate Chandler had eight sons and three daughters, the three eldest children born at Malvern, and the remainder at The Basin. They were William Thomas, born 8th October 1870; Henry Rupert (Harry), born 17th November 1871; Alfred Elliott, born 1st June 1873; Archibald Charles (Arch), born 27th January 1875; Percival Bertram (Pierce), born 15th July 1876; Lawrence Wreford (Wref), born 20th February 1878; Herbert Theodore Septimus (Bert), born 26th February 1880; Louisa Kate Elizabeth, born 15th October 1881; Gilbert Edwin, born 7th March 1884; Esther Marion (Ettie), born 22nd October 1885; and Kitty, born 12th July 1887.

Plan and description of William Chandler's main land holdings in The Basin
Crown allotments 72B, 79, 80, 92 and 93 in the Parish of Scoresby.

72B. *40 acres. February 12th 1872, William applied for license under Part 2 of Land Act 1869. License number 11630 granted May 21st 1872. William occupied Crown allotment in November 1872. Seven year lease commenced 21st May 1875. Rental 2 shillings/acre/annum. Title granted March 18th 1882. Purchase price £42.*
79 & 92. *120 acres (see page 36). Purchased from J. Richards in February 1883 for £390. Crown allotment 79 sold to Thomas Chandler in July 1883 for £48. Half of Crown allotment 92 transferred to Robert Chandler in 1893. Other half of Crown allotment 92 sold to James Flynn and Jacob Schneider by William's executors in 1913 for £160 and 8 shillings.*
93. *15 acres. License number 4270 granted October 1st 1877. Title granted March 2nd 1886. Purchase price £14.*
120 acres.
80. *49 acres. Purchased from the executor of George Leach for £150 18 shillings five pence in 1904. On the map below, Crown allotment 80 is the land above Doongalla Road.*
A. *1 acre. Sold to Education Department for £1 in 1879. Site of State School 1880-1899. Repurchased by William for £3 in August 1902.*
A & B. *3 acres. Transferred by William to Herbert Theodore Septimus Chandler (Bert) in January 1909.*
In May 1909, William consolidated Crown allotment 80 and the remainder of Crown allotments 72B and 93 into one title. He transferred title ownership into the names of himself, his wife, and Lawrence Wreford Chandler (Wref) and Bert Chandler.
C. *Sub-divided from Crown allotment 93 in May 1919 at time of the dissolution of partnership of Wref and Bert, becoming the property of Wref. The balance of Crown allotments 93 and 72A became the property of Bert. About 1924, Wref sold back C to a Mr. Courier. About 1944, Bert purchased area giving it to John in 1945.*
D. *Transferred by William to Janet Wicks on 22nd January 1904.*
E. *William granted easement to James Griffiths on 14th December 1906.*
E & F. *Transferred to Percival Bertram Chandler on 20th June 1907.*
G. *Transferred to Shire of Fern Tree Gully on 3rd March 1903 for a road.*

Information taken and extended from the book "Family of William Chandler Horticulturist".



Whatever the reason, William's choice was good, and on 12th February 1872 he applied for a license for 40 acres, as yet unsurveyed, "*east of Turner's 42nd Section known as The Basin*". He signed himself "*William Chandler Jnr., Nurseryman, Main Dandenong Road, Gardiner*". On 21st May, he received license No. 11630 for the land, and it was surveyed in July.

He first occupied the land in November 1872. This is evident from a declaration under oath, dated 16th June 1875, made in support of his application for a lease, the second stage in the procedure to be adopted before a title for Crown land was granted. In this, Chandler stated within six months of gaining the license to occupy the land, he resided on the Crown allotment "*in his own proper person*" for two and a half years. He also stated he had fulfilled other conditions regarding fencing, cultivation and improvements to the property. On the strength of this declaration, he was granted a seven-year lease at a rental of 2 shillings per annum. See description of his land holdings and plan on page 23.

Chandler's "*substantial improvements*" consisted of three buildings "*attached to the soil*", total value 210 pounds. His first house, built down on the creek flats close to water, was a four-roomed hut measuring 24 feet square. It was made of weatherboard and galvanised iron and valued at 80 pounds. The other two buildings, stable and cowshed, were greater, if not in width, than Chandler's house. The four-stall stable and cowshed, each measuring 27 feet by 10 feet, were made of wood and bark-total, value 8 pounds.

Other improvements for which William gained credit were 95 chains of post and rail fence at 9 shillings and 6 pence per chain. Chock and log fencing at 3 shillings per chain, drainage works (slabs laid four feet deep at a cost of 6 shillings per chain). Clearing and sowing of 6 acres with rye grass and clover.

In his declaration given on 17th June 1875, William explained why he had not observed the condition of continuous residence. He writes:

"*I was unable to get the land surveyed until July 25th, 1872. It was then too late in the season to fence, clear, dig and drain the ground I wanted for my stock, which consisted of flowers and a general collection of nursery stock so that I had to cultivate on the ground I then occupied. In the meantime, I kept men at work on this allotment. I resided on the land with my family the following season and have since resided there continuously*".

William Chandler prospered at The Basin. Probably his greatest difficulty was getting produce out to market along the rough bush tracks. They were often water-logged because they traversed the fertile land chosen close to creeks. In the early days, pack horses carried goods in and out, but later spring carts and wagons were used. Then, the nearest railway station was Hawthorn. The line was extended to Lilydale in 1882 and to Upper Fern Tree Gully from Ringwood in 1889.

Despite the difficulties, carts loaded with produce travelled between The Basin and Victoria Market two or three days a week during the season. The trip was usually made during the night, but sometimes William started in the afternoon and arrived in Melbourne about 8 pm. He would then back into the kerb in Bourke Street in front of the well-known Cole's Book Arcade, and sell part of his load before going on to the market. Dating from early days, the Chandler family had a stall in "*C*" shed at the Victoria Market. In later years, they were asked to transfer to "*E*" shed, and they declined, ostensibly for sentimental reasons, but because it was a good position.

Around 1900, the nursery system of selling plants did not exist. For some 35 years, from about 1900 onwards, the family took a load of plants to the city for auction at Beauchamp's or at Geelong (in William's day) and later at Bailey & Company's, until the time of the First World War. About 1914, a wagon load of flowers was delivered to Ronald's, Melbourne florists, every week during the season.

William Chandler was one of the first people to grow Boronia *megastigma* commercially. It was grown throughout the district, and at "*Como*" by William and his family. In the early days everything grew well, as there were no diseases or insects to destroy the plants. One exception was a green beetle, which infested "*Como*" every fourth year and stripped the leaves off the fruit trees in spring. Wallabies, possums, and parrots were the main problem in the early days. Shade houses were in use in this period and elk horn ferns from Queensland were grown there.

William was also one of the first to import magnolias, camellias, and bulbs from Japan, and he developed this trade over the years. As the family grew up, they helped in the working of the property and when about 1894, William bought his first camellias from Yokohama Nurseries. It was the task of his sons, Bert and Arch, to layer the camellias in beds specially built for the purpose in the rich creek flats. These flats were naturally subject to flooding. Hundreds of plants were washed downstream in the big flood of 1891, when a land slip occurred. Many of the plants ended up in the "*Bayswater flats*", and some enterprising residents managed to sell them back to William Chandler.

During the early 1900s, William grew huge peaches, so large they were packed and sold four or five to a tray and carried in this way by spring cart to Melbourne. Keiffer pears, which kept well and were in great demand during the First World War, were also grown in quantity at this period, while the main market garden produce consisted of beans and cucumbers.

In those days, apple trees could grow much bigger than they are today and one year 52 cases of Statesman apples were picked from the same tree.

William brought his family, then consisting of a wife and three children, to live at The Basin in the season of 1873. They first lived in the weatherboard building (mentioned in his application) built on the creek flats, well in from the existing corner of The Basin-Olinda and Sheffield Roads.

The house was built from straight manna gum and messmate timber found on the property. The timber was pit-sawn, even to the weather boards and had another refinement lacking in most other bush dwellings, a galvanised iron roof instead of shingles. Arch Chandler was born in the original house in 1875 and thought to be the first white child born at The Basin. However, birth records show that Luisa Turner was the first white child born in the area in 1851. Legend has it the large oak tree still standing in Sheffield Road was planted to mark the birth of Arch. It was certainly planted when the family occupied the original home.

As William's family increased, he built a more substantial house further up the hillside, constructed from bricks made on the property. Chandler's property was originally known as "*Fern Glen*", but when George Bruce's property higher up the mountain was named "*Fern Glen*", William renamed his property "*Como*", after the famous Italian beauty spot, to avoid confusion. The brick house was first occupied in 1878.

William's eight sons and three daughters were brought up at The Basin, then an isolated area. The nearest doctor lived at Hawthorn, 18 miles away, and this was also the site of the nearest railway station.

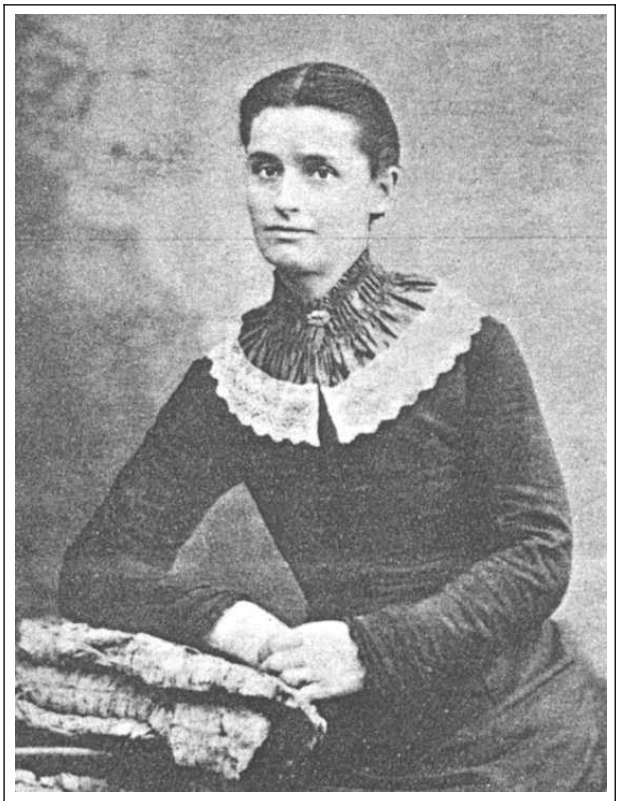
The Chandler family, mainly boys, occupied themselves with robust pursuits, including swinging through the hazelwoods, dogwoods and low growing scrub to see how far they could travel without touching the ground, in the manner of possums. Sometimes two boys would wrap themselves around the wheel of a cart (feet braced on the rim at one side, head pressed back against the other, arms clasping the spokes). Two others took the shafts of the cart and ran down to the bottom of the hill.

As already mentioned, cricket was a favourite family sport, and at one time five of the brothers played for the Bayswater side.

They once challenged club members to a match and won easily, mainly because the Chandler boys were the Club's best bowlers. On another occasion, William Junior, and his brother Tom, took a team to compete against the Malvern side. They travelled in a two horse market wagon and won the match by 25 runs.

As the family grew, William Senior became concerned about their education, rather sketchily undertaken by a busy mother and servant girl. Hoping to encourage the Education Department to send out a teacher, he built a brick school on part of his land. He offered it to the Department, which, possibly to protect itself against such pressures in a growing State, rejected the offer, but agreed to pay 1 pound for a block at the north-eastern corner of William's land, on which another school was built soon afterwards. The original brick building was later used to house the Chandler's foreman and later again as a storehouse. This school, known as the Dandenong Ranges School No.2329, was opened on 15th December 1880 under the care of James Maddern. About 40 pupils attended then, as it was the first school in the area. In 1883, District Inspector Gamble recommended the school should be known as "*The Basin State School No.2329, North Scoresby*", North Scoresby was generally in use for Bayswater district around this period.

Some interesting school books dating from this time are in possession of the family. One of Alf Chandler's exercise books, dated 1886, shows the name of the school as "*Scoresby North School 2329*" and its contents, particularly geographical notes, make interesting reading. Other books dated 1893 contain copperplate writing and old style dramatic ballads.



Kate Chandler
Photo courtesy Knox Historical Society

In 1895, when nearby localities had become more populous and other schools were built, attendances fell off to such an extent that the school was threatened with closure.

It is interesting to speculate whether William's transfer of portion of Crown allotment 92 to his brother Robert Charles had anything to do with the need to bolster school attendances. Because in March 1893, soon after Charles came to live at The Basin, eighteen children attended the school. Five of these were William's and two belonged to Charles. At the end of the same year, Bert left school and Leslie (Charles' youngest) started, and in this way the number remained steady at seven. At one stage, little Kitty Chandler was sent to school at the age of two years and ten months to keep the school open. After roll call, she went out and stayed with the teacher's wife.

The position was critical by 1898 when only four Chandlers attended and in June 1899 the school closed. For a short time, the building was used on Sundays for Methodist services. When it was finally moved to the

Chandler Family. Circa 1890. Photo courtesy Dobson Family.
Top: Archibald Charles, Alfred Elliott, Henry Rupert, William Thomas.
Middle: Percival Bertram, Kate, William, William Thomas' wife Anna, Lawrence Wreford.
Bottom: Gilbert Edwin, Kitty, Herbert Theodore Septimus, Esther Marion, Louisa Kate Elizabeth

corner of Mountain Highway and Liverpool Road in July 1900, the building was carted through William's property because the road was impassable. The land on which the school was located reverted to Chandler in 1902.

William Chandler continued to prosper and added to his holdings of land in the district. His original block consisted of 42 acres, part of Crown allotment 72B, located on the creek flats. His second purchase was land on the hill above the creek, approximately 15 acres of Crown allotment 93 for which he was issued a license on 1st October 1877 and finally secured title in 1886. The brick home erected in 1878 was built on this part of the property, and later again the homes of H.T.S. (Bert) Chandler and his son Fergus. Until 1988, when the business was closed, the packing sheds, glass houses and display area of Como Nurseries were located on the hillside portion of William's land.

On 14th February 1883, William purchased Crown allotments 79 and 92 from James Richards for 390 pounds as shown in instrument 114444, and consolidated the titles. On 16th July 1883, he sold Crown allotment 79 to Thomas Chandler of Mulgrave, Market Gardener, as shown in instrument 119622. He subdivided Crown allotment 92 into roughly 2 equal parcels, and sold one parcel to his brother Robert Charles on 24th April 1893 for 746 pounds two shillings as shown in instrument 334848. Robert built "C*levedon House*" and lived there for some years.

Other land transactions included ownership of whole of C.A. 70 known as Head's selection, in 2025, Boronia, to which he secured title in 1889 (later given to members of his family). Also, ownership from 1896 for a few years of 47 acres of the old Dandenong Creek Pre-emptive Right at Bayswater. Also, his acquisition on 20th May 1904, of 49 acres of Crown allotment 80, in Doongalla Road, opposite "*Como*", which he purchased from George Charles Leach, Contractor, for 150 pounds eighteen shillings and five pence as shown in instrument number 488863 (in 1909 given to members of his family).

In 1884, William bought his first piece of land in Liverpool Road, Kilsyth. It was 147 acres (Crown allotment 48), which had become available due to the death of the original selector Edwin Wade, who had planted a cherry orchard there. Shortly afterwards, he bought several more adjoining blocks in Liverpool Road and used these blocks to set up his sons when it came time to marry.

Although the boys worked on "*Como*" while they were growing up, they received no wages but had everything found, and after the accepted practice of the time, were thus financially dependent on their father. Three of the Chandler sons were given land in Liverpool Road, and it might be said this was the "*cradle*" of many of the fourth generation of the Chandler family. The area was not far from "*Como*"; and cattle were often driven across the intervening valley from one property to another. Each family killed a sheep in turn and this was shared amongst the various households.

William Chandler and his family were well established at The Basin by late 1880s, at a time when The Basin/Scoresby/Fern Tree Gully area was included in the Scoresby Riding of the Shire of Berwick. Dissatisfaction with the remoteness of the seat of local government, led to moves for Scoresby Riding to create a municipality, and the Shire of Fern Tree Gully was created in May 1889.

William Chandler was one of the foundation councillors of the North Riding of the new Shire and entered Council in August of that year. Monthly meetings were held in Dobson's Hall, Fern Tree Gully, on the Saturday after the full moon, since all the councillors either travelled on horseback or in buggies.

William was elected Shire President for two consecutive terms from August 1894, but before the second term had expired took the unusual course of resigning the position "*because it interfered with business*". Perhaps William's most notable achievement in Council was his advocacy of introducing the road machine, forerunner of the grader. In 1892, he moved to hire the owner of such a machine, to operate it "*as an experiment*". This was too much of an innovation for his fellow councillors, and he was permitted to withdraw the motion. The Engineer was instructed to investigate, and report to the next meeting instead. William persisted, and the first road machine was bought for 40 pounds later in the year.

William's election as an original councillor of the Shire of Fern Tree Gully started an era of almost unbroken family representation spanning the next 70 years. William sought re-election in 1898 and served another three-year term, and was replaced by his son Alfred in 1901.

Around the turn of the century William's sons, William Thomas, Harry and Arch, were settled on land in the Liverpool Road area. William Thomas received title to his property in 1900, and Harry and Arch in 1902, although all had settled on the land long before this time.

William's third son, Alfred, was given 47 acres at the corner of Boronia Road and Albert Avenue, to which he received title in 1901/2 and here on Head's former selection he founded "*Everson Nursery*".

His fifth son, Perce, was given part of William's original creek selection (C.A. 72B) abutting on to the Old Coach Road at The Basin.

Two other sons, Bert and Wreford (known in the family as "*Wref*") remained on at "*Como*" when the other boys left home and were jointly given nine acres of land in Liverpool Road in 1908. For some years these two sons ran the nursery with their father. Each had a third share, until William Chandler's death in 1911.

On 5th May 1913, William's executors, Archibald

Charles Chandler of Mooroolbark, Orchardist, and Gilbert Edwin Chandler of Grant Street Colac, Clergyman, sold the other half of Crown allotment 92 to James Flynn of 464 Toorak Road Toorak, Butcher, and Jacob Schneider of Kilsyth, Farmer, as shown in instrument 713058.

Wref lived on in the old home when William's wife Kate and daughter Kit decided to move to Point Lonsdale in 1915, and soon after he enlisted for service in the First World War. Wref owned in his own right 20 acres of land immediately adjoining his father's on the east along the Old Bullock track towards Olinda, but included this in the partnership and in return received title to the old family home. He later sold the home out of the family, but Bert bought it back afterwards and gave it to his son John, also selling Wref's former 20 acres to Fergus.

Wref returned from the First World War, and the partnership dissolved. Bert bought out Wref's share, by raising a mortgage, and Wref bought land in Blackburn South and began growing flowers there. Bert then carried on "*Como*" alone.

Gilbert, the youngest son of the family, worked at "*Como*" until 1904, when he went to America and trained to become a Church of Christ minister. This was largely due to the influence of "*Old Mr Gilmour*" of The Basin, who, although Church of Christ by conviction, conducted the Methodist Bible Class at The Basin. (This was attended by the Chandler family, although their mother was originally Baptist.)

Harry Chandler married a Gilmour in 1902 and joined the Montrose Church of Christ. Such was the Gilmours' influence, the remainder of the family living at home, Gilbert, Louisa, Esther and Kit, joined Church of Christ. They were strengthened in this decision by a mission conducted at Bayswater about this period. Gilbert's return to Australia as an ordained minister led to the keen participation in the building of a Church of Christ at Boronia.

The three girls of the family, Esther, Louisa and Kitty, helped with the domestic work involved in feeding and housing such a large family, and helped with the picking of daffodils and boronia.

In 1903, Louisa Kate Elizabeth Chandler married John Maguire.

The daughters were all given land. In 1903, the year she was married, Louisa received 25 acres in existing Mount View Road. In 1913, Esther and Kitty received title to 50 acres in Miller's Road, The Basin. In 1911, William gave Louisa's husband John Maguire, another 24 acres at the corner of Forest and Mount View Roads.

James and Emily Griffiths

James Griffiths was born in Wolverhampton. England c.1850. He married his cousin Emily Moore, born c.1842, in 1871 (see photo on page 28). He ran a grocery store in England.

In 1875, James and Emily emigrated to Victoria. Emily had contracted consumption (tuberculosis), and they decided to leave Wolverhampton, England, seeking a more agreeable environment and climate. James also had an interest in colonial timber.

Upon arrival in Melbourne, James quickly realised tea was a booming industry. In the late 19th century, Australians were the highest per capita tea drinkers in the world (4-5 kg per annum). As James had previously worked in the grocery business, he saw an opportunity, and with the aid of an investor, started a tea importing venture.

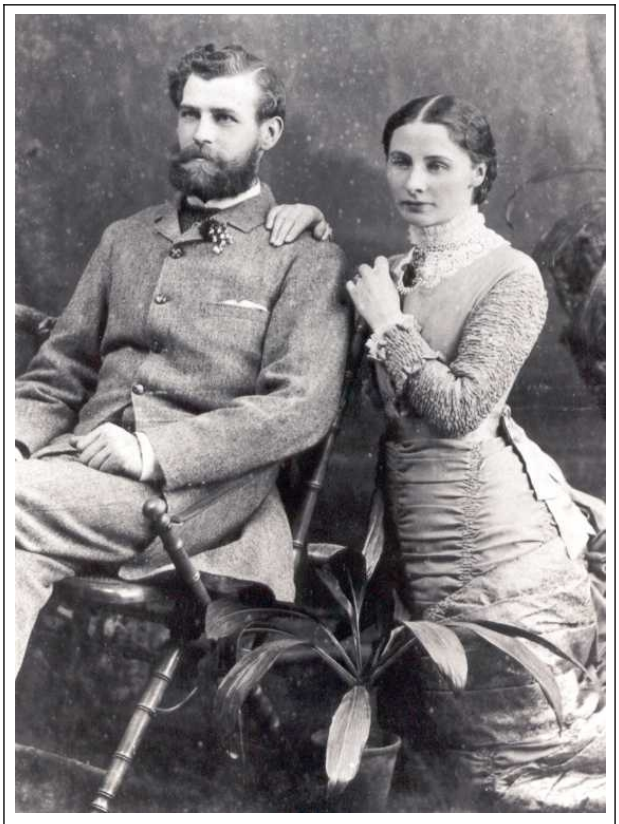
By 1880, business was booming, and he invited his younger brother John Moore (c1856-1943) to join him from England. Together, they formed Griffiths Brothers Pty. Ltd., and expanded their enterprise in Melbourne

Cauliflowers

It is not well known Willian Chandler perfected the cauliflower, sending his plants into the wilds of Olinda to Billy Young, who lived in a hut at the edge of the state forest, to produce the seed.

Later, he crossed drumhead cabbage and cauliflower to produce larger cauliflowers and sold the seeds.

William's father won an honourable mention certificate for a cauliflower displayed at the Intercolonial Exhibition held in Melbourne in 1866 & 1867.



James & Emily Griffiths
Photo courtesy Knox Historical Society

and throughout the colonies.

They created their tea brands, "*Griffiths Tea*" and "*Signal*", whilst building and growing a network of substantial warehouses. In 1900, they built a new multi-storey Melbourne Headquarters in Flinders Street, which, in 2025, is the boutique Lindrum Hotel. In 1915, they built their iconic Sydney Headquarters in Surrey Hills.

As the rail system expanded, they introduced a clever advertising campaign with track side signs counting down the miles to the next Griffiths outlet. Over time, they added coffee, cocoa, and chocolate to their product range. They were marketing innovators, employing their own travelling salesmen to sell products directly to consumers, thus bypassing the middlemen.

James and Emily initially rented a house in Cotham Road Kew. However, with the rapid business success, they were able to build a mansion called Monnington in Adeney Avenue, Kew.

The brothers decided they needed country properties, where they could relax and ultimately retire. James had been actively searching for a property in the hills and eventually located a unique piece of land in The Basin, about 30 km from Melbourne. The rail network was expanding near the area and the property had stunning western views towards Melbourne.

In 1888, brothers James and John Griffiths were granted title to Crown allotment 87 on 184 acres of land in The Basin. The land they purchased was first selected, licensed, and then leased by William Tyner. See page 44 for details on Tyner's land transactions. Tyner's leasehold was transferred to James & John Moore Griffiths in 1888, and that year they were jointly granted title. On this land, a magnificent Swiss style house was erected, named "*Ferndale*". See page 86 for further information.

James and Emily had no children, but in 1890 adopted five orphaned English children of James's brother, George Friend Griffiths. They raised the children as their own.

James Griffiths was widely known as a benefactor in the local community. He erected the first Sassafras Mechanics Hall at his own expense on condition that any Protestant denomination be permitted to use the building free of charge for religious services. He provided financial help in erection of the Sassafras Church of England.

James was also instrumental in helping families survive during the Village Settlement era of the 1890s, when poverty stalked the hills. He practically kept several poor families and whenever possible provided work for settlers. Unfortunately, a few opportunists took advantage of the man's generosity. A typical case concerned one settler who saw the local benefactor and pitched a tale about his hungry family. Griffiths left 1 pound at Dodd's Olinda store with instructions the family should receive groceries to that value. When eight shillings had been spent (there were 20 shillings in a pound) in provisions, the settler sent his children to collect the balance in cash, but the shopkeeper, knowing the man better than Griffiths, refused the children the money.

He was a religious man who held daily services for his staff and family at "*Ferndale*". He preached at services held in The Basin School, The Basin Methodist Church and at Mernda Methodist Church, then located near Olinda and opened in 1901, one of the first Churches in the hills.

Griffiths held a "*Carols by Candlelight*" in the gardens at "*Ferndale*" for many years. A band from the Salvation Army used to march across and accompany the singing of the assembled group.

On April 6th, 1925, the idyllic way of life at Ferndale ceased abruptly with a tragic accident. James and two others were killed at the Bayswater level crossing, after a collision between their wagonette and a steam train. Emily was severely injured. One of those killed, Miss Janet Emily Harris, was the eighteen-year-old daughter of Ferndale's manager. Ironically, she was on the way to meet her father, who was returning on the Melbourne train that struck the wagonette.

At the inquest, Mr Harris reported that the train had pulled up sharply on the Melbourne side of the Bayswater railway station, and on exiting, he realised that it had crashed into the wagonette. To his horror, he found one of the victims was his daughter. Incredibly, neither of the horses were injured.

Also killed was Miss Morton, daughter of a Rev. W. Morton of South Yarra. A Doctor Shelley was thrown clear, and later related James had been driving the covered wagonette with young Miss Harris seated beside him. The remaining passengers were seated within the carriage. None of them had any warning of the impending disaster, and he asserted it would have been difficult to hear either the train or its whistle over the chatter of conversation or the clatter of the horses and wagonette. The local doctor later gave evidence at the inquest that James, then aged 75, was becoming deaf.

In 2018, the two Bayswater level crossings were removed, and trains run underground.

James was a progressive man, but he wanted nothing to do with motor cars. He insisted on driving horse drawn vehicles many years after others were sitting behind a steering wheel. Interestingly, after James was killed, his brother John immediately switched the firm's fleet to motorised vans.

James had a will leaving all his assets to his wife and Emily had a will leaving all her assets to her husband. However, Emily changed her will on April 9th and died on April 10th.

Probate for both wills was granted in June 1925, and administration rights granted to John James Moore and

Dr. Arthur Langley.

The Australasian newspaper dated July 4th 1925 reported:

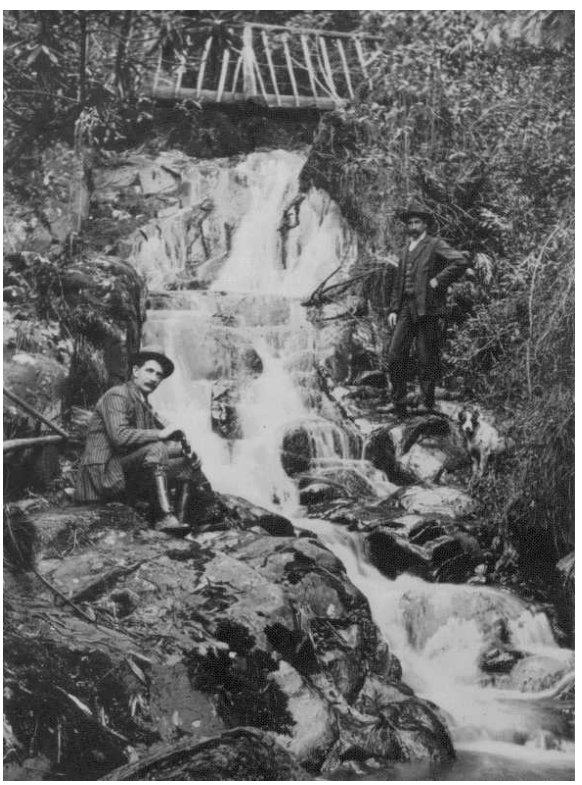
"*The will of Mr. James Griffiths and that of his wife, Mrs. Emily Griffiths, who were killed recently in a railway accident at Bayswater (V.), were both lodged at the Melbourne probate office on June 29. Mr. Griffith's will was dated January 23, 1885, and by it he left all his property to his wife. The gross value of the estate is £35,815, consisting of real estate £8,196 and personal property £27,619. Mrs. Griffiths had made a will on June 20, 1895, leaving all her property to her husband. In the hospital, however, the day before she died, she made another will, leaving her property, which consists of real estate of a gross value of £1,300 and personal property of a gross value of £41,987, on trust to her brother in law, Mr. John Moore Griffiths, of Normanby road, Kew, and Dr. Arthur Langley of Warrandyte road, Ringwood, to be distributed by them in their absolute discretion and judgement as follows:— Three-quarters of my real and personal estate among my near relatives, and one-quarter among other persons and/or charitable institutions or organisations.*"

Some relatives contested Emily's new will around the meaning of "*near relatives*". A court case was held on 27th April 1926. After lengthy arguments, Mr Justice Mann reserved his decision.

Justice Mann reported his decision on 6th May 1926 that the will was valid. In summary, he dismissed the word "*near*" as too vague and declared the trustees had power to distribute three-quarters of the estate, either among all persons related to Emily by blood, or among such persons related as the trustees might select. Also, the trustees had no power to distribute the three-fourths or any portion of it among the persons related to Emily by marriage only, and the will was valid for one-fourth to be distributed to charities.

The Argus newspaper (Melbourne) dated 13th July 1926, listed the charities benefiting from Emily's will. The list included hospitals, institutes, and homes. The Children's Hospital allocation to provide and furnish a memorial heliotherapy ward to be named the James and Emily Griffiths ward.

Administration of property in the will of James is detailed on page 62.



Griffiths Falls. Circa 1913. Note dog below man on the right and the bridge across the top of the falls. See inset on page 30 for further information. Photo courtesy Fergus Chandler

Other Early Settlers

The 1869 Land Act

Most of the land in and around The Basin was selected under the 1869 Land Act, Sections 19 and 20.

The Act enabled the selector to mark out an area no more than 320 acres, register as an applicant to the District Surveyor for a license for which they paid 1 pound, and prepare an application. They also had to pay a survey fee.

The method of marking an area in the license application was:

"*I, [applicant] of [place of residence] make oath and declare on [date] and [time], I placed conspicuous posts or cairns of stones with notices thereon at the corners, and dug a trench not less than two feet long, six*

Griffiths Falls

About 500 Metres upstream from where the eastern most creek runs through "*The Ravine*" is a small waterfall. These falls are known as "*Griffiths Falls*" and the creek was known as "*Griffiths Creek*" (see photo on page 30).

This area was part of the original Ferndale Property owned by James Griffiths. He made many walking tracks through the property including the falls in the route. He constructed a bridge across the creek, and some seating down beside the falls. At one time there was a large kettle there enabling walkers to make a fire and boil water for tea (even though Griffiths was of "*Griffiths Tea*" fame, he apparently did not supply the tea).

The falls were also accessible from the 1 in 20 road (Mountain Highway). In later years, they were a regular haunt for young lovers. Most tracks have disappeared except for the one which follows the creek from The Ravine up to the Falls and beyond. In 2025 this track is overgrown.

In the late 1960's, The Basin Progress Association approached the local Council with a plan to improve access to the waterfall, but this was never implemented. The falls have also been known as "*Ferndale Falls*" and "*The Basin Falls*".

inches wide, and 4 inches deep in the direction of the containing sides of the allotment hereunder described, and for hereby which I make application."

The area marked by the selector was surveyed, a detailed plan prepared, and the land given a Crown allotment number. Selectors were not proficient in calculating the area of their selection. Consequently, the surveyed area and location was often different to that submitted by the selector.

Apart from surveying the area marked out by a selector, surveyors made provision for access roads into selections. Initially known as government roads, some were modified, moved, added to and later given other names.

The selector could then apply for a license of occupation for three years. During the three years of license occupation, a rental of two shillings per acre per annum was payable. The selector had to cultivate ten per cent of the land, completely fence it, and prove residence for 2½ years unless the license was for "*non residence*". In The Basin foothills area, fencing a selection was difficult due to the steep terrain and thick timber.

If the above conditions were met, the selector had two options they could pursue.

1. They could apply for a Crown grant immediately if they paid the outstanding portion of the purchase price.
2. A lease for seven years could be granted during which time the remainder of the purchase price could be paid at the same rental as the license (two shillings per acre per annum). The lessee could apply for a Crown grant at any time during the term of the lease if the amount owing was paid.

In February 1878, the Victorian Government announced a portion of the already reserved Dandenong State Forest would open for selection. The borders of the Forest were moved and land on the slopes was opened. Many selectors took advantage of this change, and there was a rush of applications for land in March 1878. Although this land was not in The Basin, most access was via The Basin and some settlers sent their children to The Basin State School.

Land Selection Files

Documents detailing land transactions up to grant of title, are in Land Selection Files held by the Public Record Office in Victoria.

A common theme in Land Selection Files for most settlers in The Basin was road access. Most files contain letters from landholders, the Government, or Berwick Shire raising the issue of inadequate road access.

Land selection files do not show a selectors house location.

See page 36 for a map of original Crown allotments, landholders and early roads in The Basin area. See map on page 39 for early land selections on the slopes of Mt Corhanwarrabul.

Frederick Woodhouse

On 26th February 1878, Frederick William Woodhouse the younger was granted title to Crown allotment 72 in the area where in 2025, The Basin Primary School, Miller Park, Salvation Army and Mountain Gateway Estate are located. The land was 127 acres for which he paid 127 pounds 5 shillings and three pence.

No land selection files could be located for the property, and it is unknown if Woodhouse originally selected the land. The road now known as Liverpool Road ran through the property and Mountain Highway ran along one side.

Woodhouse sold the land to George Le Ferre of Collins Street Melbourne, Doctor of Medicine, on 29th June 1881 for 256 pounds as shown in instrument number 94913.

Le Ferre sold the land to Ellen McIntosh of Terrengower Park Pavion Yallock Colac, Widow, on 31st January 1882 for 400 pounds as shown in instrument 101295.

McIntosh sold the land to Samuel Collier of Scoresby, Farmer, on 8th June 1885 for 600 pounds as shown in instrument number 149307.

Collier sold Crown allotments 72 and 63A (the land abutting Crown allotment 72 to the north) to George Williamson Bruce of Flinders Lane East Melbourne, Merchant, on 11th July 1889 for 8,282 pounds and five shillings as shown in instrument number 256246.

George Bruce sold the land to his son John Munro Bruce of Flinders Lane Melbourne Wharehouseman on 10th October 1893 for 2,000 pounds as shown in instrument number 340556. The sale was for both Crown allotment 63A, (the land abutting Crown allotment 72 to the north), and Crown allotment 72.

John Bruce subdivided Crown allotment 72 in 1895 as shown in the plan on page 32. John Bruce died in 1901, and his wife, Mary Ann Bruce, sold the land as proprietor of the land as shown in the following instrument numbers.

1. **436977**. 37 acres sold to Robert Lum Dobson of Bayswater, Farmer, on 30th April 1901 for 297 pounds 16 shillings and 6 pence.
2. **450258**. Sold to the Education Department on 24th February 1902 for 25 pounds. The Basin State School building was moved to this land from Doongalla Road in 1901. See plan on page 116 for further land transactions related to The Basin Primary School.
3. **471760**. Sold to Thomas McKie and William Peart, members of the Salvation Army, on 14th May 1903 for 2,000 pounds. The sale included Crown allotment 63A abutting to the north, a total of 108 acres. In 1979, the Dandenong Valley Authority compulsory acquired part of Crown allotment 63A

to create the Liverpool Road Retarding Basin.

4. **483200**. Sold to John Lincoln Yeadon of Bayswater Farmer on 21st January 1904 for 606 pounds. In 1906, he sold the bulk of the property to the Salvation Army.

Land was later acquired to move and straighten Liverpool Road, and the bend became Dobson Lane.

William Hill

On 30th November 1872, William Hill of Ballyshannassy (later Burwood) in the Parish of Boroondara, in the County of Bourke, Farmer, was granted title to Crown allotment 63A in the area where in 2025 the Liverpool Retarding Basin is partly located. The land was 79 acres for which he paid 80 pounds. The Dandenong creek ran through the land making it fertile.

No land selection files could be located for the property, and it is unknown if Hill originally selected the land. Liverpool Road was east of the property.

On 2nd November 1874, Hill sold Crown allotment 63A to David Dobson for 200 pounds as shown in instrument number 42116. On 31st January 1877, David sold it to Samuel and James Collier for 225 pounds as shown in instrument number 59537.

James Collier sold his interest in the property to his father (Samuel) for 100 pounds on 19th April 1880, as shown in instrument number 84891.

Samuel sold the property to George Williamson Bruce on 11th July 1889 for 8,282 pounds 5 shillings as shown in instrument number 256246. The sale included Crown allotment 72.

Samuel Collier

Samuel Collier Senior was born on the banks of the Merri creek in 1842. He married Emma Britnell on 14th July 1865 in Hawthorn.

Collier purchased considerable land in the Bayswater and Basin districts from the 1870s to the 1910s. Samuel purchased Crown allotment 63A in The Basin in 1877 with his son James, which he held for 12 years. He purchased Crown allotment 72 in 1885 in The Basin which he held for 5 years. He purchased land east of Colchester Road from J. Chambers, who selected it in 1882. In 1895, he purchased part of land known as the Dandenong Creek Pre-emptive Right in Bayswater originally selected by Hugh and Henry Rourke in the 1840s.

His family had a significant influence in local affairs, and his descendants lived in the area for a long time.

Samuel Collier served on the Berwick Council from 1877 to 1879, and the Fern Tree Gully Council in 1900, 1901, and 1909 to 1916, the latter period serving as Shire President in 1913 and 1914.

The Colliers had twelve children. Mary Jane (1866-1924), John (1868-1952), William James (1870-1964) Francis (1873-1955), Elizabeth Ann (1875-1939), Alice May (1878-1900), Minnie Isabel (1880-1891), Albert Charles (1882-1963), Samuel Walter (1885-1888), Jessie Lilian (1888-1959), Annie Maud (1890-1990) and Ernest Leslie Norman (1891-1974). Each of the boys were given a farm where they settled when they married.

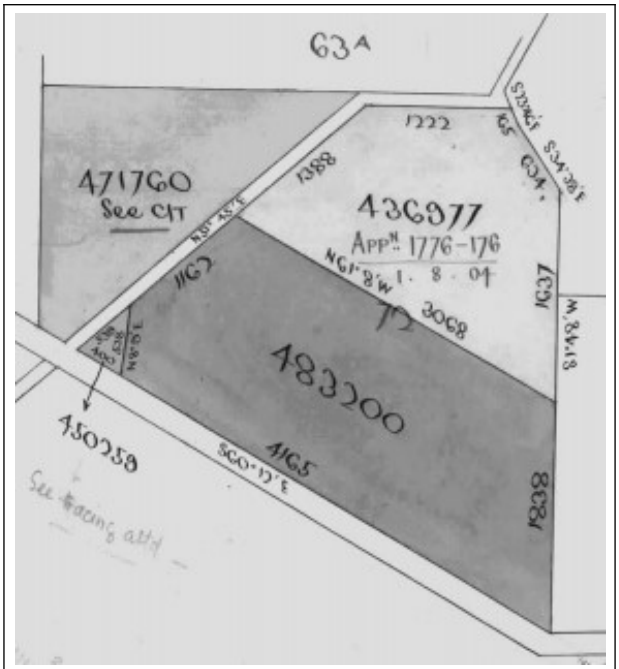
Emma Collier died on 8th February 1920 and Samuel died on 24th November 1933. Both are buried at Box Hill cemetery site M 2098.

Albert Collier (son) was a member of The Basin State School Committee in 1927, and his wife Nellie (born Johnstone) was an active member of the ladies' committee. Albert Avenue, in Boronia, is named after him.

John Lincoln Yeadon

Although not an early settler, John Yeadon first purchased land in The Basin in 1904 and was active in local affairs for many years.

Born on 24th May 1861 in Otley, Yorkshire, England He married Elizabeth Smith (b 1861) on 6th February 1882 in Wharfedale, Yorkshire, England. They had five children: Sarah (1882-1883), Henry (1887-1901), Elizabeth Ivy (1890-1970), Charles Frederick (1889-1916) and Lottie (1897-1971).



First subdivision of Crown allotment 72 c1899 by John Bruce.
Mountain Highway on bottom. Liverpool Road (previously Fern Glen Road) on LH side running through the property. Crown allotment 63A abutting to the north.

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They came to Victoria from New South Wales settling in The Basin.

His first land purchase in The Basin was from John Bruce in 1904. It was part of Crown allotment 72, most of which he later sold to the Salvation Army in 1906, and is where The Basin Primary School is located. He established a small quarry on the land.

He was elected to the North Riding of the Ferntree Gully Shire Council in 1901 and was Shire President in 1904. He was also appointed a Justice of the Peace.

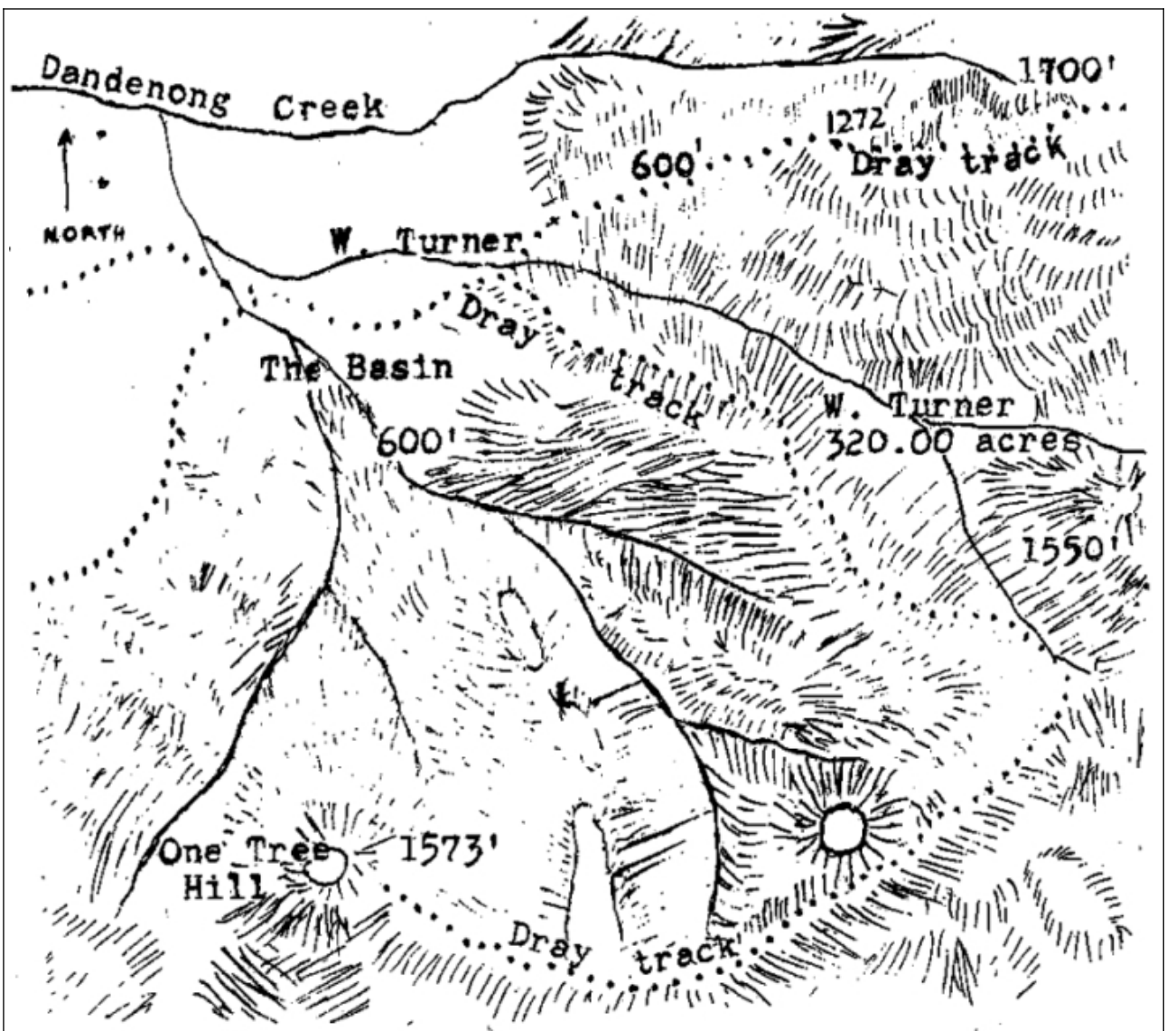
Yeadon was a member of The Board of Advice for The Basin Primary School for several years. He lived at "*Fern Glen Farm*" as reported in a clearing sale he conducted in 1906 before he left for a 6-month holiday in England. "*Fern Glen Farm*" was located on part of Crown allotment 72 he sold to the Salvation Army in 1906.

Yeadon and his wife are mentioned several times in Janet Dobsons diary "*going to market*", "*cutting the oats*", etc. Miss Simson, who owned Doongalla, contracted Yeadon to construct a new road into her property after she purchased a right of carriageway through Chandler's Crown allotment 80.

In 1907, Yeadon purchased the land and residence of John James Miller and renamed it "*Melrose*".

Yeadon's son Charles Frederick served in World War I and was awarded the Military Cross.

John Yeadon died on 20th October 1923 in Brunswick, aged 62. Elizabeth died on 28th September 1947, aged 86. Both are buried in Box Hill Cemetery site M 0487.



An expanded section of the 1868 map by John Hardy of the Dandenong State Forest shown on page 14. Two dray tracks are shown starting at The Basin. An area of 320 acres is also marked with the name W. Turner.

John & Mary Barns

John Barns was born in England in 1829. On 16th October 1853, he married Mary King Tozer born in 1828. The couple had seven children. Mary (1853-1947), John Samuel (1857-1858), Edith Elizabeth (1859-1931), Anne Thompson (1861-1935), Alice Emily (1863-1944), Eliza Amy (1867-1962) and Lucy Minnie (1870-1965).

The family migrated to Melbourne in 1857 from Torquay, Devonshire. They initially lived in a tent at St Kilda. John worked as a carpenter/joiner building the Alfred hospital. He was occupied as such until the project's completion. His final task before his departure from the Alfred Hospital, was to check all the windows, doors and cupboards, etc. for smooth functioning.

Later, the family lived at a three fronted shop owned and operated by them situated at numbers 56, 58 & 60 Swan Street Richmond. Two sections of the complex formed a successful drapery business. There was also a department stocking millinery and mantels, mens mercery, hats, underclothing, etc.

The eldest daughter, Mary, was a dressmaker at Swan Street. Mary married John Carr who dealt with drapery. They travelled with horse and wagon on the road between Whittlesea and Ferntree Gully, selling along the way.

On 25th March 1878, John Barns registered as an applicant to the District Surveyor for a license to occupy 320 acres on steep land running up the side of Mt Corhanwarrabul. It included the area later known as Barns Lookout. Although the land was not in The Basin, he had a considerable influence in local affairs.

The area he applied for had originally been reserved for the Dandenong State Forest. On 21st October 1878, a license was granted for Crown allotment 60 and the area surveyed as 230 acres. He stated on his application he was a carpenter and resided at 48 Swan Street Richmond.

In 1879, he was a signatory to the petition for a school in The Basin and promised two children would attend if the school opened. The children were Eliza (11) and Minnie (9).

On 14th November 1881, he was granted a lease. His application stated he had partly fenced the property, built a house 14 feet by 24 feet with paling sides and shingle roof, a 12 feet by 12 feet hens house, 7 acres of fruit trees and had 45 acres under cultivation. He owned 3 buildings in Richmond and one in St Kilda. He was waiting for adjoining selectors to do their share of fencing.

On 4th April 1888, he was granted freehold title to Crown allotment 60.

Barns also selected Crown allotment C.A, an area of 20 acres, and registered as an applicant to the District Surveyor on 31st July 1880. Freehold title was granted in 1887, on which a house named Torwood was erected near the high southern corner of Sheffield and Glasgow Roads in Kilsyth. John used hand made bricks made from clay on the site to build the house. Torwood was finished in 1894, and the family retired there to live.

In 1892, Minnie Barns married David Dobson, son of Thomas Dobson Junior of Ferntree Gully.

Janet Dobsons diary mention John Barns many times.

John Barns' death is registered at Hawthorn, registration number 02030/1916. He was aged 87. He is buried at the St Kilda Cemetery, Church of England section C, grave 0119. His wife Mary, who died in 1905, is buried with him.

George Williamson Bruce

George Williamson Bruce was born in the village of Brooklawn, in County Leitrim, Ireland in 1841. Bruce arrived in Melbourne in 1861, to join his elder brother John Munro Bruce in the softgoods firm Laing and Webster.

In 1869, George began his own business in Kyneton. Meanwhile, his brother John began his own softgoods import firm with a former workmate as Patterson, Laing and Bruce in 1879. Later, George became a partner in the Denton Mills Hats, Braeside Shirts and chairman of the commissioners of the State Savings Bank. George left Kyneton to join Patterson, Laing and Bruce in 1880.

George Bruce married Isabella Hosie (1850-1906) in 1870, and they had 9 children. James Seves Hosie (1871-1951), John Munro (1872-1873), George Owen (1875-1916), Isabella May (1876-1947), Mary Eva (1878-1955), Edith Lowden (1879-1919), Irene (1881-1960), Ida Louisa (1882-1963) and William Duff (1884-1950)

On 26th March 1878, Bruce registered as an applicant to the District Surveyor for a license to occupy 320 acres on steep land up the side of Mt Corhanwarrabul. The area he applied for had originally been reserved for the Dandenong State Forest.

After surveying, and on 1st October 1878, Bruce was given a nonresident license for Crown allotment 55. An area of 237 acres in the Parish of Mooroolbark, County of Mornington.

His application stated he was a draper residing at 22 Dundas Place, Emerald Hill (South Melbourne).

He often travelled to England on business. As early as 1883, he was in danger of forfeiting his license because of noncompliance. However, his brother John alerted the authorities George would attend to the matter when he returned from England.

In 1879, he applied to surrender his license under Section 19 and reapply under Section 20. This was approved.

On 8th January 1885, his brother John, was granted a transfer to a lease on the adjacent property, Crown allotment 56, and they helped each other with their land dealings.

On 1st January 1885, George was granted a lease,

stating improvements of a 10 room 35 feet by 35 feet wood and brick house, a 4 room 20 feet by 15 feet house, and a 1-room house 10 feet by 12 feet, stables, and a shed. The property and house became known as "*Fern Glen*".

The name "*George Wilkinson Bruce*" was erroneously used on his lease and 2 titles as explained in instrument number 296244. In later documentation, he quoted his address as 13-15 Flinders Lane Melbourne and occupation as Wharehouseman.

He had 20 acres of grass, 25 acres under cultivation and an orchard of 5 acres. He also wrote in his lease application:

"Clearing and burning off dead timber and undergrowth and cutting road from boundary to residence and several other improvements such as fowl house piggery stockyard etc and orchard kitchen garden etc".

In 1886, The Shire of Berwick prepared a plan for a road running through the middle of Crown allotments 55 (George Bruce), 56 (John Bruce) and 59 (George Dodd), then through Crown allotment 57 (Michael Geraghty) to Crown allotment 58 (A Noble). Bruce's neighbours, and the Shire of Berwick, had all written to him requesting his approval for the road. Bruce objected to the road, but was willing to make arrangements for a private road. The road never eventuated.

On 6th July 1888, George Bruce was granted freehold title to Crown allotment 55.

George Bruce and his brother John were involved in a scheme to help those unemployed in the depression period in the late 1880s. They employed city workers on their properties to clear land and cut firewood. Paying them 15 shillings per week and providing rough but modest accommodation, the scheme was a success with the timber cut and sold for fuel covering the expenses. John Bruce even worked with the unemployed to set an example.

Isabella died on 12th October 1906 and is buried in Carlton North Cemetery site MGC-BAP-Comp-C-No-108. George Williamson Bruce died on the 20th September 1908 and is buried in Carlton North Cemetery site BAP C111.

John Munro Bruce

John Munro Bruce was born in Ireland in 1840. In 1872, he married Mary Ann Henderson, born in Ireland in 1842. They had the 6 children. William (1873-1899), John Ernest Webster (1874-1919), William Crawford (1876-1899), Robert Laing (1878-1956), Stanley Melbourne (1883-1963) and Mary (1885-1908). Stanley Melbourne was Prime Minister of Australia from 1923 to 1929.

Bruce arrived in Australia in 1858 and within two decades had established himself as a resident partner in the soft goods firm Paterson, Laing & Bruce based in Victoria. By 1885, the firm was prospering and his brother, George Williamson Bruce became a partner.

Bruce was active in business, political and international affairs often travelling between Australia and Britain.

John Munro Bruce was granted title to Crown allotment 56 on 28th May 1888, an area of 131 acres. However, he was not the original selector of this Crown allotment. Henry Lum was the original selector, and John Bruce would have taken over his improvements. See page 35.

In later years, John Munro Bruce was diagnosed with diabetes and died in Paris in 1901.

Henry Lum

On 25th March 1878, Henry Lum registered as an applicant to the District Surveyor for a license to occupy 160 acres on steep land running up the side of Mt Corhanwarrabul. The area he applied for had originally been reserved for the Dandenong State Forest. Bounded on the south by a road and on the north near the summit of Mt Corhanwarrabul with the Dandenong Creek running through the middle of the property. He stated his occupation as a farmer residing in Mulgrave. The official survey reduced the area to 131 acres and was allocated Crown allotment 56.

Henry Lum was born in London in 1837. He married Ellen Leach (1859-1952) on 21st August 1882. They had 1 son Henry Ashley (1883-1965).

In 1881, Lum applied for a lease on the property. He stated improvements as fencing, a 4 roomed 23 feet by 30 feet weatherboard dwelling consisting of 2 bedrooms, dining room and kitchen. A 10 feet by 10 feet hut, 30 acres of grass, fruit trees and 4 acres of potatoes. He was unable to fully follow the license requirements because the land was too hilly, and the adjoining selectors had not carried out their share of fencing. Nevertheless, he was granted a lease on 1st November 1881.

Henry Lum died on 31st March 1884 at the age of 47 and is buried in Oakleigh cemetery. His wife, Ellen, died in June 1952, and is buried in Box Hill cemetery site B 0474.

His executors, David Dobson and John McLean Anderson, arranged transfer of his lease to John Munro Bruce on 8th January 1885, with the starting date backdated to 1st November 1881. This earlier date was the original lease start date for Henry Lum. At the time of his death, he had 1½ acres of fruit trees 3 years old, including a nursery of young fruit trees. He had cleared 60 acres of land and sown it with English grass.

James Richards

James Richards secured Crown grants to two parcels of land in The Basin, Crown allotments 92 and 79.

Allotment 92

On 30th January 1877, James Richards registered as an applicant to the District Surveyor for a license to occupy 50 acres of land later allocated as Crown allotment 92 and surveyed as 61 acres. Old Forest Road bounded one side of the land.

He is shown on the petition requesting provision of a State School for The Basin district in 1879 as having three school age children residing on the land.

In 1880, he applied for a lease on the land. His application stated he had fenced most of the property, built a 2 roomed 25 feet by 11 feet *"Skillian"* house with shingle roof and paling sides. He had cultivated barley, potatoes, peas, and oats. Other improvements included outhouse and 30 acres of trees ring-barked. He stated his occupation as a farm labourer and had a family residing on the land. A lease was granted on 15th October 1880.

In 1882, he applied for freehold title and was granted on 14th November 1882.

Richards sold Crown allotments 92 and 79 to William Chandler on 14th February 1883 for 390 pounds as shown in instrument number 114444.

William Chandler sold half of Crown allotment 92 to his brother Robert Charles Chandler of The Basin near Bayswater, Gentleman, for 746 pounds two shillings on 24th April 1883 as shown in instrument number 334848.

On 5th May 1913, the executors of William Chandler sold the other half of Crown allotment 92 (approx 32 acres) to James Flynn and Jacob Schneider as tenants in common as shown in instrument number 713058. This land was consolidated with Crown allotment 91 and later subdivided as Schneider's Estate. See page 58.

Allotment 79

A land selection file for Crown allotment 79 could not be located, and it is unknown if Richards was the original selector of the land. In his lease application for Crown allotment 92, he wrote he had a license or lease on an adjoining Crown allotment used for cultivation (which would have been Crown allotment 79).

The original title for Crown allotment 79 shows a government road along the northern boundary. However, this road never eventuated. Old Coach Road was later constructed slightly north of the boundary.

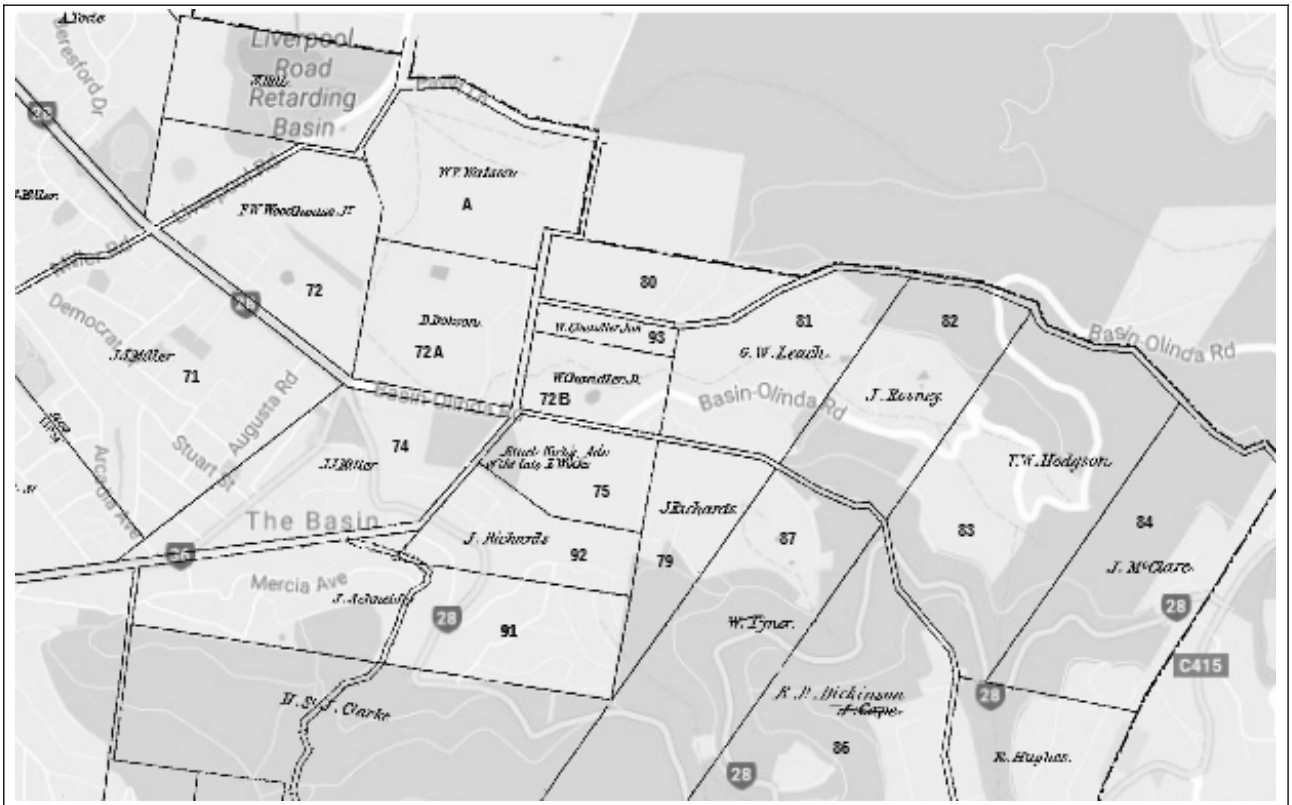
Richards was granted title to Crown allotment 79 on 14th November 1882.

Richards sold Crown allotments 92 and 79 to William Chandler on 14th February 1883 for 390 pounds as shown in instrument number 114444.

On 16th July 1883, William Chandler sold Crown allotment 79 to Thomas Chandler of Mulgrave, Market Gardener, for 48 pounds as shown in instrument 119622.

In March 1890, advertisements appeared in The Argus newspaper to auction Crown allotment 79:

"*...This land is immediately surrounded by the*



A circa 1880 plan of Crown allotments, roads and land owners in The Basin area overlayed on a modern map.

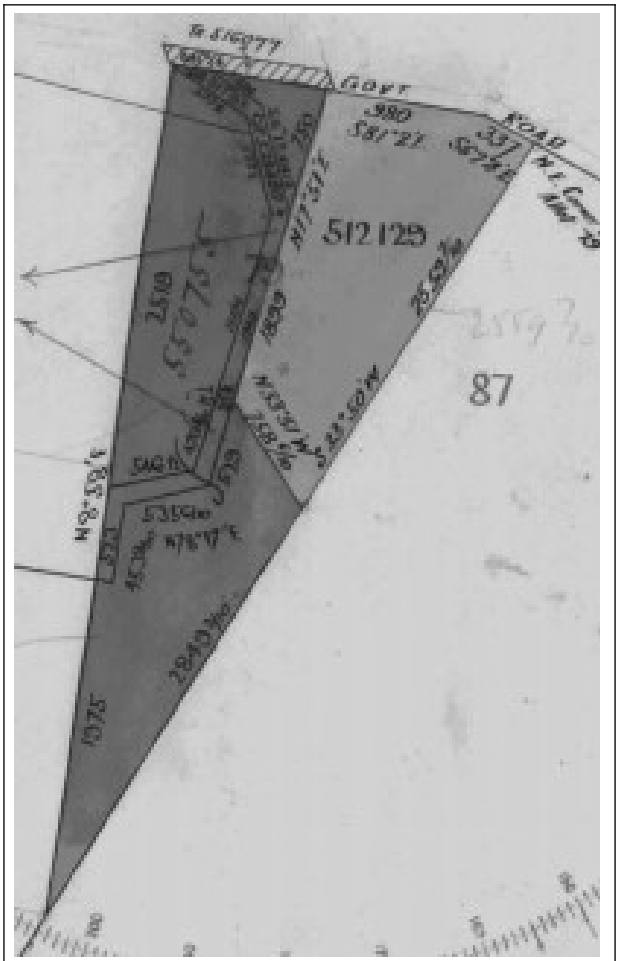
residences of Messrs Griffiths Bros, Canon Dickenson, Sir M. H. Davies, M.L.A., and J. J. Miller Esq., thus proving the superiority of the district."

But no sales record could be found.

Thomas Chandler sold Crown allotment 79 to William Richardson of Nelson Place Williamstown, Pawnbroker, for 755 pounds fifteen shillings and nine pence on 9th April 1888 as shown in instrument number 212827. He sold it to William Chandler on 21st August 1890 for 872 pounds as shown in instrument number 286907.

In 1905, Chandler subdivided Crown allotment 79 into 2 parcels (see page 37) and sold them as shown in the following instrument numbers:

- **512129**. To James Griffiths of Flinders Street Melbourne Tea Merchant for 392 pounds eight shillings and three pence on 13th September 1905.
- **550755**. To Percival Bertram Chandler of Bayswater Farmer and of the natural love and affection which I bear towards the said Percival Bertram Chandler on 20th June 1907 for 15 pounds. The land sale included an easement through the property. It was effectively a road allowing carriage for James Griffiths to the above property.



First subdivision of Crown allotment 79 c1899 by William Chandler.
The road at top never eventuated. The road through the land was slightly realigned and in the 1960s became Grumont Road and Corsair Track.

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Percival Bertram Chandler died in 1916. His executor, Alfred Elliott Chandler subdivided his land into 3 parcels. All were purchased by Mary St. Clair Beaumont of Manning Road East Malvern, Married Woman, as shown in the following instrument numbers:

- **839625** On 13th November 1917 for 650 pounds.
- **856924** On 20th June 1918.
- **1002239** On 24th June 1921 for 194 pounds 16 shillings.

The Beaumont's grew lemons on the properties in the 1930s.

Mary St. Clair Beaumont sold all parcels to Alfred Richard Baxter Cox and Ivy Gertrude Cox on 21st October 1946.

The properties were consolidated in the 1940s, and subdivided by Robert Maxwell Brewer. Grumont Road and Corsair Track were created. A southern section of the land was acquired by the government and amalgamated into the Dandenong Ranges National Park.

Jacob Schneider

Jacob Friedrich Schneider was born in Switzerland in 1820. Jacob married Magdalena Madelene (born 1836) in Wurenlingen Switzerland on 3rd October 1853, and they emigrated to Australia that year. They had 13 children:

1. Julia Juliana (1854-1883).
2. George Jacob (1856-1856).
3. Magdalena (1858-1927).
4. Leoncius (1860-?).
5. Jacob (1861-1935).
6. Mary Madeline (1863-1868).
7. Mary Gertrude (1864-1941).
8. Matilda Mary (1866-1938).
9. Madeline (1869-?).
10. Roselia Helena (1871-1941).
11. Paul Victor (1873-1953).
12. Christina Dorothy (1875-1951).
13. Theodora (1878-?).

Leoncius is not mentioned on either of the parents' death certificates, but is recorded as a birth in Victoria. His birth certificate records his parents having: "*3 children living 1 dead*".

On 28th August 1877, Jacob Schneider registered as an applicant to the District Surveyor for a license to occupy 160 acres. After surveying, the area was increased to 176 acres and allocated Crown allotment 91.

He is shown on the petition requesting provision of a State School for The Basin district in 1879 as having five school age children who would be residing on the land shortly.

In his lease application in June 1881, he stated he had fenced all his land, grown potatoes, beans, strawberries, raspberries and other vegetables. Built a two-room house 20 feet x 12 feet with weatherboards and iron roof. Built a one-room house 18 feet x 12 feet with lathe & plaster and iron roof. Built a slab stable 12 feet x 12 feet with slate roof. He stated he did not meet the residency requirement as he was: "*obliged to take two days a week on market purposes*". His lease was approved on 26th September 1881. On 20th January 1888, he was granted title.

Schneider's wife, Magdalena, died on 9th March 1882 from cancer of the uterus.

Their daughter Julia, married Anders Fredrick Wilhelm Hansen on 21st August 1882. Julia died on 23rd September 1883 of puerperal peritonitis. She was pregnant then. A boy, Andrew, was born, but he died 4 days later.

Schneider's land selection file contains letters from Schneider and his neighbour, Horatio Saint John Clarke, who selected land uphill from Schneider towards One Tree Hill. The surveyor who marked Clarke's original selection had not made provision for a navigable road up to One Tree Hill through either property. Both Schneider and Clarke agreed a navigable road was desirable, and both selections were resurveyed with a road annexed through the properties up to One Tree Hill. In 2025, that road is Government Road and Outlook Drive. The road annexure reduced Schneider's selection to 170 acres.

Jacob Friedrich Schneider died on 9th September 1889 of complications arising from bronchitis and asthma. Probate was granted to Magdalena Hansen (his daughter married to Ephraim Hansen) and Jacob Schneider (his son).

On 22nd July 1912, Crown allotment 91 was sold to Jacob Schneider and James Flynn as tenants in common for which they paid 683 pounds 5 shillings six pence as shown in instrument number 690221.

On 5th May 1913, the executors of William Chandler sold half of Crown allotment 92 (approx 31 acres) to James Flynn of 464 Toorak Road Toorak, Butcher, and Jacob Schneider formerly of Canterbury Road Surrey Hills, Storekeeper, but now of corner Colchester and Canterbury Roads Croydon, Farmer, as shown in instrument number 713058.

Crown allotment 91 and the above half of Crown allotment 92 were later consolidated by James Flynn and Jacob Schneider as tenants in common creating about 200 acres.

The land later was one of the earliest and largest land subdivisions in The Basin. It was first known as "*Schneiders Estate*" encompassing the areas of Mercia Avenue, Bayview Crescent, Claremont and Inverness Avenues.

See page 58 for information on Schneiders Estate.

Thomas Walsh Hodgson

Thomas Walsh Hodgson was born in Preston, Lancashire, England on 17th December 1828. He had a child, Charles Alexander (1858-1858) with Elizabeth Sexton. No record could be found of marriage.

He had three children with Elizabeth Adams (1839-1885). Charles William Hodgson (1859-1918), John Hodgson (1861-1862) and John Thomas Hodgson (1863-1864). No record could be found of marriage.

In 1868, he married Ann Wakefield (1837-1886). They had two children, John Alfred Hodgson (1870-1870), and John Wakefield Hodgson (1875 -1940).

Hodgson first settled in Clunes during the Victorian gold rush. When the Government announced in February 1878 a portion of the Dandenong State Forest would open for selection in the One Tree Hill area and below Olinda, he saw prospects. He quickly selected a portion of land near The Basin containing a scenic location at the top of a valley surrounded by high mountains. Perennial streams ran through the valley.

On 23rd March 1878, Hodgson registered as an applicant to the District Surveyor for a license of 320 acres. The area is shown on a map prepared in 1868 of the Dandenong State Forest by John Hardy.

On October 1st 1878, he was granted a license to occupy 199 acres of land, later surveyed as Crown allotment 83. The land was roughly bounded on the north by Ridge Track/Range Road (closed) and on the south by Cobblestone Road/Hilton Road (closed) to Ferny Creek. His land was later reduced to 194 acres to allow for a proposed road through the centre of his land between Crown allotments 82 (J. Rosney) and 84 (J. McClare).

In his license application, he stated he owned 10 acres in Nunawading and 40 acres in Frankston.

He is shown on the petition requesting provision of a State School for The Basin district in 1879 as having one school age child residing on the land.

By 1881, he had built a fence around the property, was growing wheat and oats, raising animals and had built a six-room 42 feet by 26 feet house with verandah. He had stables, a cow house, piggeries, fowl houses, English grass, and fruit trees. He employed workers to assist working the property. His family had moved into the house. The property became known as Hazel Dell Farm.

He applied for a lease, which was approved, and shortly after he applied for, and was granted, title in 1881.

The house Hodgson built on Crown allotment 83 became known as Hazel Dell (see page 93) and later used for traveller refreshments and accommodation. It

was situated at the top of the scenic valley watered by tributaries of Dobsons Creek and surrounded by mountains.

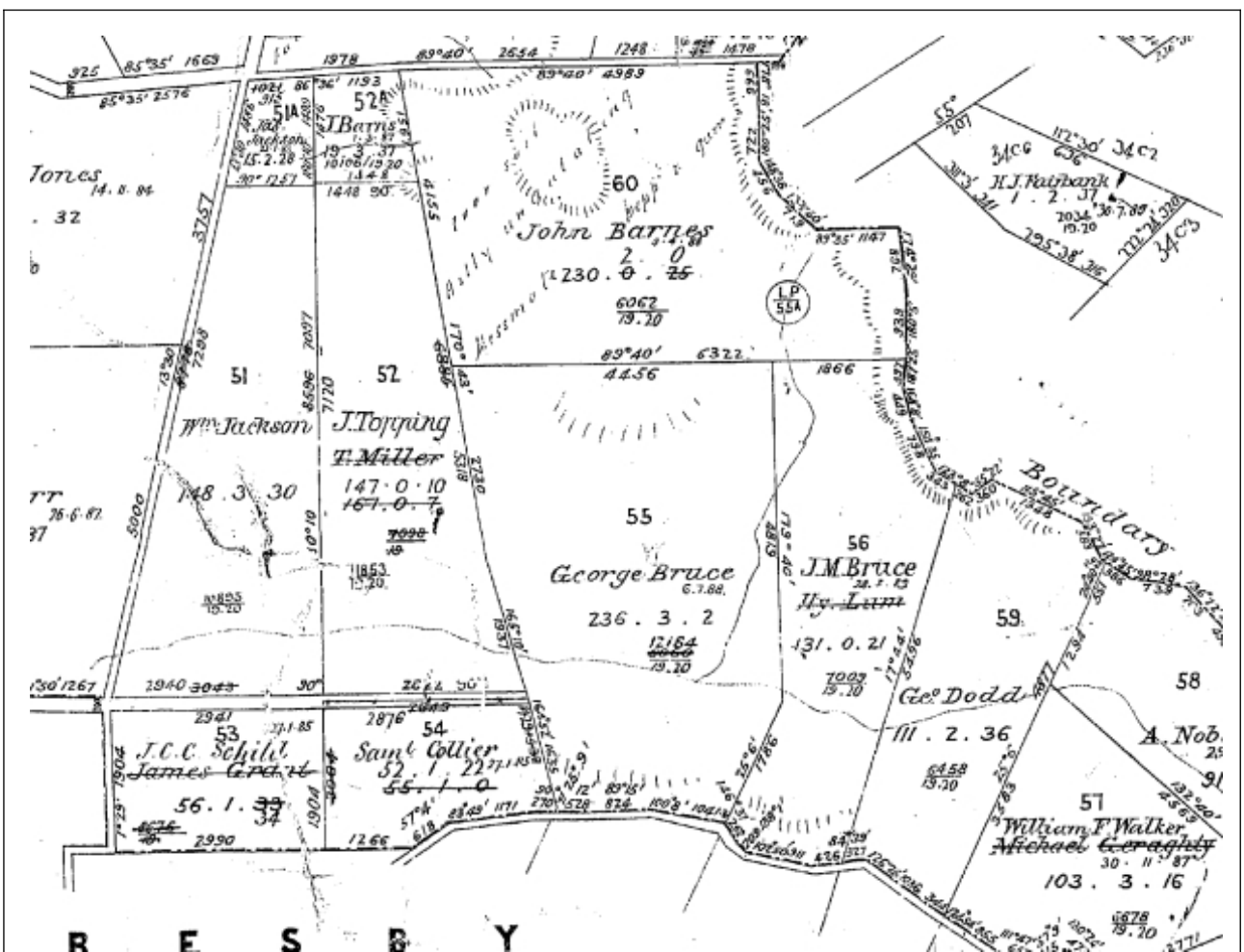
Access to Hazel Dell site was difficult for a dray loaded with supplies. There were 3 possible routes in the 1880s:

1. Via Range Road (first known as The Bullock Track. In 2025, part Ridge Track). These two tracks followed a ridge, but the track to his lower homestead valley was steep and in winter inaccessible. Access into the valley was via what in 2025 is known as "*Bradley Track*".
2. Via a track no longer existing, then Bradley Track or "*Dog Track*". However, this route was also steep, and in winter inaccessible.
3. Following a valley track to his homestead site, roughly along the in 2025 Basin-Olinda Road alongside Dobsons Creek. However, this route passed through a lower section of his neighbours land, John Rosney, who initially allowed access, but later blocked the track. After Rosney sold his land, the track was reopened.

In February 1880, Hodgson wrote to the Minister of Lands stating he is blocked from getting in and out of his selection without "*...backing or skidding...*". Hodgson offered to purchase a section of land from Rosney, but he refused. Both wrote letters to the Secretary of Lands, The Shire of Berwick, and the dispute intensified.

The Shire of Berwick had begun planning for better road access to the properties of Rosney, Hodgson and McClare soon after they selected their land. After the dispute intensified, the Shire of Berwick wrote to the Secretary of Lands requesting leases be withheld until the Council completed a proposed road roughly through the centre of the three Crown allotments.

After further negotiations via their solicitors, the three parties agreed to the proposed road in October 1881. The estimated compensation for excised land and



Early map of land selections on the Western slopes of Mt Corhanwarrabul.
Top Road is Glasgow, LH is Sheffield, bottom is Range and Pavitt Lane is on LH side above Range Road.
The Boundary on the RH side would have roughly followed the line of Ridge Road.
Doongalla building would have been located near the George Bruce "e" beside the creek.

fencing for Rosney's section of the road was 24 pounds 8 shillings. Rosney stated "*he will take £35 and nothing less*" (which he got).

Sections of land were excised, and compensation provided, but the road never eventuated, and the excised portions were later consolidated back into titles.

Hodgson sold Crown allotment 83 to Salisbury Anne Rocke of Rockbeare Ivanhoe, Widow, on 15th January 1890. Instrument number 270960 shows James John Miller of 72 Collins Street Melbourne, paid Hodgson 3,595 pounds 5 shillings and Salisbury Anne Rocke paid James John Miller 2,000 pounds. James John Miller agreed to the transfer of title to Rocke.

Miller never owned title to the property but had a financial interest in it.

Strangely, newspaper advertisements show Crown allotment 83 was offered for auction on 10th April 1890 "*as instructed by J. J. Miller*".

Hodgson married Ellen Morris in 1892. She had 6 children from a previous marriage.

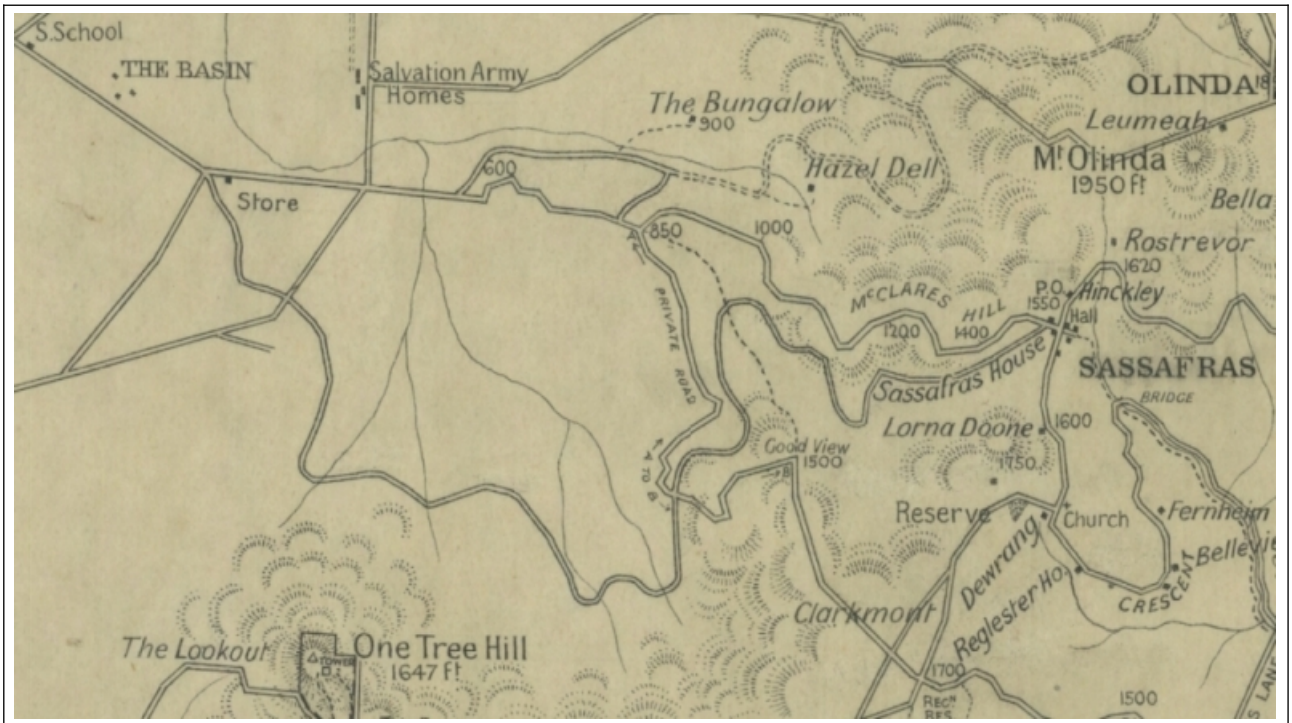
Salisbury Anne Rocke died in 1894 with probate granted to her executors George William Rocke and William Purcell Buchanan. Her probate application lists 2 instances of bad debt:

1. "*J. J. Miller of Scoresby Printer. This person is indebted to the estate of the deceased in a sum of £1300. Deficiency on a mortgage debt which was taken over by the deceased. We have been trying to obtain a sum of £100 for this debt but have failed as the Debtor declares that he is in insolvent circumstances and that the costs of any legal proceedings for recovery therefore would have to be born by the estate.*"
2. "*J. J. Miller of Post Office Place Melbourne Printer. This person is indebted to the estate of the deceased in the sum £300. Balance of joint and several Promissory notes for £618 of himself and Messrs Barnett Clauscen Foley and McKenzie in favour of the deceased and overdue some 2 years. The deceased some months ago offered to take £50 as full settlement from Mr Miller but failed to obtain same and it is well known that the debtor is in insolvent circumstances and it is not considered worth while to spend money in legal proceedings for recovery thereof".*

As shown in instrument number 389660, the first subdivision of Crown allotment 83 was in 1897 when the Shire of Fern Tree Gully paid 30 pounds to Rockes' executors for a portion of Crown allotment 83 to construct a new road, later named Old Coach Road, through the property. Hazel Dell finally had good access via this new road. The land previously allocated for a road through the properties of Rosney, Hodgson and McClare mentioned earlier, was later transferred back to become part of Crown allotment 83.

Thomas Walsh Hodgson died of cancer of the rectum on 28th November 1901 and is buried in Ferntree Gully cemetery C of E Section A.

On 13th July 1905, Salisbury Anne Rockes' executor, George William Rocke, sold all of Crown allotment 83



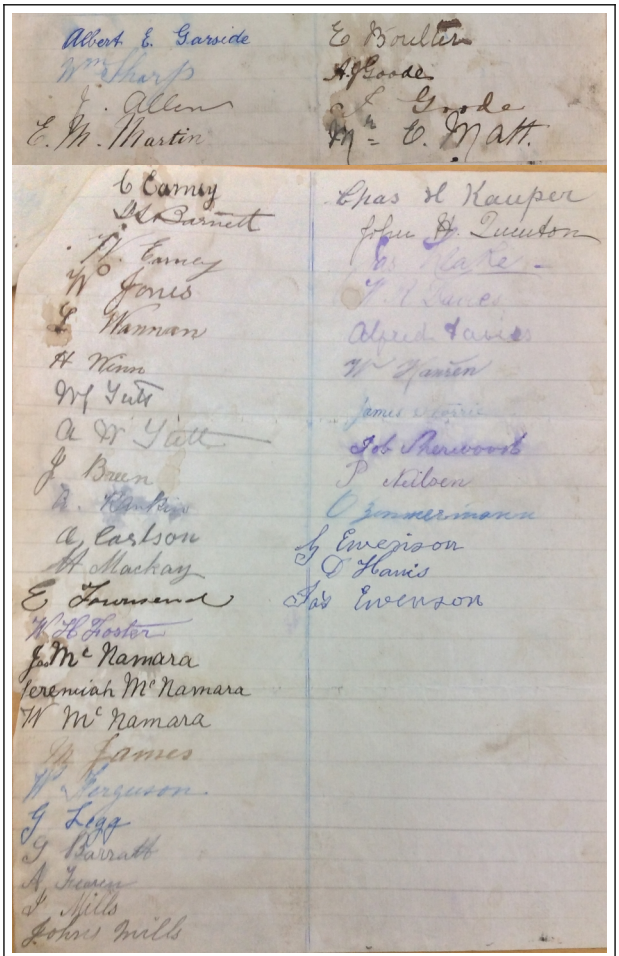
1934 Map of The Basin and Sassafras areas showing The Bungalow, Hazel Dell, McClares Hill and Private Road

to John Cuthbert Traill of No 34 Mercer Road Malvern, Gentlemen. Instrument number 508790 shows George Whelpton of Glenferrie, Lithographer, paid Rocke 975 pounds, Dudley Mitchell Hayes of Sassafras, Farmer, paid Whelpton 975 pounds, and Traill paid Hayes 1,650 pounds. Traill also purchased part of Crown allotment 82 at the same time.

Traill created "*Traills Estate*" in 1916, and sold parcels of land as shown in the following instrument numbers:

- **0805500** Part of Crown allotment 83 of 19 acres containing the house "*Hazel Dell*" on 7th July 1916 to William Tait Newton. See page 93.
- **1058101** Part of Crown allotment 82 mentioned above, and part of Crown allotment 83, to Thomas Elborn Simpson on 24th April 1922. See page 90.
- **1042031** Part of Crown allotment 82 of 4 acres to John Harrison of 'Esila' Bambra Road Caulfield, Accountant, on 24th April 1922.
- **1006341** Part of Crown allotment 82 of 6 acres to Edward John Bernard White of Wattletree Road Malvern, Minister of Religion, on 28th July 1922.

The balance was retained by Traill and subdivided in 1936. In the 1960s, most of the northern section of Crown allotment 82 was acquired by the government and incorporated into the Doongalla Forest Reserve. The new Basin-Olinda Road was constructed through this land.



Village selector signatures requesting extension of Bayswater Road.

John McClare

On 24th March 1878, McClare registered as an applicant to the District Surveyor for a license of 200 acres. After surveying, the area was reduced to 137 acres and allocated Crown allotment 84. He was granted a license on 1st October 1878.

The land was bounded on the north by Range Road and on the south past Mountain Highway (surveyed later). He stated in his license application he already owned 50 acres in Nunawading.

John McClare was born in Galway Ireland in 1832. In 1854, he married Mary Madden (b 1835), and they emigrated to Australia arriving in 1859. They had 8 children. Agnes (1860-1922), James (1862-1952), William (1863-1927), Mary (1867-1953), Catherine (1867-1954), John Thomas (1870-1956), Rose (1871-1871) and Elizabeth (1874-?).

He is shown on the petition requesting provision of a State School for The Basin district in 1879 as having four school age children residing on the land shortly.

On 25th March 1879, he applied to change his license to "*Section 8, Land Act 1878*". In his application, he stated improvements including a 12 feet by 8 feet slab and paling hut, one well, 112 posts split ready for fencing and 1 acre timber felled. His family resided on his selection at Nunawading. He was a "*Tanner and Currier*" (specialist in leather processing).

A bush fire destroyed his first residence around 1883, and for a while his family lived in a lean-to.

In 1885, he applied for a lease. On 20th January 1885, a mounted constable visited his selection and reported he had built a 4 roomed 17 foot by 17 foot slab paling shingle roof house. He had cultivated 5 acres and grown oats, potatoes, and hay. Built a hay shed. Five acres partly cleared, trees cut down and scrub cut in places. Fully fenced the land. His family all resided on the selection. He was granted a lease on 9th July 1885.

During the economic depression of the 1890s in Victoria, the President of the Board of Land and Works and Commissioner Crown Lands and Survey, John McIntyre, decided to open areas of the State Forest for selection. Although there were protests from various groups, another 10,000 acres (4,000 ha) was opened in 1893, including an area above McClares land, below Sassafras, for village selectors. Village selectors were expected to live on their selections for at least 8 months of the year and could work on the roads.

Selectors soon realised they had no practical road to and from their selections. In 1895, 45 selectors signed a petition to the Minister of Lands requesting an extension of the Bayswater road through McClares land:

"*To the Hon The Minister of Lands.*

Sir:- We the undersigned selectors and residents of the Sassafras district in the Dandenong State Forest beg leave to most respectfully bring before your notice the fact that at the present time we have no practical road to or from our selections.

We therefore would respectfully suggest that you kindly and favourably consider our application for the extension of the Bayswater road through McClare's land into the settlement.

Hoping that our request may be granted.

We, Hon sir, beg most respectfully to remain your obedient servant."

Forty-five selectors signed the letter. Most signatures are legible. See inset on page 41.

The request was granted by the Fern Tree Gully Shire. McClare agreed, was compensated, and in 1897 a road was excised and cut through his land. The road became known as Old Coach Road. The Shire of Fern Tree Gully had earlier planned such a road through lower properties. The road became a regular route for coaches between Bayswater and Olinda.

In 1900, McClare had trouble meeting his rent payments due to *"severe losses by bushfires"* but was granted title 15th June that year.

The thick bushland provided excellent cover for illicit stills, one situated near McClare's property. So potent was the whisky, one settler apparently carried a coffin to a funeral on his wagon and brought it back again!

A section of Old Coach Road passing through his land became known as "*McClare's Hill*" and is marked on early maps (see page 40). The hill was so steep some lower class coach passengers helped push the coach up this hill.

In 1902, McClare leased an unknown portion of his land to Philip Henry Cadby for an unknown reason. The lease expired on January 1919.

The Old Coach Road through his property split the land and in 1913 he subdivided the southern section creating the Front Door Estate. See page 60 for more information on the estate.

After the earlier mentioned lease expired, McClare subdivided the northern section of his land in February 1919 into 5 equal parcels. He transferred the parcels to his children Agnes Bowen, Catherine, James, John, and Mary Clare at no cost. The transfer instruments stated in part "*...in consideration of the natural love and affection which I have for my [daughter/son]...*".

All the land was later acquired by the Government and incorporated into the National Park.

Mary Madden died in October 1877 aged 42. John McClare died on June 18th 1926, aged 94, and is buried in Box Hill Cemetery site RC 0192. His death certificate reported he died from senility.

Their son William, moved to Western Australia and married Annie. He worked in lime kilns. The Australasian Newspaper dated 14th May 1927, reported an explosion in a house near Fremantle where the body of William McClare was found. The explosion was assumed to suicide.

Robert Hughes

On 26th March 1878, Hughes registered as an applicant to the District Surveyor for a license to occupy 320 acres, later surveyed as Crown allotment 85 and 106 acres. In his licence application he stated he was a "*Dray Man*" living in Varian Street East Collingwood. A license was approved in October 1878. The land had an eastern frontage along Mount Dandenong Tourist Road. Hilton Road was the western border. The north abutted with John McClares land.

On September 29th, he applied for a lease stating he had partly fenced his Crown allotment and cultivated oats, peas and potatoes. He had built a 40 feet x 14 feet 2 roomed slab and shingle house and outhouses. He did have a 4 roomed house, but it was destroyed by fire. He had cleared 20 acres and planted fruit trees. His family resided with him on the Crown allotment. He stated his occupation as a Park Ranger. A lease was granted on 2nd April 1883.

Hughes was later appointed a Crown Lands Bailiff. He was granted freehold title on 4th October 1895. He is extensively mentioned in "*Story of the Dandenongs*" by Helen Coulson. In particular, his assistance to the village settlers in the 1890s.

George Leach

George William Leach was born in 1831 in Surrey England. He married Selina Lewis in 1852. They had 9 children. George Charles (1856-1947), Selina Mary Ann (1858-1931), Ellen (1859-1952), Thomas William (1861-1940), Charlotte Eliza (1863-1864), Frederick Henry (1865-1939), Clarissa Catherine (1870-1952), Florence Charlotte (1872-1963) and Percy Arthur (1878-1950). They arrived in Victoria on 21st December 1861.

Leach established the first store and post office in Bayswater in 1869 with his wife Selina as the postmistress. Both were active in local affairs.

On 25th March 1878, Leach registered as an applicant to the District Surveyor for a license to occupy 247 acres. The area he applied for had originally been reserved for the Dandenong State Forest.

In his license application, he stated he had 74 acres of land in Scoresby used for farming which he obtained in 1865, and subsequently purchased. His application was granted on 1st October 1878, surveyed as 142 acres, and split into 2 Crown allotments, 80 and 81.

Allotment 80 was bounded on the west by Sheffield Road and bounded on the south by Doongalla Road. Crown allotment 81 was bounded on the north by Doongalla Road and on the south by what in 2025 is the

Basin-Olinda Road. Doongalla Road ran between the 2 Crown allotments.

In 1881, he agreed to excise a small section of Crown allotment 81 to his neighbour, John Rosney, to enable him better access to his land.

In 1883, he applied for a lease. A report from the crown bailiff on 21st September stated Leach had built a 2 roomed 20 foot x 10 foot weatherboard and corrugated iron house on the corner of Sheffield and Doongalla Roads, completely fenced Crown allotment 81 and partly fenced Crown allotment 80. There was a waterhole, and he had cleared about 2½ acres, partially cleared about 10 acres, and grubbed about 1½ acres. He was granted a lease on 5th November 1883.

His land selection file has many letters from Government officials and his neighbour, John Rosney (who wrote many letters), indicating Leach had trouble meeting the conditions of his license and lease. Nevertheless, he was granted title to both Crown allotments on 21st February 1887.

Leach sold Crown allotment 81 to John Joseph Rosney of Burwood Road Hawthorn, Gentleman, on 6th May 1889 for 2,000 pounds. Instrument number 250718 shows that Thomas Samuel Grimwood purchased the land with Rosney but did not pay any portion of the purchase money. An earlier Supreme Court order forced Grimwood to forego any claim to ownership of the property and record this in the instrument.

Grimwood was best known as the licensee of the Fern Tree Gully Hotel, which he occupied as early as 1875. He was an active member of the "*Scoresby Riding Severance League*" and was well known in the field of catering.

George Leach was elected a councillor for the Ferntree Gully Shire for 1899 (one year only). He was the Register of Births, Deaths, and Marriages at Scoresby north from 1882 until 1902.

George William Leach died on 19th October 1902. He went missing, and was found dead in Koonung Creek at Box Hill. His death was registered by his daughter Florence Charlotte Leach at Scoresby north. His death certificate states the cause of death as cerebral haemorrhage. No inquest was requested, as he had seen his medical doctor the previous day. He is buried in Kew Cemetery site BAPT A 0223

Probate was granted to his son, George Charles Leach. He sold Crown allotment 80 to William Chandler on 20th May 1904 for 150 pounds 18 shillings 5 pence as shown in instrument number 488863.

On 26th May 1909, William Chandler consolidated Crown allotments 80 and 72B land titles (they were adjacent) and transferred ownership to William Chandler Nurseryman, Kate Chandler his wife, Lawrence Wreford, and Herbert Theodore Septimus, Nurseryman, all of Bayswater as shown in instrument number 595773.

Selina Leach died at Hawthorn on 21st December 1919, aged 86.

John Rosney

John Rosney was born in Ireland in 1838. He married Alice Broughham (born 1827) who died in 1887 and is buried in Kew Cemetery site R/C A 0275. He then married Annie Hoare (1843-1930) (née Fogarty) in 1888. Annie is buried in Melbourne Cemetery site AC Comp.F No-417. Annie had 3 children from her previous marriage. Ellen Mary (1868-1941), William Michael (1872-1943) and Margaret (1873-1882).

Rosney was granted a license to occupy Crown allotment 82, an area of 106 acres, on 1st October 1878, and granted title on 1st October 1881. He also purchased Crown allotment 81 from George Leach for 2,000 pounds in 1889.

He died on 9th October 1897 and is buried in Kew Cemetery site R/C A 0275. Probate was granted to the National Trustees Executors and Agency Company of Australasia Limited.

Allotment 82

His neighbour's land selection files refer to him in many letters, primarily regarding road access through their properties. The Berwick Shire Council became involved. A letter from the Berwick Shire Secretary (Mr Robinson) to the Secretary of Lands dated 17th June 1881 stated:

"I have the honour by direction of the Council to request that the issue of the leases under the 19th Section of Land Act to G W Leach, J Rosney, T W Hodgson and J McClare be withheld until the Council complete the opening of the new road through these blocks".

It is unknown if the issue of leases was withheld, but a map in Rosney's land selection file shows a proposed road through the Crown allotments. This road never eventuated, and the land allocated later returned to the landholders. Later, land was obtained to create the Old Coach Road.

Rosney complained in many letters about his neighbour, George Leach, and how he was not complying with his license conditions. In 1882, he proposed to the Minister of Lands Leach's license on Crown allotment 81 be forfeited, and he take it over. In one letter he stated:

"Referring to Mr G. W. Leachs selection at Scoresby I have again the honour to make application for it he has not cultivated One Acre on the whole selection and why he should be allowed 4 years and 8 months to comply whilst other selectors are compelled to within the conditions of the act".

He also complained in another letter:

"... and has not complied with the act with regard to improvements in its present state it is most injurious to me it is a cause for vermin to come and destroy my crops".

Rosney sold Crown allotment 82 to Joseph William Dixon of 115 Collins Street West Melbourne, Barrister at Law, on 22nd May 1888 for 5,557 pounds seven shillings and ten pence as shown in instrument number 217161.

He then purchased the "*Riverside Hotel*" in Auburn, which he ran with his wife and her son. According to Rate notices, he had an interest in the hotel as early as 1881.

Dixon sold Crown allotment 82 (and Crown allotment 90, in Ferny Creek) to William Buist Fyfe of Anderson Street Albert Park, Gentlemen, James Lambie of Collins Street Melbourne, Journalist, James Grig, and Harold Sparks of Collins Street Melbourne, Accountant, on 13th June 1889 for 8,230 pounds nine shillings and three pence as shown in instrument number 253885.

Fyfe, Lambie and Grigg were members of the "*Fern Tree Gully Heights Syndicate*", a group involved in land speculation. In the 1880s, the Victorian land boom was in full swing, and many people lost money through dodgy speculators. Many caveats appeared on land titles to protect purchasers.

On 26th July 1889, the Supreme Court issued Harold Sparks with a "*Fieri Facias*" (a court document instructing a sheriff to seize and sell a defendant's property to satisfy a monetary judgement against the defendant).

On 20th September 1889, Harold Sparks sold his interest in Crown allotments 82 and 90 to William Buist Fyfe, James Lambie and James Grigg for 1 shilling each as shown in instrument number 262375.

The bank foreclosed on the remaining 3 owners of Crown allotments 90 and 82 in 1893. They subdivided Crown allotment 82 according to the map on page 44 and sold parcels as shown in the following instrument numbers:

- **383331**. Purchased in 1897 by The Shire of Fern Tree Gully for 44 pounds four shillings and six pence for a new road.
- **404424**. Purchased in 1899 by William Leishman McFarlane of Chaucer Crescent Canterbury, Gentleman, for 209 pounds ten shillings.
- **405727**. Purchased in 1899 by William Leishman McFarlane for 188 pounds ten shillings.
- **509318**. Purchased in 1905 by John Cuthbert Traill. The sale involved Marion Elizabeth Hayes of Bayswater, Married Woman, paying the bank 281 pounds seven shillings and sixpence and Traill paying Hayes 300 pounds.
- **876562**. Purchased in 1918 by Isabella McFarlane of Adeney Avenue Kew Married Woman for 52 pounds two shillings and six pence.
- **1920319**. Subdivided in 1918 into 12 blocks. Most were later acquired by the government.

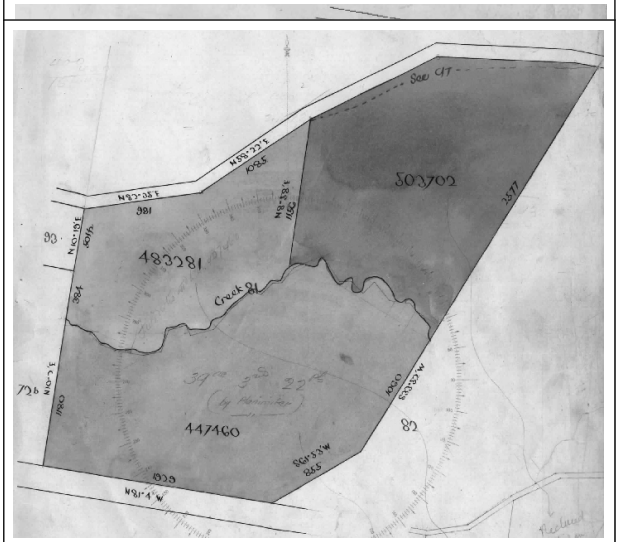
Allotment 81

In 1889, Rosney purchased Crown allotment 81 from George Leach for 2,000 pounds.

John Joseph Rosney died on 9th October 1897 age 59.

Probate was granted to his executors, and they subdivided Crown allotment 81 into 3 parcels as shown on the map on page 44. The lots were auctioned in December 1899 and publicised in newspaper advertisements as near "*Hazel Dell*" in the estate of the late J. J. Rosney. No record could be found of purchases resulting from the auction. The lots were later sold as shown in the following instrument numbers:

- **447460**. Purchased on 5th December 1901 by William Leishman McFarlane of Bayswater in Victoria, Gentleman, for 220 pounds.
- **483281**. Purchased on 22nd January 1904 by Lawrence Wreford Chandler of Bayswater, Farmer, for 70 pounds.
- **503702**. Purchased on 5th April 1905 by Frederick Smale of Upper Fern Tree Gully in the State of Victoria Farm Laborer for 220 pounds.



First subdivision of Crown allotment 81 c1899 by executors of John Rosney.
Doongalla Road along top. Dobsons creek (then known as Blind Creek) through middle. Old Coach Road along bottom.

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William Tyner

William Tyner was born in 1840. He married Letitia Anderson in 1871. She was born in 1843 in Lellerbrett, County Tyrone, Ireland. They had 5 children. William (1872-1954), James (1874-1970), Letitia (1875-1972), George (1878-1968) and Ralph (1883-1962).

Their son William was a Ferntree Gully Shire Councillor from 1900 to 1903. He was elected to the Victorian Legislative Council from 1922 to 1940.

In March 1878, William Tyner applied for a license to occupy 320 acres of land within the Dandenong State Forest. The land extended from what later became the Old Coach Road to near One Tree Hill. He stated his occupation as a "*proprietor*" residing at 11 Essex St Prahran. He was given a Certificate of Registration for which he paid 1 pound. The area he applied for was roughly shown on the Dandenong State Forest map drawn by John Hardy.

In the same month, the District Surveyors report for the land revised the area to 194 acres, and it was allocated Crown allotment 87. Later maps show his land reduced to 184 acres because a small section near a road was removed from Tyner's land and added to Reverend Rivers Beachcroft Dickinson's land for reasons unknown.

Tyner is shown on the 1879 Petition requesting a school in The Basin as having 3 potential children attending.

In 1881, Tyner requested an outlet (road) be made available through Murphy's land near One Tree Hill. However, Tyner and Murphy could not agree on the matter, and the request was refused.

In 1881, Tyner applied for a lease on the land. He had fenced the land, built a three-room 14 foot by 14 foot house in which his family resided, a stockyard and grew various vegetables. The lease was granted on 1st October 1881.

In 1884, an outlet onto One Tree Hill was excised and Tyner requested permission to use it, but a response was not forthcoming.

In 1888, Tyner's lease was transferred to James and John Moore Griffiths. See page 28 for more information.

Letitia died on 27th July 1920, and William died on 8th May 1923. Both are buried in Burwood Cemetery site CE 3D 307.

George Dodd

George Dodd was born in England in 1829. He married Margaret Strachan in 1857, and they had eight children. George Strachan (1859-1911), Henry Edward (1861-1921), James (1864-1911), Thomas Alexander (1867-1940), Jessie Mary (1868-1948), John William (1870-1953), Allan Percy (1874-1950) and Frederick Charles (1876-1958).

On 26th March 1878, Dodd registered as an applicant to the District Surveyor for a license to occupy 240 acres below Olinda. The area he applied for had originally been reserved for the Dandenong State Forest.

He is shown on the 1879 Petition requesting a school in The Basin as having 4 potential students.

In his license application, he stated he had 59 acres of land in Mulgrave used for farming. His application was granted on 1st November 1878, surveyed as 111 acres, and allocated Crown allotment 59.

Located between The Basin-Olinda and Ridge roads, the land was about 1 km below the Olinda township. The Dandenong Creek ran through the centre of the land, which became known as "*Dodd's Gully*" and later "*Rainbow Gully*". The extensive fern gullies are features on the property, along with its unique setting within the mountain ash forest and the views to Melbourne. The land has not been subjected to bushfire in modern times.

To gain access to his land, Dodd made a track from Pavitt Lane to The Mount Dandenong Tourist Road near the junction of The Basin-Olinda Road. The track followed close to the Dandenong Creek and ran through properties later owned by the Bruce brothers. He may have followed the same track used by Daniel Bunce in 1840. It was never gazetted as a road because the Bruce Brothers objected to it (it passed through their later purchased land) and landslides in 1891 closed it temporarily. Other later landslides closed it permanently. Remnants of the track still exist as walking tracks including Golf Course and Dodds Track.

In February 1885, Dodd applied for a lease on the land. He stated his improvements included fencing, 20 acres cleared & grassed, a 5 roomed dwelling 30 feet by 15 feet (2 rooms slab with shingle roof & 3 rooms weatherboard with shingle roof), 6 acres of fruit trees, sheds, fowl-house, and a pig sty. A lease for 14 years was granted on 30th March 1885.

Dodd had problems meeting his lease payments throughout his tenure. A report for the crown lands bailiff in 1881 showed he was short of money because 2 horses had died. In early 1892, The Secretary for Lands wrote to Dodd stating that unless he paid the outstanding lease rent payments his holding may be forfeited.

George Dodd and his sons were involved in the affairs of The Basin and surrounding districts for many years. John Dodd ran the first store in Olinda, and employed his brothers to deliver supplies. A pack horse known as "*Darkie*", owned by John's brother-in-law John Ebbels, was used for deliveries. Harry Dodd operated the coach service between Olinda and Bayswater via The Basin for 20 years.

George Dodd died on 19th October 1892. He left a will leaving his estate to his wife Margaret and if his wife "*passed*" to leave the estate to his 8 children.

On the 22nd April 1893, Dodd's leasehold was transferred to his executor, Frederick Weber. A crown grant was issued to Weber on 12th April 1893 "*as executor under the will of George Dodd.*"

After Dodd's death, and from a request by his widow, the Australian Widows Fund wrote to the Secretary of Lands asking for details of the amounts owing in license arrears, which they paid.

Frederick Weber died on 17th September 1911 and probate was recorded by the Titles Office as granted to his executors on 26th May 1923.

Margaret Dodd died in 1923, at the age of 91. George and Margaret are both buried in Melbourne

Cemetery MGC-PRE-Comp-P-No-328

On the 17th January 1924, Fredrick Weber's executors transferred the land (at no cost) to Thomas Alexander Dodd, John William Dodd, Allan Percy Dodd, Jessie Mary Ebbels and Frederick Charles Dodd as tenants in common in equal shares of the land as shown in instrument number 1147060.

On 15th July 1925, a section of the property was transferred to the Shire of Lillydale to enable the construction of The Basin-Olinda road to Olinda as shown in instrument number 1224374. Previously, the route passing the property to Olinda was via Range Road (closed).

In the late 1920s, John Dodd constructed a unique log cabin, which survived into the 2010s.

On 23rd September 1930, approximately half of the land was sold to Allan Percy Dodd and Harry Dodd, both of 'Coonara Springs' Olinda, Florists, for 1,350 pounds as shown in instrument number 1466276. This portion of land had a frontage to The Basin-Olinda road, and the Dandenong Creek ran through the land. The remaining portion of the land with a frontage to Ridge Road was sold on the 3rd March 1931 to Joseph Edwin Chater for 2,150 pounds as shown in instrument number 1476684. Most of this land was later reclaimed by the Government.

On the 4th November 1932, Allan Percy Dodd and Harry Dodd sold and transferred their joint interest in the land to Allan Percy Dodd for 705 pounds as shown in instrument number 1512162. Allan Dodd commenced a flower farm known as "*Rainbow Gully Farm*".

Allan Dodd and his wife Vera commenced construction of another dwelling in the 1930s, but it was decades before it was finished.

In 1943, Allan Dodd and his wife Vera became joint proprietors of the land.

In the 1950s, a portion of the land fronting The Basin-Olinda road was subdivided into three small parcels of land. Two of the land parcels were gifted to the Dodd's daughters, and the other sold.

Allan Dodd passed away on 13th July 1983.

The remaining 20 hectares of land stayed in the Dodd name until 1991 when Vera Stewart Dodd passed away on 13th July. It was then transferred to Lawrence Swanson, the Dodd's daughter's husband, as Vera's legal representative.

In 2014, it was purchased by the Government, transferred to the Crown, and formally named the *"Rainbow Gully Reserve*". Extensive ecological surveys of the area were undertaken, and it was described as "*Preservation of an area of ecological significance.*"

In 2014, a Crown lease on the property was taken out by Santa Nominees Pty Ltd for 21 years for: "*Operation of a plant nursery and flower and foliage farm and related operations, and use as a residence*". Lawrence Swanson was the Director of Santa Nominees Pty Ltd. The company was deregistered in 2019.

After 120 years ownership by the Dodd family, this unique property reverted to the Crown.

Access to the reserve is via the original track into the property and walking tracks.

In 2025, the original sign for "*Allan P Dodd & Co*" was still visible at the entrance to the property, and the house built by Allan and his wife in the 1930s was unused, dilapidated, and the garden was overgrown.

The Murphy Brothers

Two brothers named William and Richard Murphy arrived in Australia in the 1850s. They selected adjacent Crown allotments in the One Tree Hill area. Both were granted land in 1888 of 150 acres and 138 acres respectively on the steep, heavily timbered northern slopes of One Tree Hill.

William Murphy

William was born in Tipperary, Ireland in 1829. He left for Australia in 1856, and spent some time in New Zealand.

On 17th November 1873, William Murphy married Jane McCaughan (born 1857 in Ireland) at St Kilda. The couple had 11 children. Mary Catherine (1874-1953), Winifred Amelda (1876-1937), Richard Michel (1878-1881), John Laurence (1880-1942), William Robert (1883-1951), Edward Joseph (1884-1923), Theresa Jane (1887-1963), Josephine Anastasia (1888-1973), Evelyn Anne (1890-1953), Aileen Margaret (1892-1941) and Francis Cornelius (1895-1941).

On 23rd March 1878, William Murphy, accompanied by his brother Richard, registered as an applicant to the District Surveyor for a license to occupy 320 acres near One Tree Hill. Later surveyed as Crown allotment 88 and 150 acres. No information is available about his licence or lease.

William was employed as a Crown Lands Bailiff and received the sum of 1 pound for patrolling an area as far as Kalorama and Wandin. His main task was to protect the Forest reserve from illegal use including cutting timber without a license.

Jane was a strong woman. It is claimed she roped a 200 pound sack of flour to two sticks and with the aid of another person carried it up the hill from Fern Tree Gully. She was influential in local affairs and is credited with the establishment of the Ferny Creek Primary School.

On 6th April 1888, William paid 151 pounds for his crown grant. On 20th June 1888, he sold 75 acres of his land to John Martin of Collins Street West Melbourne, Manager of the North British and Marine Insurance Company, for 3,750 pounds as shown in instrument number 220545. His brother Richard also sold a portion of his land to the same person around the same time.

The South Bourke and Mornington Journal reported on the 23rd May 1888:

"*The new road which has been cut by the Council to One Tree Hill is now completed, and will prove not only a convenience to the district but as an ornament to the place. The road is entered upon from the Gully by crossing a very substantial wooden bridge over the creek, and from thence there is a gentle gradient all the way to Mr Murphy's homestead is reached on the summit of the hill*".

This road became known as "*Murphy's Road*". For many years, it was the only means of reaching the spot for visitors.

In October 1908, William and Jane had an accident driving home on the Ferny Creek road from Fern Tree Gully in the locality known as the horseshoe bend. They met a horse and cart and for some unaccountable reason, their horse and buggy fell down the embankment. Both were badly bruised and shaken, but fortunately, no bones were broken.

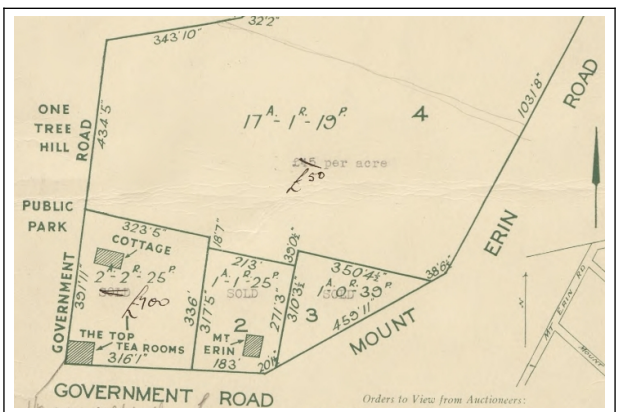
William and Jane built the "*Mt Erin Tea gardens*", and a Refreshment Chalet near the summit of One Tree Hill. The Tea-Gardens and the Refreshment Chalet were close together, with the Chalet on the corner of Hill St and One Tree Hill Rd.

William also constructed a house located near the corner of One Tree Hill Road and Mt Erin Rd, later known as "*Mt Erin*". It was destroyed by fire in the late 1970s caused by an electrical fault. The house had been used as a guest house.

William and Jane were active in local matters lobbying for road and school improvements.

William died on 15th September 1917, aged 88.

In 1920, a section of the 75 acres remaining of Murphy's land was subdivided, and auctioned (by Order of Mrs. J. Murphy) as "*Murphy's Look-Out Estate*" with 73 mountain home sites on offer. Roads included Seabreeze Avenue, Mount View Road and Janesdell Avenue. The sale was conducted at Mt Erin Tearooms, One Tree Hill, with free motor from Fern Tree Gully on the day of sale.



Part of a 1941 brochure promoting the remaining land in the estate of the late Wm Murphy.
Brochure courtesy University of Melbourne.

Jane McCaughan Murphy died in May 1938, aged 81. William and Jane are both buried in St Kilda RC Compartment B Grave 556

In 1941, the remaining land in the estate of the late Wm Murphy was subdivided and offered for sale (see map on page 47). The sale consisted of:

- *12 ACRES. (12 Acres 3 Roods 6 Perches)*
  North-East corner of Crown Allot. 88 Parish of Scoresby, close to the One-in-Twenty Road and abutting Alpine Road in Mystic Lake Estate, also convenient to Switzerland and Ferndale Estates.
  A beautifully timbered block, suitable for a Gentleman's Home or re-subdivision into allotments for Mountain Cottages.
- *"THE TOP" TEA KIOSK*
  Allotment 1 – 2 Acres 2 Roods 25 Perches.
  At the Top of the National Park Fern Gully, in a splendid corner position on Government Road, close to the look-out tower.
  TEAHOUSE — DWELLING and PICNIC GROUND
  The house comprises Timber Shop and Tea-room, Kitchen, with Lux Stove; Bedroom, lined with timber and fibro cement. Opening off main room is a small lattice tea-room. Red corrugated iron roof. Detached boy's room, shed, and W.C. Electric light and telephone connected.
  Situated a few yards north of the Tea-house, and fronting a Government Road, is a
  "THE COTTAGE" SIX-ROOMED W.B. COTTAGE
  With iron roof, lined with three-ply and Beaver-board. Small back verandah. A Garage is built underneath the house.
  Detached small W.B. shed. Water is supplied from tanks. Electric light connected.
  The 2 acres of land comprise rich chocolate soil. Portion is fenced in as a vegetable garden, and the remainder is a pasture paddock. Solid post, rail and wire fences. Boundaries are wire-netted. N.B.—Electricity is under a guarantee to be taken over by the purchaser.
- *MAGNIFICENT BUILDING SITE.*
  Allotment 3 – 1 Acre 0 Roods 39 Perches.
  This block, with a long frontage to Mount Erin Road, is right at the top of the pass and commands wonderful views.
- *SUBDIVISIONAL or FARM BLOCK.*
  Allotment No. 4 on Plan—17 Acres 1 Rood 19 Perches.
  With long frontages to roads on both East and West boundaries. Government Read on west boundary abuts, but does not show in title. About 10 acres has been cleared and cultivated, and comprises rich, deep chocolate soil, capable of producing very heavy crops of many kinds. Balance is timbered. Perhaps the greatest value in this block is its subdivisional poten-

tial. It is right on the top of the mountain, commanding a marvellous outlook, can be easily subdivided, and building sites in such a position should become very valuable. Close to look-out tower.

- *"MOUNT ERIN" GUEST HOUSE or HOME.*
  Set in Garden of Ornamental Trees. Allotment 2 – 1 Acre 1 Rood 25 Perches.
  The original W.B. House, comprising nine rooms. Lined with pine and three-ply. Large Dining Room with open fireplace, also small Sitting Room with open fireplace. Lux one-fire stove in large Kitchen. Verandah on three sides of the house. Corrugated iron roof.
  OUTBUILDINGS comprise large Shed, with iron roof, and tank, Stables, Cow Bails, Feed House, Fowl Pen and Wood Shed
  N.B. Electricity is under guarantee to be taken over by the purchaser.

Richard Murphy

Richard Murphy was born in Tipperary, Ireland in 1835 and moved to Australia, arriving in 1854.

He married Bridget Ellen McNamara (born 1846 in Ireland) in Sydney in 1865, and the couple had 12 children. John Richard (1866-1868), William (1867-?), Richard Henry (1869-1909), Anastasia (1870-1946), Francis Michael Patrick (1872-1888), Edward (1874-1876), James Patrick (1876-1877), Catherine Ellen (1877-1907), Daniel Joseph (1878-1889), Thomas Charles (1880-1933), Mary (1882-?) and Bridget Eileen (1885-1938).

On 23rd March 1878, Richard Murphy, accompanied by his brother William, registered as an applicant to the District Surveyor for a license to occupy 320 acres near One Tree Hill. Later surveyed as Crown allotment 89 and 138 acres.

He was granted a license to occupy his selection on 1st October 1878. In his application, he stated his occupation as a "*Cabman*" and his address as 4 Vine Street, Windsor.

He had trouble meeting the conditions to convert the license to a lease. Correspondence between Murphy and the Lands Department shows he was forced to seek employment as a cab driver in Melbourne to meet his license payments and school his children. Therefore, he was not a full time resident on the land, one of the requirements of his license.

A report by a mounted constable in 1884 stated his improvements consisted of 57 chains of fencing, a 3 roomed dressed slab shingle roof cottage with verandah and chimney lined, a small well near a spring, fowl house, shed, stables, cleared land and a fruit orchard. Fencing not completed, 5 acres ploughed, 5 acres cleared, and 40 acres ring-barked.

The constable also wrote the following letter to the Land Department:

"*I beg most respectfully to report for your information that I have visited the selection of Mr R Murphey at One Tree Hill Scoresby and attach valuation the land is heavily timbered with heavy timber. Mr Murpheys family reside on the land and I believe have done so for many years Mr Murphey resides in Melbourne driving a cab the family I believe are doing all in their power to comply with the conditions of the act but the country is so rough that a great deal of work may be done with very little to show for it*"

Murphy responded to the report in a letter to the Lands Department:

"*I have the honor to lay before you a statement of my grievances in consequence of a report having been sent to the Lands Office by the local Constable who acted on that occasion as Crown Lands Bailiff, to the effect that I was not residing on my selection at the time he made his report, which resulted in my lease being withheld.*

I selected in Scoresby in the year 1878 (under the land act of 1869). I then got a transfer (under the land act of 1878) in 1879 under a six year lease and continued to reside personally with my wife and eight children for the term of four years up to the 1st of October last.

My wife and family have resided continually on the land for the past 6 years and are residing on it at the present time.

I was forced to come to Melbourne to earn a living to help to support my family and to enable me to hold on to my selection as all my means were spent through losses sustained in horses and cattle, and having no return from the land, no road but a bridle track, and having a large family to keep. I lost 7 horses and 8 cows, the former through bad and sour grass and falling into creeks. The latter I lost through having strayed and were sold in the Healesville pound, and by trees falling on them.

I can make affidavit that I have spent over £500 on the selection, one acre alone cost me £42 to clear and cultivate.

I had also to bring two of my children in turn to Melbourne, to send them to school, the nearest school in Scoresby being 4 miles distant over hilly country.

I have been very unfortunate though, through no fault of mine and I consider it a hardship to meet with this opposition after toiling for 33 years in the colony to make a home for my self and my family.

I am living in Melbourne in lodgings at the corner of Rae and York streets North Fitzroy renting two rooms, but have no home of my own, but my holding in Scoresby, the result of the labor of my life time…"

He wrote other letters with more information including one detailing the periods he resided on the land. Another letter explained his loss of land documents in a pocket of his jacket that caught fire while he was clearing and burning some bush. He was eventually

granted a lease.

Around 1886, Richard Murphy strained his heart rolling a large log and afterwards could not actively work his selection.

After many requests, and long delays, on 28th February 1888, Richard Murphy was granted title to Crown allotment 89 for which he paid 139 pounds. Three months later, on 5th June 1888, he sold the land to John Martin of Collins Street West Melbourne, Manager of the North British and Marine Insurance Company, for 4,141 pounds ten shillings as shown in instrument number 0218598. His brother William also sold a portion of land to the same person around the same time.

Richard Murphy died at Prahran on 1st February 1889 aged 54. Bridget died at South Melbourne on 18th June 1929 at the age of 83. Both are buried in St Kilda Cemetery site RC Compartment B Grave 554.

Horatio Saint John Clarke

Clarke was born in Tickhill, Yorkshire, England in 1819. He married Margaret McCallum (1852-1936) on 22 September 1873. They had five children. Katherine Muriel Irene (1874-1876), Cyril Wilberforce (1876-1965), May De La Pryme (1877-1955), Horatio (1878-1961) and Ethel Stowe (1880-1964).

On 28th March 1878, Clarke registered as an applicant to the District Surveyor for a license to occupy 320 acres, later surveyed as Crown allotment 126 and 280 acres. The land was above Crown allotment 91 (Schneider) and below One Tree Hill, centred around what in 2025 is known as Chandlers Hill.

Near the top of Chandlers Hill is a flat section of land which was the centre of Clarke's activities. Access to this land was via a steep dray track from the northwest (in 2025 View Track) or another steep track down from One Tree Hill. Chandlers Track exists in 2025, but was not created until the 1960s. Clarke complained to the Lands Department about access difficulties in this letter dated 18th November 1879:

"*…Sir, I have the honour to draw your attention to the inaccessible position of my 19th Section holding, Scoresby, County of Mornington. The surveyed road at the North West angle of the Section has a gradient of about 1 in 3 over large granite boulders rendering it utterly impassable for horses and vehicles. Where the Section abuts on the One Tree Hill reserve there is an unformed dray track with a gradient of about 800 feet in a mile and the section at this point has a similar gradient to the Northern boundary. I am of opinion that a practical road could be made through Mr Jacob Schneiders licensed holding which abuts on my holding on the North and I am prepared to bear the expense of fencing such road if laid out…*"

Clarke negotiated with Schneider, and they agreed a navigable road through Schneider's selection was desirable, and it was approved. Both selections were resurveyed with a road annexed through their properties up to One Tree Hill. In 2025, these roads are Government Road and Outlook Track.

On 31st May 1880, Clarke advised the Secretary of Lands his selection be put up for sale. He quoted improvements as 270 chains of fencing, 30 acres of cleared scrub sowed with English grasses, 280 acres of ring-barked trees, dam for water, and a survey fee.

Clarke purchased the property at auction for three hundred and four pounds seventeen shillings and four pence. Title was granted on 27th July 1880.

Clarke was a surgeon operating in Melbourne and also a Magistrate and JP. He had numerous interests in property held under the old "*General Law"* system. In 1880, he successfully applied to bring 9 properties under the "*Transfer of Land Statute*". The statute provided for the transfer of properties from the General Law system to the "*Torrens System of Land Registration"* He also applied for another property in 1890.

On the 20th January 1893, Clarke transferred Crown allotment 126 and 7 other properties to Tom Hills of Broken Hill Chambers, Queen Street, and John Cameron of St. James Buildings William Street, both of Melbourne, Accountants, as shown in instrument number 0330642. The transfer was subject to "*the covenants contained in a deed of assignment.*" A deed of assignment is used to assign the beneficial interest in land/property from one party to another. No money was paid and the content of the covenant is unknown. Crown allotment 126 was transferred to Tom Hills on 18th November 1894.

Horatio Saint John Clarke died on 29th June 1895 and is buried in Kew Cemetery site C/E C 1071. His wife, Margaret, is buried in the same site.

In the 1880s and 1890s, the Victorian land boom was in full swing, and there were many unusual land transactions.

Hills sold Crown allotment 126 to Isabella Bartholomew of Callamon Canterbury, Married Woman, and Edward Smith of Collins Street Melbourne, Banker, on 17th May 1895 for 279 pounds fourteen shillings as shown in instrument number 0358375.

Allotment 126 was onsold and subdivided, partly used for the Princes Alexandrina Estate promoted by Spencer Jackson. By 1970, most of the land had been reclaimed by the government and incorporated into the Ferntree Gully National Park.

William Fetherstonhaugh

William Fetherstonhaugh was born in Westmeath, Ireland in 1840. He married Mary Tone (1837-1870) in Ireland about 1858. They had five children. Katherine (1859-1860), Charlotte (1861-1862), John Robert (1863-1931), William Frank (1865-1905) and Mary Ann (1868-1881). Early children's birth and death certificates state their parents and their name as Fetherston, but later

certificates use Fetherstonhaugh.

In 1871, Fetherstonhaugh married Catherine (Kate) Tone (1839-1913). They had two children. Ellen Nellie (1873-1874) and Fanny (1874-1875). Catherine is buried in St Kilda Cemetery site RC B Grave 347.

On 23rd March 1878, Fetherstonhaugh registered as an applicant to the District Surveyor for a license to occupy 320 acres, later surveyed as Crown allotment 90 and 119 acres The license was approved on 27th September 1878. The land had a frontage of about 800 m along Mount Dandenong Tourist Road. Hilton Road the eastern border. The western border abutted Richard Murphy's land near One Tree Hill. The land extended down the hill towards The Basin for about 800 m, abutting Reverend Rivers Beachcroft Dickinson's land. The land also included a section bounded by Hilton and Clarkmont Roads.

On 19th September 1881, Fetherstonhaugh applied for a lease, stating his occupation as a farm labourer. He had built a wooden house with iron roof gable 27 feet x 12 feet x 8 feet high and wooden slab floor. He had 2 outhouses. Over 30 chains of fencing. Grown potatoes, oats and turnips. His family resided on the Crown allotment. His lease was approved on 1st October 1881. He was granted title on 27th March 1888.

Fetherstonhaugh was the first settler in Ferny Creek. His family had close ties with the Murphys and Hodgson's. The early life of these families is described in detail in the book "*Dear Fethers — An Historical Saga by Tess De Araugo*".

On the 8th June 1888, two and a half months after his title grant, Fetherstonhaugh sold Crown allotment 90 to Joseph William Dixon of 115 Collins Street West Melbourne, Barrister at Law, for 3,596 pounds thirteen shillings and nine pence as shown in instrument number 0219149. A few weeks earlier, Dixon had also purchased Crown allotment 82 in The Basin from John Rosney.

Fetherstonhaugh retired and moved to South Yarra. In 1914, Fetherstonhaugh married Matilda Blanche Willoughby. He died on 10th June 1919 and is buried at St Kilda Cemetery site Comp Compartment C Grave 213 with his first wife Margaret.

Dixon sold Crown allotments 90 and 82 to William Buist Fyfe of Anderson Street Albert Park, Gentlemen, James Lambie of Collins Street Melbourne, Journalist, James Grigg of Collins Street Melbourne, Estate Agent, and Harold Sparks of Collins Street Melbourne, Accountant, on 13th June 1889 for 8,230 pounds, nine shillings and three pence as shown in instrument number 0253885. The transaction was subject to a "*Fieri Facias*" and the Commercial bank foreclosed on the properties and took possession. See page 44 for more details.

William Henry Breen of One Tree Hill, Fern Tree Gully, Farmer, purchased Crown allotment 90 from The Commercial Bank of Australia on 23rd June 1896 for 900 pounds as shown in instrument number 0371761. With his brothers, he farmed the land and built a cottage surrounded by holly trees.

As shown in instrument number 0811660, on 27th September 1916, he sold 1 acre of land to the Country Roads Board for 208 pounds seven shillings and sixpence. The land was to realign the Mount Dandenong Tourist Road through part of his property. The road split off the section of land bounded by Hilton and Clarkmont Roads where his cottage was located.

In 1918, he subdivided most of the land creating the "*Holly Hill Estate*" consisting of 75 Mountain Blocks of ½ to 2 acres. It was auctioned on 30th March 1918. The estate brochure shows the "*Holly Hill Homestead*" on an unsubdivided section of land near the corner the Mount Dandenong Tourist Road, Sherbrooke Road and One Tree Hill Road. This junction was known as "*Breens Corner*". Sales were slow. The first lots were sold in 1920 and sales continued into the 1930s.

The Holly Hills store was established in 1920 close to Breens Corner, and was still active in the late 1970s.

William Henry Breen died on 1st July 1934. His brother, Richard Henry Breen was granted probate. On 19th June 1936, he sold 5 blocks of the Holly Hill Estate and land containing the Holly Hill Homestead (total about 49 acres) to Carnbrea Investments Proprietary Limited for 4,350 pounds as shown in instrument number 1616189.

Rivers Beachcroft Dickinson

Dickinson, the canon of St Lukes Vicarage, Emerald Hill (South Melbourne), purchased an area of 169 acres, known as Crown allotment 86, at a sale of Crown land on 13th May 1881. The land was in the middle of a forest area bounded by Hilton Road and Griffiths, Fetherstonhaugh's, and R. Murphy's selections.

The land was first selected by John Cape, who was granted a licence on 1st October 1878. He forfeited his licence and the land was offered for sale with improvements of 600 pounds.

Dickinson was born on Feb 3rd 1831 in Middlesex, England. He married Matilda Patterson (1826-1890) in 1855. They had 8 children. Charles Rivers (1855-1857), Mary (1856-1866), Laura (1859-1866), Alice (1861-1866), Rivers William (1863-1927), Isabel Matilda (1865-?), Richard Rivers (1867-1886), Herbert Rivers (1870-1945).

In 1891, he married Ada Marie Rous (1860-1924). They had 2 children. Selwyn Rivers (1892-1971) and Gladys Ada (1894-1980).

Dickinson named his property "*Hilton*". At the time of Dickinson's purchase, Hilton Road was only a dray track and in poor condition. The section up to Mountain Highway was earlier known as the Cobblestone Road. Dickinson lobbied the Berwick Council to provide better road access to his property. This was unsuccessful, and he constructed a road through his property, from near the

junction of Hilton and Old Coach Roads in The Basin, up the hill to his property. The road roughly followed Ferndale Road, Stewart and Clarke Tracks leading onto Hilton Road. The road was barred at Hilton Road with a gate and users were charged a toll of one shilling. Early maps of the Dandenongs in the 1920s and 1930s show the road marked "*Private Road*" (see map on page 40). The Ferndale Estate brochures of 1927 and 1938 also show these roads.

Lou Woods, Dickinson's manager, opened a store at Hilton, the first in the district.

Dickinson sold Crown allotment 86 to James Griffiths on 30th April 1904 for 1,000 pounds as shown in instrument number 487681.

Dickinson died on November 22nd 1921 and is buried in Melbourne Cemetery site MGC COE Compartment S No 330.

Sources of Information

- "*The Basin Centenary Booklet*" by Ron Ikin.
- "*Fire on the Hill, Flowers on the Valley*" by Rick Coxhill.
- "*History of Croydon*" and "*Founder of the Dandenongs*" by Muriel McGivern for information on William Turner.
- Interviews with Muriel McGivern for information on William Turner passed on by his descendants. Unfortunately, I did not get enough information from Muriel before she passed away.
- "*The Book of the Dandenongs*" by John Larkins for information on Daniel Bunce and Alan Dodd.
- "*Family of William Chandler horticulturist*" by Helen Coulsen for information on William Chandler for which copyright is acknowledged.
- "*Story of the Dandenongs*" by Helen Coulsen for information on William Turner, early settler information, Thomas Grimwood, George Leach and William Fetherstonhaugh.
- VPRS 5920 Microfiche of Pastoral Run Papers (fiche 55) from the Public Records Office of Victoria for William Turner letters.
- "*Crown Lands Pre-emptive Right Applications: Victoria 1850-1854*" by Marjorie Morgan for information on William Turner's Pre-emptive right application.
- Victorian State Library for the Handbook for electors. LTP 324.6 H19, Map of Electoral Districts. MAPS 820 FBE 1855-1856 for information on the 1856 election.
- Local Library for 1856 electoral information on microfiche.
- Birth, Deaths, and Marriages Victoria and NSW for various certificates.
- Janet Dobson diary courtesy of Knox Historical Society.
- Public Records Office of Victoria for extract from VPRS 13016 "*Applications Register for the purchase of Land under Pre-emptive Right*"
- Landata website for titles, transfers, early surveyor field books, put away plans including a plan of "*Murphy's Road*".
- "*Tea and Charity*" The Life and Times of James Griffiths Tea Merchant and Philanthropist by Volkhard Wehner for information on James & Emily Griffiths.
- Public Records Office of Victoria for Probate, wills, and early settlers' land selection information.
- Various genealogical sites for early settler information.
- Mt Dandenong Historical Society for information on George Dodd.
- Various newspapers for articles and clippings.
- Carol Turner and Ian Heatley, who are descendants of William Turner, for his will, family tree and newspaper articles.
- Joyce Smart and Peter Dobson, descendants of David Dobson, for information on David Dobson.
- Trove for newspaper extracts and clippings.
- Victorian Heritage Database Report for information on Rainbow Gully (Dodds).
- Richard Peterson: "*A Place of Sensuous Resort: Buildings of St Kilda and Their People*" for information on John and George Bruce.
- "*The Land Boomers*" by Michael Cannon for information on the 1880s land boom.
- *"Dear Fethers - An Historical Saga by Tess De Araugo*" for information on Hazel Dell, Thomas Hodgson, William Fetherstonhaugh and Ann Hodgson poisoning.
- "*Ridgewalk. A History of Culture, Artists and Creativity in the Dandenong Ranges*" prepared for Yarra Ranges Council for general information on the Dandenongs.
- Knox Historical Society for various information including the Murphy family, and early settlers.
- "*The Little School: A Centenary History of Ferny Creek Primary School and its Community*" by John Schauble for information about Jane Murphy.
- Kew Historical Society publication "*ONCE UPON A TEA TIME The Griffiths of Kew*" for information on James and Emily Griffiths.
- The University of Melbourne Library for W. Murphy estate brochures.
- Meryll Williams for grave information.

Death of Mr Robert Dobson.

Universal regret was expressed when it became known that Mr Robert Dobson, only son of Mr David Dobson, of Bayswater, had suddenly and unexpectedly expired of heart disease at the Victoria Market, Melbourne, on Saturday last. Mr Dobson some years ago suffered an attack of rheumatic fever, and it was known by those most intimately acquainted with him that this had left behind it a serious weakness of the heart, but beyond a little general ailing nothing so serious as what happened was expected. On Friday night Mr Dobson left his home at The Basin with a load for the market, after making a promise to his wife that he would when in Melbourne, consult a doctor as to the cause of a slight feeling of ill-health which he had experienced of late. About 4 o'clock on Saturday morning, however, when in the act of serving out some produce to a customer, he fell forward, fortunately into the arms of his brother-in-law, Mr J. H. Wicks, who was at the time beside him. It was not, however, for a moment thought that this was anything more serious than a fainting fit, and when some speedy remedies were applied, and failed to restore consciousness, he was quickly taken to the Melbourne hospital, and on admission it was found that the worst fears were unfortunately to be entertained, and that death had instantly occurred at the time of the fall. Mr Dobson being so widely known and highly esteemed by all residents of the district, that the sad news of his death came as a serious blow, and the many travellers on the roads who have been accustomed to meet the genial and open-hearted "Bob Dobson" will in future miss a pleasing feature from their roads of travel. Possessing some rich land, specially situated, he was noted for growing good stuff, and had been a regular prize-winner at the Ringwood shows. At the meeting of the Fern Tree Gully council on Saturday, Cr Ramage referred in feeling terms to the event, and Cr Yeadon was in a position to say that "those who knew him the most liked him the best." It was moved that a letter of condolence, under the seal of the council, be forwarded to his beloved wife and relatives. Also, at the Ringwood Horticultural society show committee touching reference was made to the loss sustained of so valuable a member, and the secretary was instructed to convey a letter of sympathy. Mr Dobson leaves a widow and three children, the youngest of whom is only two months old, and universal sympathy is felt for them in their great and painfully sudden bereavement. The interment took place in the Box Hill cemetery on Monday, a very large number of friends attending from all parts, testifying to the great esteem in which the deceased was held. The pall-bearers were Messrs Chandler, Yeadon, Anderson, Colvor, Jackson, and Nick-

OBITUARY

H.T.S.(Bert) Chandler

A link with the very beginnings of The Basin was broken with the death of Mr. H.T.S. (Bert) Chandler of Como Nurseries. He died on February 17th, leaving three sons, Fergus, Geoff and John.

Mr. Chandler was one of the eight sons of William and Kate Chandler who settled at The Basin on 54 acres beside the Dandenong Creek in 1873. He followed in his father's footsteps as a nurseryman and his chief triumph was the receipt of one of the two gold medals ever awarded by the Nursery and Seedsmen's Association of Victoria for his Andromeda or to be botanically correct Pieries Japonica which is known as the Bert Chandler.

Mr. Chandler had a rewarding and very full and happy life. He was within 10 days of his 90th birthday. He is survived by his second wife, Helen.

YOU CAN TELL YOUR FRIENDS
They are invited, whether Purchasers or not,
To an Exquisite Afternoon CUP of TEA or COFFEE
(Gratis).
GRIFFITHS BROTHERS,
GRIFFITHS BROTHERS,
GRIFFITHS BROTHERS,
TEA and COFFEE MERCHANTS,
TEA and COFFEE MERCHANTS,
TEA and COFFEE MERCHANTS,
226 and 228 FLINDERS-LANE,
226 and 228 FLINDERS-LANE,
ONLY ONE DOOR from SWANSTON-STREET.
ONLY ONE DOOR from SWANSTON-STREET.
FRESHLY ROASTED COFFEE.
WE SELL COFFEE { 6lb. or more carriage free without tea order. / 1lb. or more carriage free with tea order. / 1lb. or more for cash only at warehouse. / In net weight canisters only.
STRICTLY PURE COFFEE and CHICORY ROASTED by OURSELVES.

	Per Lb.
Very strong	1s., 1s. 2d.
Strong, serviceable, with good flavour	1s. 4d.
Full flavoured, aromatic, and economical	1s. 6d.
Choice, flavoury, rich and fragrant	1s. 8d.
Extra choice, with delicious aroma	1s. 10d.

TEAS. TEAS. TEAS.
In canisters of 10lb. and upwards.
BLENDED TEAS or PANYONG TEAS.

	Per Lb.
Medium	1s., 1s. 2d., 1s. 4d.
Superior	1s. 6d., 1s. 7d.
Fine	1s. 8d., 1s. 9d.
Finest	1s. 10d., 2s.
Extra finest	2s. 3d., 2s. 6d.

CEYLON TEAS.

	Per Lb.
Medium	1s. 4d.
Superior	1s. 6d.
Fine	1s. 8d.
Finest	2s.
Extra finest	2s. 6d.

INDIAN TEAS, Darjeeling, Assam, &c.
1s. 4d., 1s. 6d., 1s. 8d., 2s., and 2s. 6d. per lb.
TEA BUDS.
1s. 3d. 1s. 6d. 1s. 9d. and 2s. per lb.
Tins contain 10lb., 12lb., 14lb., 20lb., and 28lb.
Half-chests contain 40lb., 50lb., and 60lb.
Satisfaction Guaranteed, or Cash Refunded.
GRIFFITHS BROS.,
TEA and COFFEE MERCHANTS,
226 and 228 FLINDERS-LANE, MELBOURNE.

Mr A. Collier, The Basin, dies at 80

The son of an early settler at The Basin, Mr Albert Charles Collier (after whom Albert Ave. was named) died last Sunday aged 80.

He was the son of Samuel Collier, who bought land in Colchester road (which was named after him) in the 1880's and represented ratepayers on the Ferntree Gully council until 1916. Albert worked that same property all his working life.

He is survived by four married daughters — Mesdames Ireland, Jones, Taylor and Wiggins — and a son, Horace, also 11 grand-children and 11 great-grandchildren

Tea can be grown and cured in Victoria quite as good as tea grown in Ceylon, India, China or elsewhere. This has been demonstrated by Mr James Griffiths of Griffiths Brothers who for years has been cultivating the tea plant (thea sinensis) on his property at Bayswater. The prepared leaf has a fine flavour and good aroma.

SALES BY AUCTION.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1.
In the Auction-room of Collins House, 360 Collins street, at Half past Two O'Clock.
SALE BY AUCTION
Of
THE BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAIN HOME.
OF SIDNEY MYER, ESQ.,
At
SASSAFRAS —— SASSAFRAS —— SASSAFRAS.
SASSAFRAS —— SASSAFRAS —— SASSAFRAS.
Known as VALLEJO,
In a Glorious Situation, With Most Gorgeous Views of the Surrounding Country.
THE HOUSE is an Excellent TIMBER VILLA RESIDENCE, with Cream and Green Colouring. It Comprises Fine Verandah, Lounge, Dining-room, Sitting-room, 5 Bedrooms, 2 Specially Fitted Bathrooms, 2 Lavatories, Kitchen, Pantry, and Double Maids' Room.
There are Electric Hot-water Service, Electric Light, Sewerage by Septic Tank, Never-failing Water Supply, and Every Modern Convenience.
The Outbuildings Include Large Barn, Garage, Two Bungalows, Dairy, Fowlhouses, Lavatory, and Shed.
THE LAND HAS AN AREA OF 20 ACRES 3 ROODS 13 PERCHES.
And is Divided Into 5 Paddocks. There is a Splendid Garden, with Well-grown Trees, as Well as Cleared Paddocks and Some Bush Land. There is a Considerable Frontage to a Metalled Road, which Would Facilitate Subdivision of the Land if Required.
The House is WELL FURNISHED, and the Whole Property is in First-class Order.
THE FURNITURE MAY BE PURCHASED AT A VALUATION.
THE OWNER IS DETERMINED TO SELL.
TERMS: One-third Deposit, Balance in 3 Years, Interest 5½ Per Cent.
TITLE, CERTIFICATE. Messrs. W. B. and O. McCutcheon, Solicitors, 414 Collins Street, Melbourne.
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In Conjunction with
W. E. CLARKE, ESTATE AGENT, SASSAFRAS.

Geraldton Guardian 21 October 1919

Chapter 2 Land and Roads

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Summary

The first known white occupier of land in The Basin was William Turner, his wife Margaret and their children. They settled in The Basin in 1851. Their story is detailed in Chapter 1.

William Peverill Watson is recorded as the first freehold occupier of land in The Basin. On the 5th February 1867, Watson was granted title to Crown allotment A.

From the 10 original parcels of land in The Basin, subdivisions created thousands of residential allotments. One of the first and largest estates opened in The Basin was "*Schneider's Estate*".

The first track to the top of the Dandenongs used by white men was known as the "*Bullock Track*". It passed through The Basin and was created in the late 1840s. It was used by early explorers, botanists, settlers and timber workers. It roughly followed the route of the road in 2025 known as Range Road.

Distinguished Resident

Allan Small

Allan Small has saved countless lives and homes from bushfires during his involvement in the CFA when he joined in 1967.

Allan became Lieutenant of The Basin in 1971 and in December 1972 he became Deputy Group Officer of the Knox Fire Brigades Group and became Group Officer in 2000. He was The Basin Fire Brigade Captain from 1977 to 1999 and became president in 1999. In 2004, Allan was a recipient of the Australian Fire Service Medal, awarded by the Governor General. In 2007, he was honoured by the CFA for 40 years service. In 2008, he was named the Knox citizen of the year. In 2020, he was awarded a Westfield local Heroes Award receiving a $10,000 grant for his affiliated organisation (The Basin Fire Brigade).

Allan commenced community volunteering in the Scouting movement when his sons joined 15th Boronia Scouts. He became president and was responsible for organising fundraising, and other administration tasks associated with the position.

Allan's enthusiasm for helping others also extends to a unique project whereby titanium ring pulls are collected from cans and sent overseas to be used to make limb joints for disabled people. Allan's passion for this project has inspired many of his friends to join him in his efforts.

Introduction

Development of land and roads in and around The Basin influenced the foundation of The Basin. Therefore, this chapter should be read in conjunction with Chapter 1.

Development of land and roads is intertwined. To develop land, there must be access to the land via a track or road. In the 1800s, when The Basin was developed, the only access to land was via dray tracks.

Land

After white settlement, all land in Australia not yet settled or developed was known as "*Crown Wastelands*".

Early explorers and settlers created tracks through these "*Wastelands*" to find suitable land to settle. Initially, there was no mechanism for settlers to hold any claim over the land, and many "*squatted*" on the land, thus becoming known as "*squatters*". In 1838, squatters were given the right to apply for a "*Depasturing license*" (see page 3) to lease land and later purchase the land.

The first known white occupiers of land in The Basin were William Turner and his family. Their story is detailed in Chapter 1. Turner had several Depasturing licenses east of Melbourne, one north of the Dandenong Creek in what is Croydon.

William Peverill Watson is recorded as the first official occupier of land in The Basin. On the 5th February 1867, Watson was granted title to Crown allotment A.

Watson paid cash for his 102 acres at approximately one pound per acre. Improvements were already valued at 345 pounds, and included a homestead, outbuildings, some fencing, and cultivation. Undoubtedly, this land was occupied well before the sale.

Watson was the first person officially recorded to own freehold land in The Basin. However, William Turner and his family were the first residents of The Basin. Information from his descendants and other publications suggests he may have had freehold land and/or applied to purchase land in The Basin, but confirmation of either cannot be found.

A Crown allotment marked as 72A is recorded as having been leased in 1867 to Wm. Turner Jnr., of Lilydale, most likely the Turners' first son. He lost the license for encouraging "*illicit distillation*".

It was in the mid 1860s when land in The Basin area was first selected by settlers via licenses and leases. If the occupiers met the license and lease requirements, they could apply for a freehold title. The first freehold owners (with land size and date of possession) were:

W. P. Watson (102 acres on 11/2/1867); D. Dobson (80 acres on 10/12/1872); James John Miller (205 acres & 114 acres in 1877 & 1879); F. W. Woodhouse (127 acres on 26/2/1878); E. Wicks (49 acres on 3/6/1881); W. Chandler (41 acres on 15/2/1882); J. Richards (61 acres & 58 acres on 14/11/1882); W. Chandler Jnr (13 acres on 2/3/1886); J. Schneider (170 acres on 20/1/1888); J. and M. Griffiths (184 acres 23/8/1888). See page 36 for a map of Crown allotments.

The astuteness of the early selectors was confirmed by Robert Thompson, Government inspector, who wrote in 1870:

"*The command of water here for irrigation over an extent of 65 acres might turn out six loads of vegetables every day round the year*".

William Chandler, David Dobson, James John Miller, James Griffiths and Edmund Wicks were prominent citizens in The Basin, and their stories are detailed in Chapter 1.

Depasturing Licenses

In 1838, squatters were given the right to apply for a "*Depasturing license*" (see page 3) to lease land and later purchase the land. In the areas outside of Melbourne, there was no other mechanism available allowing a person to officially make a land claim.

In 1847, Victoria was classified into three districts for the purposes of administrating Depasturing licenses. These were the Settled District, Intermediate District and Unsettled District. The Settled district applied to all land within 25 miles of Melbourne. The license conditions were slightly different in each district.

Between the 1840s and 1860s, William Turner held several Depasturing licenses in the Settled District, one which extended into the area now known as The Basin.

By the 1860s, in the Settled District, most settlers with depasturing licenses had either purchased their land or had not renewed their leases. For the latter, this opened the land for other settlers. The passing of various land acts in the 1850s and 1860s enabled people to purchase freehold land. This land was either surveyed by the Government and offered for sale, or settlers pegged out the land and applied for a license to occupy it. If the license was approved, they could later lease it and apply for freehold title.

Counties and Parishes

Those owning freehold land in Australia will have seen the terms "*County*" and "*Parish*" on their land titles describing the location of their land. These terms are taken from the English equivalents, but have a different interpretation in Australia.

In England, a County is an administrative division like our Local Council, and a Parish is an ecclesiastical district having its own church and clergyman.

In Australia, a County is a large division of land bounded by natural features. Several Parishes are within a County, each approximately thirty square miles.

When Victoria was first settled, there was no division of land. Division of land into Counties and Parishes occurred in stages as settlement progressed further from Melbourne. The Basin was in the "*Port Phillip District*" area before any Counties or Parishes

were created.

As early as 1838, the term "*County Bourke*" was used officially, roughly describing the area east of Melbourne. It was not until 1843 that the County of Bourke was officially proclaimed with its eastern boundary alongside the Dandenong Creek to its "*Northern Bend*" and then continuing north. This placed The Basin outside the County boundaries and in an unproclaimed area.

In 1849, the Counties of Evelyn and Mornington were proclaimed, with The Basin in the County of Mornington.

The early division of Parishes in the Counties of Bourke, Evelyn and Mornington is not known.

In 1857, the Parish of Scoresby was proclaimed in the County of Mornington. The Basin was in the northern part of the Parish known as Scoresby.

In 2025, The Basin is in the County of Mornington, Parish of Scoresby.

Government

Federal

The Basin has been in three Federal House of Representative electorates as follows:

Years	Electorate
1901-1912	Mernda
1913-1948	Flinders
1948-2025	LaTrobe

Local

The first local Government body to preside over The Basin area was the Berwick District Road Board, proclaimed on 24th October 1862, and enlarged in 11th March 1864 to include the Parish of Scoresby and other nearby Parishes. The enlargement became the Scoresby riding which included The Basin area.

The Berwick District Road Board became the Shire of Berwick on 12th May 1868.

In the 1880s, Victoria experienced a land boom. The area serviced by Scoresby Riding was in the thick of this boom with the recent extension of the railway to Ferntree Gully and launching of numerous speculative ventures. One venture was a proposed tramway to run from Bayswater to Olinda through The Basin.

Government policy allowed a Riding to become a separate shire if its annual rates exceeded 500 pounds and generous grants were available. These factors combined with a feeling of neglect by the Shire of Berwick encouraged a push towards severance and the formation of a new Shire.

The Scoresby Riding severed from the Shire of Berwick on 23rd May 1889 to form the new Shire of Fern Tree Gully (note spelling, Fern Tree, not FernTree). James John Miller, who lived in Melbourne, became first President of the Shire of Fern Tree Gully. He owned extensive property in The Basin which was his country estate.

On 9th October 1963, the Shire of Knox was formed by severance from the Shire of Fern Tree Gully.

Subdivisions and Estates

The first selections of land by early settlers were called Crown allotments and usually a few hundred acres. See page 30 and map on page 36. Over time, Crown allotments were subdivided into smaller sections called parcels, lots, or blocks. From the original Crown allotments in and around The Basin, subdivisions created thousands of blocks and in 2025 some areas can still be subdivided.

Some subdivisions, usually the larger ones, were marketed as "*Estates*". Some subdivisions were large and others of little consequence. Estates had glamorous names, and their posters contained glowing reports of the magnificent land and the facilities available. In the early days, radio broadcasts were an added attraction at many land sales, and, of course, each block was at a giveaway price. Subdivisions created most of the private roads in an area and these were usually given names with a local flavour.

Early estates had no made roads or drainage. Sewerage, electricity, gas, public transport and communication were all added later.

Early land estate brochures rarely mentioned "*The Basin*" because it was a small isolated village. The land for sale was advertised as at Boronia, Bayswater or Mt. Dandenong.

The 1910s and 1920s were a boom period for estates in The Dandenongs, and in particular, The Basin and Sassafras. The views towards Melbourne from the steep western and northern slopes of The Dandenongs were an attraction for developers.

Opening of the "*1 in 20*" road (Mountain Highway) from The Basin to Sassafras in 1924 helped promote estates near Sassafras. The Mystic Lake Estate (1926) (page 67) had a frontage on the newly created "*1 in 20*" and also the Moulton Estate (1924). An earlier estate called the Front Door Estate (1913) (page 60) had a frontage on the Coach Road (from The Basin) near Sassafras.

Electrification of the railway between Ringwood and Upper Ferntree Gully, with a station at Boronia was mentioned on estate brochures.

Many early estates were located on the steep and heavily treed western and northern slopes of The Dandenongs. Unfortunately, the planning of some estates was performed in a draughtsman's office and when the

block and road positions were marked out it was found they took little account of the terrain. Surveying these blocks was a difficult task. It was later deemed that some land was unsuitable for residential development. Consequently, the land on these estates was progressively acquired by the Government and amalgamated into the adjacent National Park.

Subdivisions did not always use glamorous names and promotion via the media. Chapter 1 details some subdivisions by early settlers.

One of the largest areas subdivided in The Basin were Crown allotments 71 and 74 originally selected by James John Miller. Miller forfeited on the mortgage payments, the bank foreclosed and took possession of the properties in 1899. See pages 17 and 18.

Schneider's Estate

One of the first and largest estates opened in The Basin was "*Schneider's Estate*" on Boxing Day 1913. The estate was named after selector Jacob Schneider, who first selected Crown Allotment 91 in 1877. Part of the estate was carved from his 170 acres of land. Half of Crown allotment 92 was included for the estate. See page 37 for information on Jacob Schneider and associated Crown allotment 92 transactions.

This estate took in part of the district known as "*Chandler's Hill*", "*Schneider's Hill*" and extended across Mountain Highway, taking in the Clevedon area and into the "*The Ravine*".

This was the largest subdivision ever in The Basin with 640 blocks offered for sale. Many blocks were narrow, on steep terrain and some had creeks running through them (e.g. Old Joes Creek). Claremont Avenue and Golden Grove had creeks running down one side of them.

The original poster promoting the land had a small inset map showing a "*proposed station*" where Boronia station was built in 1920.

Little thought was given to fire safety, as in the original subdivision, Claremont Avenue was the only access to The Ravine, and Bayview Crescent and Mercia Avenue were not linked. This was partly remedied in the 1950s, when Council purchased block 581 to connect the top end of Inverness Avenue with Mountain Highway, and block 135 was purchased to provide access between Mercia Avenue and Bayview Crescent. The planners had some foresight, because they planned several "*Rights of way*" between allotments intended for use as shortcuts for walkers. One of these right of way between Claremont Avenue and Mountain Highway was concreted in 1994. Other right of ways are between Toorak Avenue and the top of Mercia Avenue, and between Inverness Avenue and Bowen Street.

Sales of land in Schneider's Estate were poor. Close to the First World War, and a German sounding name did not help.

A few years later, the Schneider estate was renamed the "*Switzerland (Heights) Estate*" and promoted for sale on Boxing Day 1917. It is thought the more neutral sounding "*Switzerland*" had better sales prospects.

From Janet Dobsons diary:

"***Thursday February 19 1920:*** *There is a large bush fire over near Dickson's and right up round Switzerland some of the houses have been in danger and the neighbours beat it back, the two boys went over so did Harry Chandler, Uncle Jack and Mr Agar, Staff Captain Steven and several others.*"

Some street names were changed in the Switzerland Estate plan from the original Schneider's Estate plan. Toorak Avenue was originally named Flynn Avenue, Claremont Avenue was originally named Schneider Avenue, Inverness Avenue was originally named Hansen Avenue, and Fern Street was originally named Short Street.

Switzerland Estate was renamed again and reopened in 1930 as the "*Somerville Park Estate*", with 113 blocks on offer. The promoter of the estate, E. V. Jones, built several cottages on selected blocks around the estate, offering some blocks as "*Land with Dwelling*".

Grandview Grove was later renamed Golden Grove.

Corsair Road was not part of the three estates mentioned earlier, but created in a later subdivision.

In the early 1960s, blocks around the top end of Bayview Crescent, Short Crescent and Hilltop Crescent were reclaimed by the Government and amalgamated with the then Ferntree Gully National Park. The top end of Bayview Crescent, which in the original subdivision ran into Government Road, terminated near where Hilltop Crescent commenced. Hilltop Crescent no longer exists.

When this area was first subdivided as the Schneider Estate, and the land pegged out, the roads were not even formed. Even after the Schneider's Estate was renamed the Switzerland Estate, and later renamed again as the Somerville Park Estate, and land sales heavily promoted, not all roads were formed. Prospective land buyers had to push their way through thick bush to locate a pegged block. As land sold, owners cut tracks to gain access to their land. These tracks sometimes followed the road line, but usually took the shortest path to the land.

In the Claremont Avenue area, landowners were, for a while, able to use the "*Mill track*" for vehicle access into the Claremont Avenue area of The Ravine. The Mill track ran between The Basin-Olinda Road and near the intersection of Claremont Avenue and Inverness Avenue. The track was originally constructed across private land for use by the sawmill operating in The Ravine in the early 1920s. When the sawmill closed, the Mill Track was no longer required. Although used for some years by Ravine residents, the track closed in 1930.

The closing of the Mill Track prompted a few landowners to pool some money, and a contractor by the

name of Cunningham was hired to form Claremont Avenue from Mountain Highway to Corsair Road with fords across the two creek crossings.

Nevertheless, the roads were in a terrible state. Residents took their chances driving up to Mountain Highway, and some sounded their horn to loved ones when they successfully reached Mountain Highway.

Around 1936, a footbridge was constructed across the second Claremont Avenue creek crossing, and in the late 1940s wooden bridges were constructed across both creek crossings. Frank Parr was instrumental in arranging construction of these bridges.

In 1927 as a young child, Frank Parr moved with his parents to a house at the top end of Claremont Avenue. Frank grew up in The Basin and worked at Dobson's orchard for many years. Frank donated the logs used to build the bridges. The logs were sawn at Mansell Brothers sawmill on the corner of Mount View Road and Albert Avenue. Frank and other residents held working bees to build the bridges.

Frank's family had such an influence in this area in the early days the area was once called "*Parr's Gully*". Later, the area became known as "*The Ravine*".

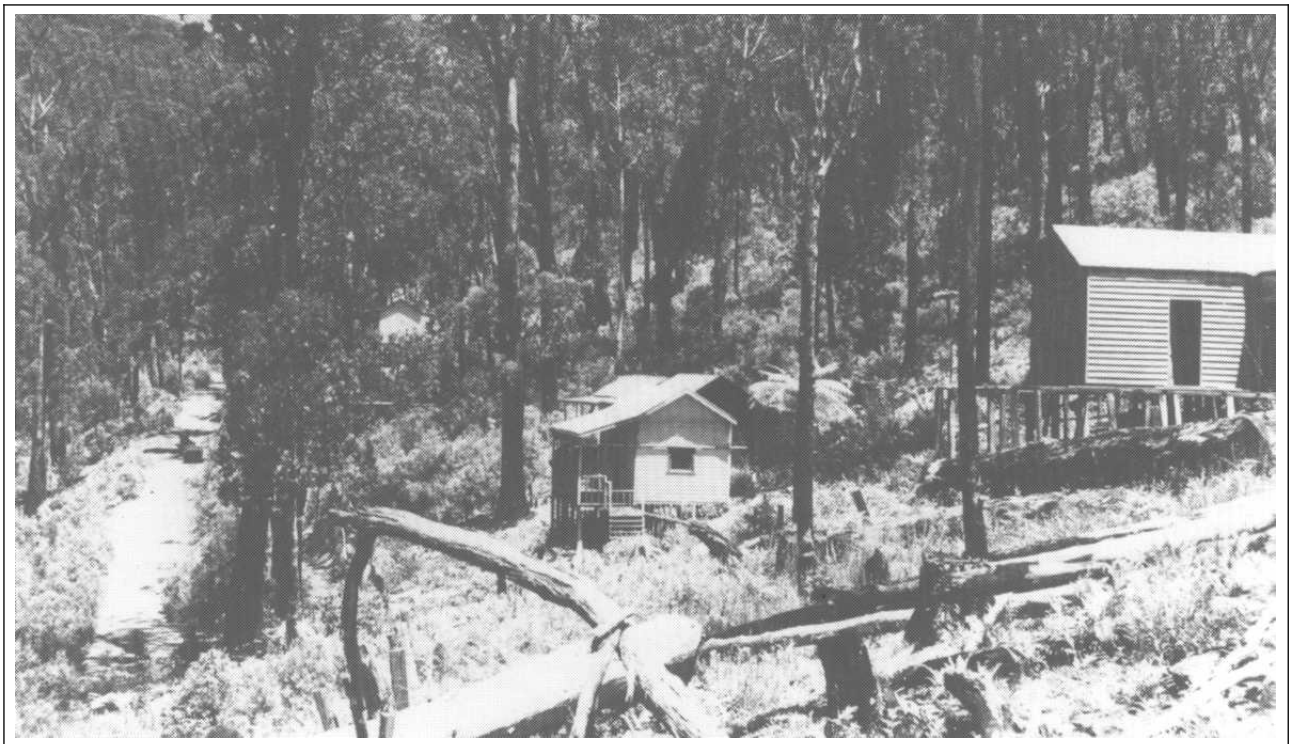
In the early 1950s, concrete pipes replaced the first bridge along Claremont Avenue. Len Herbert was a resident and a member of the Road Committee then. Len lobbied the local council to supply the concrete pipes and residents provided the labour to lay the pipes and prepare the road surface over the pipes.

The original subdivision had Inverness Avenue coming off Claremont Avenue, running across a creek and winding around alongside Mountain Highway, but there was not a bridge across the creek. Tracks formed over time, but they stopped on either side of the creek crossing in Inverness Avenue. This meant Inverness Avenue was not formed over the creek and residents at the top end of Inverness Avenue had no vehicle access for many years. The first access to the top end was when a track was cut in from Mountain Highway about half-way between Alamein and Tobruk Avenues (this track was still visible in 2025). In the 1950s, Council purchased block 581 creating a road connecting Inverness Avenue with Mountain Highway.

The condition of the roads in The Ravine was always poor. Self-help schemes, where residents contributed funds and held working bees to improve roads, existed as far back as the early 1950s. The council was approached to connect Inverness Avenue across the creek, but quoted $60,000 which was rejected by residents.

In 1977, the "*Claremont/Inverness Roads Construction Association*" was formed. By this time the roads were in a terrible state. To raise finance to improve the roads, a voluntary contribution of $100 per block was set. Unfortunately, not all residents contributed.

After several meetings and much planning, the first



The Somerville Park Estate looking south from junction of Mountain Highway and Toorak Avenue. Mountain Highway on left. Circa 1935.
Photo courtesy Knox Historical Society

temporary repairs to roads were carried out in June 1978.

In the summer of 1978, stage one of works commenced with high quality gravel construction of Claremont Avenue from Mountain Highway to Inverness Avenue. Drainage, which had been the major problem, was upgraded with property crossings correctly laid and pipes under the road to direct water into The Ravine. Other works included high quality gravel construction of Inverness Avenue from Mountain Highway to Claremont Avenue with minor works to the top end of Inverness Avenue.

In 1979, pipes were laid, and a crossing constructed to bridge the creek and join the two sections of Inverness Avenue. The crossing was of major importance as previously both sections of The Ravine had only one entry/exit point in event of bushfire or other problems. The Gleghorn family from Kallista were instruemental in building the crossing, charging considerably less than the $60,000 council estimate.

Construction and maintenance continued over the next few years until once again, declining contributions forced the scheme to lapse.

In 1984, the Association asked the Council to convene public meetings to consider full construction of roads in The Ravine. Following planning and time allowed for objections, construction was carried out in 1985/86. The construction included moving the entrance to Claremont Avenue to its correct position directly opposite Toorak Avenue. Previously, the entrance was part of the driveway into the property on the north corner of Claremont Avenue and Mountain Highway. The eastern end of Golden Grove was constructed with a concrete surface for extra stability where the road follows the creek. Some roads were narrowed and wound around trees to avoid tree removal. Fern Street was blocked in the middle to avoid a creek that occassionally flowed there.

The eastern ends of Inverness Avenue, Bowen Avenue and Golden Grove had always been considered fire traps as they were dead ends. In 1996, an access track was constructed from the eastern ends of these roads up to Mountain Highway. The track is called Inverness Track. Locked gates bar general access to this track, but in an emergency the track can be used by emergency vehicles.

In the Mercia Avenue and Bayview Crescent area, early purchasers of land on these unformed roads had to construct the roads themselves if they required vehicle access. In the 1940s, the top end of Bayview Crescent up to Short Crescent (later Crete Track) was formed in this manner. Even then, the roads were in poor condition and locals performed most of the road maintenance.

The first Council forming of gravel roads in the area commenced in the late 1950s. Mercia Avenue was formed except for a section midway along its length. The midsection was formed in the late 1960s. Bayview Crescent was formed up to Short Crescent (later Crete Track) in the late 1950s. The extension of the section of Bayview Crescent past Short Crescent was financed by residents in the early 1980s, but did not extend to the top of Schneider's Hill as the original subdivision planned. The blocks in that section had earlier been reclaimed by the Government.

Increased residential development occurred in these areas in the 1970s, with a consequent deterioration in road quality. Knox Council occasionally graded the roads, but in the late 1970s to early 1980s when grading was needed more frequently, council argued these roads were private streets and consequently reduced the service.

Residents formed working bees to improve roads, but they could not keep up with the deterioration in road condition. This sped up the push for full construction and in 1984 Knox Council issued property owners with road construction notices. After hearing of all objections, construction commenced in 1985. The scheme was not without its problems. After two contractors started and went bankrupt, the Council stepped in and took over completion of the scheme.

Nyora Avenue, Bayview Crescent, Mercia Avenue, Government Road between Toorak Avenue and Mercia Avenue and Wright Street were constructed in 1987. Not all areas had reticulated water, and the road construction included extensions of reticulated water supply in all these streets. A section of Mercia Avenue was narrowed due to the steep terrain.

Toorak Avenue was constructed in 1992 and was the first street in The Basin to incorporate speed restricting devices. Under pressure from residents, the devices were incorporated to deter motorists from using Toorak Avenue as a shortcut between Old Forest Road and Mountain Highway.

Front Door Estate

Offered for sale on New Year's Day 1913, sixty mountain blocks on the Old Coach Road near Sassafras "*By order of Mr John McClare*". John McClare was the original selector of Crown allotment 84 from which the estate was carved from. McClares Terrace was the main road through the estate.

The brochure touted:

"*Grand Views*"
"*Lovely Fern Gullies*"
"*Secluded timbered retreats*"

All the land and roads were later acquired by the Government and amalgamated into the National Park. McClares Terrace no longer exists.

Boronia Hill Estate

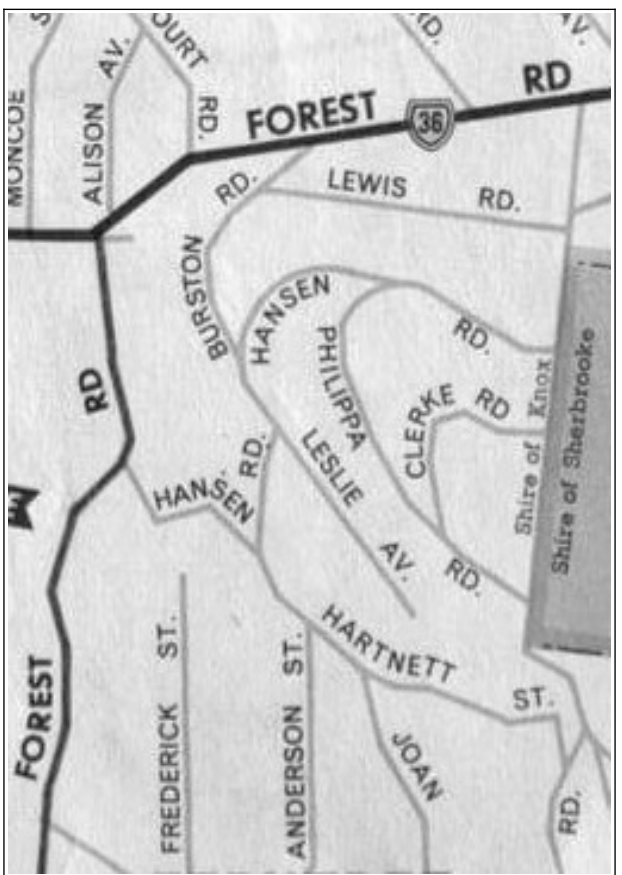
Offered for sale in 1920. An advertisement in the Argus on 3rd November 1920 stated:

"*GRAND SUBDIVISIONAL AUCTION*

BORONIA HILL ESTATE.
BORONIA.
The New Station Before Lower Ferntree Gully.
At the Junction of L.L. and Forest Roads.
New Direct Route to Olinda and Sassafras.
100 SPLENDID MOUNTAIN HOME SITES
Averaging Half-acre Each.
Secure a Block and have a
WEE LITTLE HOME IN THE HILLS,
Away from Trouble and care,
REMARKABLE TERMS
£1 Deposit, £1 Per Month, No Interest.
GET A PLAN"

Sales were good, with many blocks sold in the 1920s. The original subdivision showed Nyora Avenue continuing straight up the steep mountain to the end of Philippa Road, but was never more than a rough foot track. Lachlan Road was originally called Lewis Road and another road called Clerke Road came off near the end of Philippa Road and connected with Nyora Avenue. See map on page 61.

About ¼ of the blocks on the high side were acquired by the Government and amalgamated into the National Park. Clerke Road disappeared and Hansen Track and Chandlers Track were created. Council later blocked the connection between Burston and Hansen Roads and created a footpath between them. The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works purchased Lot 71 in 1959 to erect the Basin No. 1 tank.



Boronia Hill Estate roads shown in Melways c1964. Nyora Avenue connects with Philippa, Lewis (in 2025, Lachlan) and Clerke Road.

Nareen Park Estate

This land first belonged to James John Miller as parts of Crown allotments 71 and 74. The bank foreclosed on Miller in 1899 and subdivided the land. See page 18. George Jones purchased lot 11 of the subdivision in 1915. He sold to Frank Grumont in 1917. Frank subdivided the land into 3 parcels and Alexander McClean and Lewis Crow purchased a parcel of 40 acres in 1923.

McClean subdivided the land in 1924 creating the Nareen Park Estate. This was just before the electrification of the railway line from Ringwood to Fern Tree Gully in 1925. The Estate brochure was full of phrases such as:

"*WHEN you build your week-end home on the Nareen Park Estate you will be able to take cheap short motor trips from your door to places such as Sassafras, Olinda and all the other favoured pleasure resorts. Boronia is in the centre of them all.*
The Electrification of the Railway to Ringwood, and the extension to Fern Tree Gully (the work will be carried out Immediately — the money having been voted by Parliament) is of vital importance to intending purchasers, and with a quick and frequent service BORONIA becomes a most popular Outer Suburb and Week-end Resort.
Just think what an influence ELECTRIFICATION will have on land values at
BORONIA.
You will benefit by the enhanced values which are sure to follow, as they have done at Ringwood and other places on this favoured line".

One hundred and eighteen lots in Arcadia, Waratah, Carnarvon, Verbena Avenues and Forest Road, were offered for sale from 35 to 65 pounds.

Frances Street was not included in this subdivision but was added when the Eden Park Estate was created a few years later.

The roads in this area were constructed in the late 1970s.

Chandler's Hill Estate

Land on this estate was offered for sale in the 1920s It included The Triangle, the area where the main shops are now, Church Street, and around and behind View Road. Forty-three "*Weekend Blocks*" were offered at 25 pounds each, with terms of 2 pounds deposit, and 10 shillings per month.

The land was part of Crown allotment 74, first selected by James John Miller. The bank foreclosed on

Miller in 1899 and subdivided the land into 11 lots. Lawrence Wreford Chandler purchased lot 8 of 25 acres in 1908. (See map on page 18).

The Shire of Fern Tree Gully approached Chandler with a proposal to create a triangular section of land with a road around it, and he agreed. Plans for the new road to Sassafras were well advanced, and the Shire could see the need for a triangular section of land with roads around to connect with other planned roads. On 21st February 1915, the Shire paid Chandler 19 pounds for the road space around a triangular section of subdivided land, as shown in instrument number 0795422. This later became known as The Triangle.

Chandler commenced subdividing the land in 1915, but the first blocks were not sold until 1923. The subdivision included a right of way for walkers from Forest Road to the end of View Street.

The brochure touted:

"Overlooking the evergreen Basin and on to the mountains
Commanding Great Views
S.W. to Port Phillip
W. to Melbourne
N. to Dividing Range
and on your right hand, and rearing up close beside you, the pretty Dandenong Range.
ON THE COACH ROAD
from Bayswater to Sassafras, with the new Mountain Road bisecting the Estate, and on the new road £3000 is now to be spent in deviating and making this road good. Then there will be a good road from Sassafras to either Bayswater or Boronia Railway Station"

The Basin Progress Hall, Smiths store, and Canes store were built on land on this estate. The towns focus moved to this area and The Basin township was born.

Church Street was originally called "*Forest Road Extension*" but renamed after The Basin Presbyterian Church was completed in 1935 on land at the corner with Forest Road.

View Road was constructed in the mid 1980s.

The Basin Progress Association first suggested closing Church Street at Mountain Highway in 1974 and Council agreed, but it took at least another 10 years before it occurred.

Ferndale Estate

Until 1925, the property known as Ferndale was owned by James Griffiths, spread over 4 titles. James's brother, John Moore Griffiths, had part ownership of one property up to 1897.

In March 1889, caveats were issued on the 4 titles, but the titles' office could not provide any details.

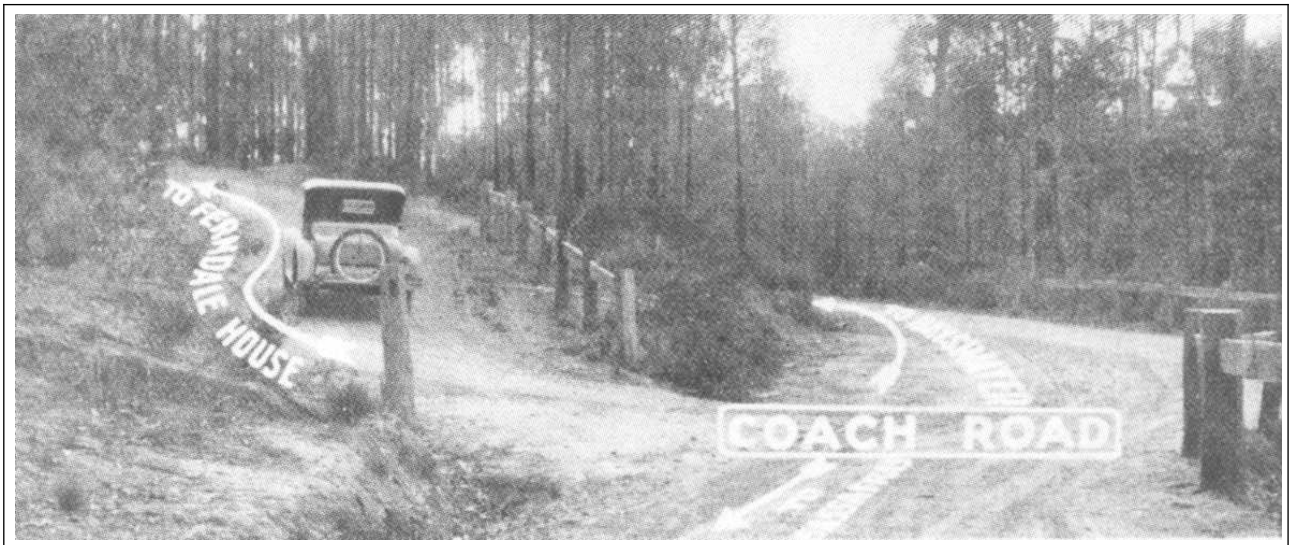
In 1925, James and Emily Griffiths and two others were killed at the Bayswater level crossing after a collision between their wagonette and a steam train. One person survived.

There were complications arising from the wills of James and Emily, and these are detailed on page 29.

This section follows the land transactions around "*Ferndale*" up to 2025. For information about the "*Ferndale*" house and other land transactions, see page 86.

Executors for James Griffiths applied for Probate with the following properties in The Basin area listed as his assets:

1. Allotment 87, consisting of 184 acres, a three-story house known as "*Ferndale*" (20 years old), containing 19 rooms and usual outbuildings, a managers' weatherboard cottage (40 years old), mens quarters and outbuildings.



View of the junction of Old Coach Road and Ferndale Road. Circa 1925.
Photo courtesy Knox Historical Society.

2. Part of 86, consisting of 142 acres of vacant fenced land (known as "*Hylton*" or "*Hilton*").
3. Part of 79, consisting of 21 acres and a gardeners' cottage (very old) (known as "*Chandlers*").
4. Part of 88, being lot 73 consisting of vacant land.

Probate was granted, and John Moore Griffiths was appointed as estate administrator. He arranged for a "*Realising Auction*" on the 22nd December 1925 of the house and a combination of the first 3 parcels of the above-mentioned land (320 acres). A detailed 7-page brochure, including a map, was prepared for the auction. No major subdivision was undertaken, but a map divided the land into 11 parcels, and had existing, surveyed, and projected roads indicated.

The brochure supplied a detailed inventory and promoted a new road through the property:

"*The Great New '1 in 20' Mountain Road TRANSVERSES THE ESTATE FROM SIDE TO SIDE. THIS GREAT HIGHWAY, which has been formed by the Ferntree Gully Shire Council, will, when metalled, probably become the Principal Key Road connecting Melbourne with The Dandenong Ranges…*"

This road appeared in a later 1927 subdivision named "*Robin Road*" and was purchased by The Shire of Ferntree Gully in 1929 (see later). It is unclear why the Realising Auction brochure called it the 1 in 20 before the purchase.

Newspapers reported the property purchased by Daniel John Gans, his wife Edith Lillian Gans, and a Mr Stuart. The official owner reported as "*Daniel. J. Gans*".

On 23rd February 1926, shortly after the above reported sale, a caveat was issued on the first 3 parcels of land. Caveat details could not be found, but it may be related to the issues associated with the will of Emily Griffiths. See page 29 for details. The caveat lapsed on 9th April 1929.

After the reported sale, the certificate of title for the first 3 properties remained in the name of the administrator, John Moore Griffiths, so it is assumed the sale to Daniel John Gans fell through or was restricted by the caveat.

In 1927, the first 3 probate listed properties were subdivided into over 300 residential blocks, and a large area of land around the homestead. Ferndale, Stewart, Helen, Danieda, Edith and Robin Roads were created, and land reserved along the creeks flowing through the properties.

On 19th November 1927, around 100 of the subdivided properties were offered for sale by auction as "*Ferndale Estate*". The brochure stated: "*By Order of Ferndale Pty. Ltd.*"

Ferndale Proprietary Limited was registered on 15th April 1926 and deregistered on 29th June 1940.

A 12-page brochure was produced for the auction, with a detailed map and colour pictures. Most of the subdivided land around Stewart, Helen, Danieda and Edith roads was not offered for sale. Robin Road is shown in the brochure as the "*One in Twenty Road*" (Later, Mountain Highway).

On a page of the brochure was this colourful wording:

"***The Call of the Mountains***

Away from the noise and rattle of the incessant city, above its dust and depressing grime; up in the pure health giving mountain air, surrounded by natural loveliness, unmolested and unharmed. High breeze fanned spurs, commanding wide spread panoramas over hill and dale, right to the ocean. Peaceful grassy slopes with luxurious blackwoods, eucalypts wattles and evergreens, harbouring thousands of birds that fill the air with their sweet toned melodies. Deep cool gullies with their murmuring crystal streams trickling over

The junction of Mountain Highway and Ferndale Road. Circa 1925.
Photo courtesy Knox Historical Society

mossy pebbled beds, twixt venture laden banks, with sunny patches percolating through giant treefern fronds above. A perfect harmony of luxury, grandeur, simplicity, loveliness. A haven of rest to crowded minds. A health giving tonic to weary bodies inspiring the best within us crowding out our baser selves."

Free railway passes from Melbourne to Bayswater, and free cars from Bayswater to the estate were offered. Bert Piergrosse, the Hire Car Proprietor engaged for the auction, received instructions not to take anyone back until 5 pm., even though some arrived early.

The auction was held on a large levelled area off Mountain Highway. All trees on the lower side of the area were cleared to provide a magnificent panoramic view towards Melbourne. A large marquee was carefully situated on the levelled area, so the bidders would get a resplendent view around them.

The rugged nature and steepness of the terrain deterred most people and no record of land purchased at the auction was found.

On 13th February 1929, John Moore Griffiths sold the first 3 parcels of land listed in the probate application to Ferndale Proprietary Limited for 11,300 pounds as shown in instrument number 1401608. These 3 parcels of land had been subdivided in 1927 as described earlier.

The 4th parcel of land listed in the probate application was also sold to Ferndale Proprietary Limited on 18th May 1926 as shown in instrument number 1266541. The land was later resold a few times and then transferred to the Crown on 22nd August 1984.

The first blocks of land (lots 42 to 44) from the 1927 subdivision were sold by Ferndale Proprietary Limited to William Parker of 64 Maling Road, Decorator, for 85 pounds on 27th August 1929 as shown in instrument number 1427539. The lots were sold numerous times and consolidated in 1974. In 2025, the same property is the only private one remaining at the southern end of Ferndale Road (near Mountain Highway).

On 20th December 1929, Ferndale Proprietary Limited sold the land shown as "*Robin Road"* on the 1927 subdivision, to The Shire of Ferntree Gully for 5 pounds for use as a public highway (the "*1 in 20*" and later Mountain Highway).

On 10th February 1938, "*Ferndale*" and the untransferred land of around 320 acres (which appears to be the original "*Ferndale Estate*" land) was auctioned. It was promoted as a "*mortgagees realising sale*". The first 3 parcels of land listed in the probate application were mortgaged to The Union Bank of Australia Limited.

Two weeks later, on February 22nd, the Ferndale and Hilton Estates were offered for sale. Hilton Estate was the land once owned by S. B. Myer accessible by what, in 2025, is The Mount Dandenong Tourist Road and Hilton Road.

The properties were passed in. The highest bid for the property was 5,750 pounds, and for the house with 32 acres was 3,750 pounds. The Hilton Estate of 22 acres was also passed in at 550 pounds.

On December 9th 1939, the Ferndale and Hilton Estates were again offered for sale as a "*mortgagees realising sale*" but were not sold.

On 6th September 1949, all the untransferred land in the 1927 subdivision and the "*Ferndale*" house was sold by Ferndale Proprietary Limited to the Building Guarantee and Discount Company for 3,603 pounds ten shillings as shown in instrument number 2245619. Building Guarantee and Discount Company became Columbia Carpet Industries Ltd in 1974.

In 1949 and 1950, around 14 residential blocks from the 1927 subdivision were sold by Building Guarantee and Discount Company for around 25 pounds each.

On 30th November 1949, Musia Rubinstein of 30 Beach Avenue, Married Woman, purchased the "*Ferndale*" house and surrounding land of around 30 acres from the Building Guarantee and Discount Company for 4,082 pounds nineteen shillings as shown in instrument number 2269919. From 1955 to 1971 several caveats were issued on the property. The Title's Office were unable to supply details on the caveats.

On 18th September 1974, Wellington Knitwear Pty Ltd purchased the building and 30 acres from Musia Rubinstein for $40,000 as shown in instrument number F463011. The 30 acres was subdivided into 2 equal parcels in 2003, In 2025, the land is owned by W.K.P. Pty Ltd (formerly Wellington Knitwear Pty Ltd).

Commencing in the 1950s, the Government began acquiring land next to the National Park. In 2025, apart from the original "*Ferndale*" site and some odd blocks of land along Ferndale Road, most of the land associated with "*Ferndale*" has been acquired and amalgamated into the Dandenong Ranges National Park.

Simpsons Road Area

The road known as Simpsons Road was created in 1910 by Miss Simson, the owner of Doongalla. She negotiated with the Chandler family, who owned Crown allotment 80 at the time, to purchase a "*right of carriageway*" through the property. This became the existing road from Doongalla Road into the Doongalla property. The road was named after Miss Simpson, but misspelled.

Ownership of land on either side of Simpsons Road passed to Bert Chandler in the 1910s and 1920s.

In 1920, he subdivided the land between Simpsons Road and Doongalla Road creating 11 blocks. Sales were poor. The first blocks sold in 1934. Blocks 1 and 2 were later purchased by The Basin Theatre Group.

In 1926, he subdivided land on the other side of Simpsons Road, creating 20 blocks and Milleara Street. Sales were again poor.

Ownership of the remaining land passed to Thomas Chandler, Bert's son. He sold the remaining property on 10th February 1966 to Nettelie Page of 185 Dorset Road,

Boronia, Married Woman, for 500 pounds as shown in instrument number C429541. She sold the individual blocks in the 1960s and 1970s.

Eden Park Estate

This Estate of 75 lots, including Stuart Street, Norman Street, Augusta Road and Frances Street, was auctioned by A. M. Welch & Co., in 1926. Estate Agents, Norman Welch, Augusta Welch, and Alan Stuart Riach purchased the property and subdivided it. The road names were from the agents names and wife of Norman Welch (Jean Frances Welch).

Terms were 5 pound deposit and 1 pound a week for ½ acre blocks ranging from 45 to 75 pounds each.

The brochure touted:

"*Local Post Office and home on the Estate. The Estate is only 20 minutes walk from Boronia Railway Station, and immediately appeals to the purchaser of a week-end home site, being right among the Gums with charming views, and the mountains extending along the Southern side of the Estate*"

The name didn't entice Adam and Eve but attracted Mr. Edward (Ted) George Mortiboy, later the proprietor of the Wine Saloon in Mountain Highway, Bayswater. Ted, a keen Scouter, bought 4 blocks in Stuart Street and often brought his troop, the 6th Malvern Scouts, there for weekend camps. A bunkhouse was built and many a pleasant weekend enjoyed. Camp fire "*Singsongs*", and the appearance of "*The Ghost of Sassafras*" on initiation nights were features of these outings.

Ted and his scouts attended the scene of the first Boronia level crossing accident on 27 April 1926, and rendered help to the injured survivors.

Edward George Mortiboy was born in England on 26th June 1902. He was married to Gwen Roberts.

Ted was The Basin Progress Association President from 1945 to 1949, and one of original trustees. He stood for Ferntree Gully Council against Brigadier Inglis of the Salvation Army, but as Ted explained the "*Devil drink*" (he was then the Bayswater wine saloon proprietor) had little chance against the Salvation Army.

In the original subdivision plan of Eden Park Estate, Stuart Street did not connect with Forest Road. Lot 38 of the Forest Heights Estate blocked the end of the road. Residents who lived in the western end of the estate had to traverse in and out via Augusta Road. For walkers, a track through the land was often used as a shortcut. The landowner subsequently erected a weekend house on Lot 38 called "*Trails End*" and placed a barbed wire fence on the Stuart Street boundary effectively blocking the shortcut. For a time, tracks on other blocks were used for shortcuts, but as houses were built these tracks disappeared.

After complaints, the Council negotiated with the owners of Trails End, and after help from a Doctor Lawrence from Boronia (who attended someone in Norman Street and had problems getting there), the Council purchased the land in 1945. The weekender was demolished, and the land converted into a road to connect Stuart Street with Forest Road.

Roads in this estate were constructed in the late 1970s.

Sidney Myer

Sidney Myer, best known for founding the Myer Department Stores, had a property "Hilton Estate", comprising 20 acres, and included house "Vallego" in Ferny Creek off Hilton Road. His property is shown in the Realising Auction brochure for Ferndale dated 1925 and on the Moulton Estate (Sassafras) brochure dated 1924.

Sidney Myer 314 Bourke Street, Merchant, purchased the property on 30th July 1921 from Arthur George Plowman of Mont Valerian Sassafras, Builder, for 2,200 pounds as shown in instrument number 1007164. Plowman was a builder of banks including the Bank of Queensland in Melbourne and the Union Bank of Australia in Yarram

On 21st January 1933, Myers house and land of 20 acres was offered for auction:

"*THE BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAIN HOME OF SIDNEY MYER ESQ., at SASSAFRAS Known as VALLEGO*" …with details of the house and land.

Myer sold the property on 4th August 1933 to Archibald McDonald the younger of 43 Barrington Ave Kew, Traveller, for 1,855 pounds as shown in instrument number 1529144.

Forest Heights Estate

This land first belonged to James John Miller as parts of Crown allotments 71 and 74. The bank foreclosed on Miller in 1899 and subdivided the land. See map on page 18. Ernest Kleinert purchased lot 7 of the subdivision in 1915.

In the 1910s, the Shire of Fern Tree Gully was acquiring land for roads around and through what in 2025 is The Basin township. Planning for the new 1 in 20 road (Mountain Highway) was well advanced, and connecting roads were required. On 21st February 1916, the Shire purchased land from Kleinert for 19 pounds 17 shillings as shown in instrument number 0795423. This land created part of Forest Road. It connected with land purchased from Lawrence Wreford Chandler (see Chandler's Hill Estate on page 61) to create a road around a triangular section of land.

Kleinert sold the remainder of lot 7 to William John Conyers of Auburn Road Auburn and William Harrison of Lennox Street Hawthorn West, Musicians, on 10th May 1924 for 390 pounds as shown in instrument number 1164363.

In 1925, Conyers and Harrison subdivided the land creating 84 blocks of land, Conyers and Harrison Streets. Seven blocks fronted Mountain Highway. Thirty-one blocks on the NW side of Forest Road (then New Forest Road) and 10 blocks on the SE side of Forest Road. Harrison Street originally ran between Forest Road and Old Forest Road but was later blocked at Old Forest Road. The land included the area where the first The Basin Fire Station was erected (later rebuilt on the

opposite side of Forest Road), the Infant Welfare Centre once stood, and The Basin Kindergarten is in 2025.

Land titles contained the covenant:

"*that no earth clay stone gravel or sand may be excavated carried away or removed from the above described land except for the purpose of excavating for the foundations of any building to be erected thereon.*"

The brochure touted:

"*BEAUTIFUL BORONIA — Ideal for Health and Wealth — A Home in the Hills — A Holiday in the Bush — Happiness and Contentment*".

"*The Electrification of the Railway to Boronia brings this district within 35 minutes travelling from Melbourne, with a minimum of 9 trains daily, and an increased schedule for Sundays. Electrification means rapid development, and in a very short time land values will rise much higher. Consider how much Boronia has progressed during the past three years. With the electrification of Railways values must greatly increase. Boronia is designed to be the most important mountain suburb near Melbourne. Now is your opportunity to obtain a lovely shop site or mountain home block at a price which must give you a handsome profit on your deal. Purchase your block now in a rapidly developing district, and share in immediate rise in values, consequent on the facilities offered by the electrification of the Railways with the attendant improved service and quick settlement, and thus reap the benefits which must occur to the early buyer. Delay spells disappointment. No suburb has the remarkable advantages of Boronia.*"

Prices were from 45 to 100 pounds on 3 pounds deposit. Sales were slow. The first block sold in 1925 with further sales into the late 1940s.

There was a proposal in 1973 to close off the northern end of Conyers Street and use that end as a car park for the kindergarten and Health Centre. However, this never eventuated.

Conyers Street was constructed in the late 1970s and Harrison Street in the mid 1980s.

Forest Road Estate

Offered for sale in 1953 and promoted by Spencer Jackson:

"*At The Basin. A group of 7 handpicked sites In a popular and rapidly developing area. Prices £120 to £140.*"

It is unknown where this Estate was located.

Reserve Estate

This estate with lots on either side of Arcadia Avenue from Miller Road to Aster Street, was offered for sale in 1951. Thirty lots were offered priced between 50 and 150 pounds with 10 pound deposit and 2 pounds per month.

The estate was created on land owned by Edgar Rowlstone (Rowley) Batterham and included Batterham Reserve. See pages 17 and 328 for more information.

The brochure touted:

"adjoining PARK and SPORTS GROUND
only one and a half miles from Shopping Centre and Railway Station.
Millers Road is a made Government Road"

Reserve Estate Extension

The Reserve Estate Extension extended Arcadia Avenue and included Camellia Crescent and Rowan Avenue. It was offered for sale in 1955. Forty-nine lots were offered at 100 pounds each with 10 pound deposit and 4 pounds per month.

The estate was created on land once owned by Edgar Rowlstone (Rowley) Batterham.

The brochure touted:

"RESIDENTIAL OR HOLIDAY HOME SITES
EXCELLENT BLOCKS
Mostly timbered.
ADJOINING PARK AND SPORTS GROUND
ONLY 1½ MILES STATION AND SHOPS"

The roads in the Reserve Estates were constructed in the late 1970s.

Mountain Highway Estate

This estate was offered for auction on 18th November 1950 and included the area around Wicks Road and Walker Street. Twenty-eight lots were offered with terms of 20 pound deposit and 1 pound per month.

Road names on the auction brochure have changed with Wicks Road formerly Old Forest Road, and Walker Street formerly New Street.

The coloured brochure touted:

"28 GLORIOUS MOUNTAIN HOME SITES
PURCHASE NOW FOR THE FUTURE
Ideal Blue Dandenongs scenery, bracing mountain air midst native trees.
Electric light at the Estate; also new scheme for water now planned by M.M.B.W.
Bus to Boronia Railway Station which provides fast electric trains to Melbourne.
State School and Shops at The Basin, and additional Shopping Services at Boronia"

The estate was located on land first owned by James John Miller. The land was mortgaged to the bank who foreclosed the property in 1899. The bank subdivided the property and in 1907 John Wicks purchased a 23 acre parcel. The estate was located on part of this parcel.

Wicks Road was first sealed in the 1960s, and the link into Mountain Highway blocked. It was later upgraded, and Walker Street constructed in 1981.

The block on the corner of Mountain Highway and Wicks Road was the original site of the Church of England donated by Emily Wicks and Annie Harris (nee Wicks) for that purpose.

Clevedon Estate

This estate was created in 1951 when about 3 acres of the western part of the Clevedon property was subdivided into 17 lots. Streets included Ross Street, and Clevedon Road. Lots were priced at 75 and 80 pounds. The brochure touted:

"*HOME OR HOLIDAY HOMES SITES*
CLEARED LAND
NICE SLOPE
GOOD POSITION
ELECTRIC LIGHT ON MAIN ROAD
HANDY STORE
BUS PASSES
EASY TERMS"

In 1953, another 3 acre section of the Clevedon property was subdivided into 17 building blocks with Cleve Street running down the middle. It was called the Clevedon Estate Extension.

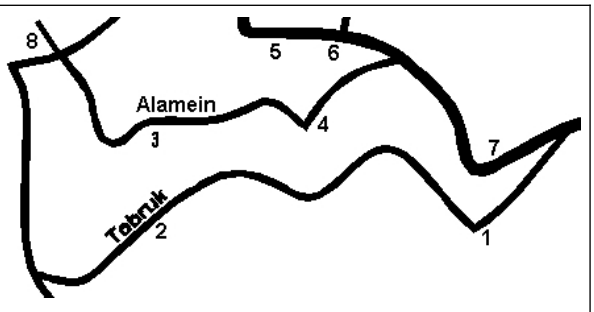
Cleve Avenue, Ross Street and Clevedon Road were constructed in 1990. Clevedon Road originally ran into Mountain Highway but was blocked by a gate only accessible by emergency vehicles. Clevedon Road has restricted access between Cleve Avenue and Ross Street.

Mystic Lake Estate

Created between Mountain Highway and One Tree Hill, two hundred and twenty-two blocks were auctioned on A.N.A. day 1st February 1926. Roads created included Alpine Ave, Janesdell Ave, Highview Road and Seaview Avenue.

Bushfires which had ravaged the Dandenongs at the time of the auction, did not deter the estate agents. They organised transport from Upper Ferntree Gully railway station to a marquee on the auction site. A lorry with no seats, carrying 25 people returning from the auction, crashed at "*Devils Elbow*" killing 3 people.

The "*Mystic Lake*" part of the name was chosen because of the "*Lake*" appearing on some foggy winter mornings in the lower reaches of The Basin and surrounding districts. From the elevated view provided from the estate, the fog appeared like a mystical lake. This lake can still be seen on occasions by those with an elevated northern view across The Basin.



Position of former houses in the New Mystic Lake Estate. North to top of page, Mountain Highway top right (bold).

A few houses were built at the lower end of Alpine Road, but these properties and others were reclaimed by the Government and amalgamated in the National Park. In 2025, Gates block access to parts of the land in this area.

New Mystic Lake Estate

This estate, promoted by Spencer Jackson Real Estate Agents, opened in 1953 and was located on the lower northern slopes of One Tree Hill The roads included Tobruk Avenue, Alamein Avenue, Crete Road, Mystic Road and Government Road. Some street names were chosen because of their association with the Second World War.

The roads were well-formed gravel roads but never sealed. A section of the estate extended to the lower side of Mountain Highway.

Jackson purchased the land from Dr. Georgina who had wanted the Lands Department to make a public reserve of it. After the Lands Department informed him they were not interested in creating a public reserve, he decided to sell.

The New Mystic Lake Estate was heavily promoted in the newspapers and on radio. Mrs Helen Walker's Real Estate Agency in Mountain Highway sold some properties.

The brochure touted:

"*The New Mystic Estate commands magnificent views across the Dandenong Ranges. It is a select exclusive area with formed, graded and metalled all-weather roads. Over £11,000 has been spent on roads alone. Owing to the cost of road making there is little likelihood of any more subdivisions in the Dandenong Ranges. Even now demand exceeds supply. This therefore will probably double or treble in value…*"

The natural bush setting of this land attracted much interest, even from people in other countries who had not even seen the land! Many lots were purchased sight unseen. Some lots were steep, rocky and with creeks running through, making them unsuitable for building.

Mrs Thorton, proprietor of "*Clevedon*" guest house around the time land was selling, recalled many a time owners of lots in the New Mystic Lake Estate would call into the guest house for a cup of tea in a distressed state after viewing their property for the first time.

Despite all this, a total of eight holiday shacks and permanent residences were erected. A few houses were erected without permits, and some people even lived in tents on their block.

The map on page 67 shows positions of the well-developed houses once on the estate.

The house at position 1 in Tobruk Ave was the Tozers's home where they lived from the late 1950s. It was next to a creek with a beautiful waterfall and rock ledges. The Tozer family owned the Lower Ferntree

Gully Grocery Store for many years. There was a set of pipes, and a pump drawing plentiful water from the creek into tanks for their personal use. The water falls were a magnificent sight in wintertime. A track once followed the creek up the hill to Tyson Track. A dam accessible from Tyson Track was constructed after the 1968 bushfires on the same creek. In 2025, the levelled house area, driveway and non-native vegetation were still visible.

At position 2 in Tobruk Ave was the partially finished weekender of Mr Tullock. Whilst a large framed construction and fully roofed, the house only ever had one room finished. This was enjoyed on weekends by the owners, who like others visiting the area, were probably content with the ability to leave the hustle bustle of working life behind, for 48 hours of solitude in the hills. In 2025, the levelled house area (with chimney ruins) and driveway were still visible.

The house at position 3 in Alamein Avenue was built by Mr. Stanley Llewellyn Walker (Lou). He was a retired Milliner and Blocker (of hats) and his business was amongst the many well known "*Mad Hatters*" of the Block Arcade in Collins St. He was an avid motorcycle enthusiast (many trophies for racing) from Melbourne.

His daughter Shirley worked at The Basin Post Office. She succumbed to a fatal accident on her motorcycle whilst delivering the mail in the local area. She was always fond of motorbikes, and incredibly rode her own Vespa motor scooter down Alamein Ave every day on the way to work. Shirley was also fond of horses, and Mr Walker bought the adjacent block of land, turning it into a horse paddock for Shirley. When married, Shirley, her husband Ken and two children Vin and Martin, lived in the house for several years. They later moved into the house at No. 8 position (Farish home), and lived there until that house was demolished by the Government.

Mr Walker's house was demolished around 1990, and he spent his remaining days living initially with his son-in-law in the middle of The Basin, and finally with his brother in Apollo Bay till he passed away, at a ripe old age. In 2025, a driveway and non-native vegetation were still visible.

The house at position 4 in Alamein Avenue (lot 61) was built from 1953 by William and Yola Pope, for his mother-in-law Stella Patrone. She lived there alone, on tank water and kerosene lighting/refrigeration up until around 1968 when she fell into poor health. No telephone or electricity was available for many years in the street. Adjacent Lot 62, which traversed a creek was also purchased for a nominal sum.

She was a keen walker and knew every inch of the One Tree Hill foothills. The only company her dogs (Whiskey, then Monty). She would walk to Travis's store or The Basin store or catch the bus to Boronia for supplies.

Life was spent cutting wood for heating and cooking over the open fire, walking for supplies, and lots of reading. She enjoyed listening to the radio (battery powered transistor). Despite one of the best views of the Dandenongs, and the viewing of the building of the TV towers, no television ever existed for her in the house.

Fire watching, and protection of the local area was her mainstay activity in the area, and she was well known and respected for her help with the local fire brigade members, particularly during the 1962 and 1968 fires. The house came close to damage during 1962, but due to the efforts of local brigade members, fires were fought off from attacking the eastern end of the house. The house and property were eventually purchased by the Government and the house demolished.

Opposite the house at position 3 in Alamein Avenue (lot 159), was a block originally purchased by Jim and Beth Tobin. They sold the block to an English couple who, with their young baby, erected a tent as a dwelling. They also erected a tank for collection of water from their tent. Soon after, they abandoned the site and disappeared. For many years the tank could still be seen where it lay half-way down the creek bed adjacent the tent site.

A two-story house at position 5 on Mountain Highway was owned by a Mr. Meisel. He originally ran the Men's Clothing business of the name "*American Tailors*" (In 2025, still in operation in Bourke St Melbourne by the owners since the 1990s). The house had a table tennis in the cellar, a huge lounge on the patio overlooking the highway, and a magnificent in-ground pool in the yard. The house had the luxury of an

Dr. Yoffa

Dr. Annie Yoffa lived as a hermit in a tent on a bush block on the lower side of Mountain Highway in The New Mystic Lake Estate near where Tobruk Ave meets Mountain Highway.

She was part of the Yoffa Hosiery family whose knitting mills were ravaged by fire in 1963.

She lived in St. Kilda before deciding to become a hermit, then moved to Mt Martha and then to The Basin. By then she was in her 60s.

A well educated and highly intelligent woman, she claimed to be making a scientific study of the effect of discomfort on the mentally strong, and the possibility of survival among the natural elements. She lived in squalid conditions and kept her fingers supple (she was an accomplished surgeon) by tearing quantities of paper into small squares. She made little effort to clear the property and the Council had numerous complaints about the masses of strewn newspapers.

She was not destined to complete her study as she was killed by a psychiatric case who had sought her assistance. She was beaten to death in 1959 by Maxwell Victor Jones. He was convicted, ending up in an Ararat institution for the criminally insane. A violent end to a brilliant but lonely woman.

At the time of Dr. Yoffa's death, Mrs Stella Patrone was walking her dog Monty along the roadway adjacent to Dr. Yoffa's camp. Mrs Patrone noticed Monty's apparent intuition something was wrong as his hair stood on end and his walk was stilted as they passed by the camp.

Dr. Yoffa's body was discovered a few days later.

inside toilet, and a second water tank for making hot running water.

The house at position 6 on Mountain Highway was first owned by the Robinson family who moved to Upwey. The house was sold to Les and Shirley Yardley. They commenced building another house between position 6 and Alamein Avenue entrance. An area was flattened and 10 concrete steps were built (still visible in 2025) up to what would have been the front door. They abandoned the project when news of the Government reclaiming properties was made known They subsequently moved to Albert Ave Boronia, and when Les passed away young, Shirley moved to QLD. They were good neighbours, forever helpful with all manner of construction, gardening, maintenance and just good old fashioned help

The house at position 7 was built by Mr Hook. In 2025 it is the only house left on the New Mystic Lake Estate.

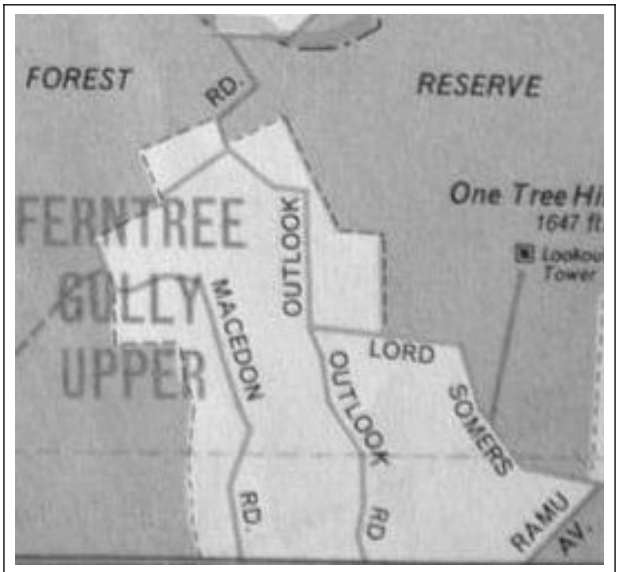
The house at position 8 was a weekender built by Bob and Dot Farish of Footscray.

In the 1960s, the Government, under pressure from groups promoting the "*Save The Dandenongs*" theme, restricted any further development in the estate and began progressively buying back properties, demolishing any buildings, and incorporating the land into the Ferntree Gully National Park.

The house at position 2 was partially damaged in the 1962 bushfires and gutted in the 1968 bushfires. No other house was damaged by the many bushfires over the years.

Apart from the house at position 7, all other properties have been reclaimed by the Government.

Gates were erected in 1994 to bar private vehicle access into the area once the New Mystic Lake Estate. For walkers, many visible signs of past development such as levelled cuttings, rock walls, tracks into blocks and some exotic trees still exist.



Princes Alexandrina Estate roads shown in Melways c1964.

Spencer Jackson created other Estates in areas including Sherbrooke Forest Estate, Forest Road Estate (The Basin), and Warrawing Extension Estate (South Belgrave).

Look Out Estate

Promoted as "*Murphy's Look Out Estate*", it was offered for sale in 1920. Soon after his death, part of William Murphy's land at One Tree Hill was subdivided into 73 mountain home sites. It included the roads Mount Erin Road, Janesdell Avenue, Mount View Road and Seabreeze Avenue.

The advertisements touted:

"*Almost on the summit of One Tree Hill. Adjoining Mrs Murphy's Mount Erin Tea Gardens, and close to the Government Lookout Tower. One of the best known and most desirable positions in the mountains*"

Princes Alexandrina Estate

Promoted by Spencer Jackson using the company name "*Mount Dandenong Estates Proprietary Limited*", 162 blocks of land in this estate were offered for sale in 1953.

The estate extended from One Tree Hill down Outlook Track, to the top of The New Mystic Lake Estate, meeting Tobruk Avenue. Other roads in the estate were Macedon Road (in 2025 Track), View Road (in 2025 Track) and Ramu Avenue.

The brochure touted headings such as:

"*Big Land Sale at*
FERNY CREEK"
"*SPENCER JACKSON THROWS OPEN THE MOST MAGNIFICENT SCENIC VISTAS IN VICTORIA ON THE*
PRINCESS ALEXANDRINA ESTATE"
"*162 Hilltop, Sea-View Home Sites*"
"*"All Weather" Metalled Roads*"
"*"Green Belt" Protects your Privacy*"
"*It's the Last Big Investment Estate in the Dandenongs*"

Around 40 blocks were purchased, and a few houses erected.

On the northwest corner of the T-intersection of Ramu Avenue and Outlook Track was once the house of Senator Button, a senior minister in the Hawke and Keating Labor governments. A white house with blue/red trimming timber home in good condition and striking appearance.

Built in the late 1970s, on the East side of Outlook Track, about 150 m north from the intersection of Ramu Avenue, was a 2-3 bedroom brick home, quite modern and out of character with the other weekender/holiday styled homes.

Along the North side of Ramu Ave from the corner

of Outlook Rd, were about 5 very basic cement-sheet dwellings occupied by a number of low-income families of European decent, possibly refugees from war-time days.

By late 1970s, all land in the estate had been acquired by the Government, buildings demolished, and all land incorporated into the National Park.

See map on page 69.

Goodwin

The land with streets Basin Court, St Ives Court, Goodwin Street, Snow Court, Gravenstein Crescent, Democrat Drive, Pippin Court, Rome Beauty Avenue, and Yates Court was subdivided and sold commencing in 1971.

This land first belonged to James John Miller as Crown allotment 71. The bank foreclosed on Miller in 1899 and subdivided the land in 1906. William Chandler purchased lot 2 of 50 acres from the bank in 1907 (See map on page 17) which included James John Millers first residence. William died in 1911.

On 20th June 1913, in accordance with William's will, lot 2 was transferred by his executors to his daughters Esther Marion Goodwin, of Horsham, wife of Frank Goodwin of Horsham, Minister of The Church of Christ, and Kitty Chandler, of Point Lonsdale, Spinster, as tenants in common as shown in instrument 717065. Esther Chandler had married Franklin (Frank) John Goodwin in 1910. They had eight children.

In 1918, Esther and Kitty agreed to subdivide a section of lot 2 along Mountain Highway into 15 blocks and split ownership of the remaining land into two equal parcels.

Ownership of the two parcels changed several times and were at times owned by Franklin John, Leslie Albert and Walter (Wally) James Goodwin. They were named as market gardeners and orchardists on the titles. In 1958, Wally secured titles to both parcels and continued to run the orchard.

In 1970, Wally subdivided the land into 193 blocks, and sold them commencing in 1971. Most of the street names are apple varieties because Wally grew apples. Gravenstein's reserve was included in the subdivision. Prices per block were in the $3,000 to $4,000 range. The land sale included a covenant that only a residential dwelling could be erected.

When the land was subdivided, Knox Council intended to extend Stuart Street to join Rome Beauty Avenue, making a through road. Local residents lobbied Knox Council to not join the road. This was successful, and the road was left blocked, making space for Goodwin Estate Kindergarten car parking.

Stanley Street Area

This land first belonged to James John Miller as Crown allotment 71. The bank foreclosed on Miller in 1899 and subdivided the land. See page 17. William Henry Jackson purchased lots 3 and 4 of the subdivision.

Owners changed, and in 1944 Stanley William Ralph Farmer and Eileen Gracier Ralph Married Woman both of Mountain Highway The Basin became owners as shown in instrument number 2019365. In 1950, they subdivided part of the property creating 26 blocks.

In 1961, blocks 14 to 20 at the end of Stanley Street were purchased by De Pellegrin (Master Builders) Proprietary Limited of 104 Miller Street Preston from Ralph for 1,841 pounds as shown in instrument number B211648. These blocks were acquired in 1971 by The City of Knox. In 1974, the southern end of Stanley Street was also acquired by The City of Knox. These two parcels of land became the George Grumont Reserve.

Land to the south of Stanley Street was purchased by "*Winby Pty Ltd of 20 Station Street Bayswater*" in 1973. They subdivided in 1980 and 1982 creating 62 blocks with Winby and Lorna Courts, and extending Democrat Drive.

The subdivision included a section of land acquired by The City of Knox for the Winby Court Reserve.

Stanley Street was named after Stanley William Ralph who subdivided the area with has wife Eileen Gracier. Winby Court was named after the company Winby Pty Ltd who subdivided the area.

Corner of Forest Road and Old Forest Road.

This land first belonged to James John Miller as part of Crown allotment 74. See page 18. The bank foreclosed on Miller in 1899 and subdivided the land into 11 Lots.

Lot 11 of 48 acres was purchased by George Albert Jones. He sold it to Frank Gordon Grumont who subdivided the land into 3 parcels. In 1919, Blanche Gertrude Pascoe-Webbe purchased a triangular 5 acre parcel on the corner of what in 2025 is Forest and Old Forest Roads extending nearly to Harrison Street.

In 1924, she subdivided the land into 18 blocks. Sales were poor. A few blocks were sold in 1924, but the last sale was not until 1936.

Mountain Gateway Estate

Released in 1997, the Mountain Gateway Estate was the first major housing subdivision of land purchased by the Salvation Army in 1897.

Situated between The Basin Primary School and the Water Tank in Mountain Highway, 63 home sites were offered at an average price of $66,500.

Mount View Estate

Offered for sale in 2017, this estate was on land formerly the site of Locksley Textiles and later Lowline Industries on Mountain Highway. Twenty-two lots were offered for sale at prices around $400,000. All lots were fully underground serviced with made roads.

Roads

Early Roads around The Basin

The Basin was a natural route for early settlers, timber workers and explorers to pass through on their way to the top of The Dandenongs. Consequently, many early tracks passed through The Basin.

The first track to the top of the Dandenongs used by Europeans was known as the "*Bullock Track*". It passed through The Basin and was created in the late 1840s. It was used by early botanists, settlers and timber workers and followed the route of the roads in 2025 known as Ridge Track and Range Road.

In 1867, the Government instructed John Hardy to survey the Dandenong Ranges to preserve sections of it as a forest. Hardy created a detailed map of The Dandenong State Forest which included details of tracks and huts around The Basin (see map on page 14).

The tracks marked on Hardy's map had been in existence for some time before Hardy created the map, and the location of the tracks correlates with what is known of early tracks through The Basin.

On Hardy's map, a dray track starts below land marked "*Turner*" and then heads east splitting into two tracks, each following a ridge to the top of the mountain. The northern track was first known as the "*Bullock Track*" and follows the route of what later became Ridge Track and Range Road.

Range Road and Ridge Track are the easterly extension of Doongalla Road and originally ran through to Olinda. It was open until about 1990, when the section through the National Park was closed. In 2025, the Olinda end of Range Road is still accessible down to the National Park.

The name "*Range Road*" is contracted from "*Holden's Range*", the name of a forest area in Olinda first worked by George Holden and his two sons, Mark and Luke, in the 1850s and continuing for over fifty years. They worked under license felling giant mountain ash and splitting them into palings. In the 1880s, their base was the site of Olinda township, originally known as "*Holden's Hut*". The forest area they worked was known as "*Holden's Range*". They carted timber down through The Basin along the Bullock track, also known as "*Holden's Track*" or "*Holden's Road*", later known as Range Road.

William Turner Senior, resident in The Basin in the 1850s, and also involved in timber cutting, would have known George Holden because they were the only timber cutters in the area.

The southern track on Hardy's map follows the route of what was once called Cobblestone Road later and Hilton Road (now closed) to Ferny Creek. Not shown on this map, as it came later, was the Old Coach Road which branched off Cobblestone Road and headed up to Sassafras.

Other dray tracks start above Watson's land and head north and east.

In the early days, The Basin served as the source for the major tracks servicing Olinda, Sassafras (Old Coach Road) and Ferny Creek (Cobblestone Road).

Along the Old Coach Road is a section of track once known as "*McClare's Hill*" (see map on page 40) from the property it used to pass through and owned by John McClare. This section of road was annexed from McClares property after a submission to the Minister of Lands by 45 landholders whose properties were above McClares property in and around Sassafras. They were concerned they had limited access to their properties and the road from Bayswater should be extended up to Sassafras.

The thick bushland provided excellent cover for illicit stills, one situated near McClare's property. It was a popular coach stopping point for those on route to the hill tops, as the slope up the hill to McClare's property was steep, and some coach passengers walked the section.

The route of the once called Cobblestone Road crosses Mountain Highway about halfway between The Basin and Sassafras on a sharp bend and continues on to Ferny Creek as Hilton Road. It was used as a coach and mail route until Mountain Highway was finished in the mid 1920s. In 2025, both Cobblestone and Hilton Roads are closed through the National Park and Cobblestone Road is now Hilton Road.

The name "*Cobblestone*" was given because some steeper sections had a unique construction. Cobblestones between 6 and 11 inches in diameter hand laid in uniform lines as the base foundation, dressed with smaller metals and screenings; a unique construction. A case was put to a meeting between The Basin Progress Association and Shire Councillors for the roads' preservation, but it was not pursued. When the road was closed, the cobblestones were recovered.

The Old Coach Road was shown in the first maps of The Basin area in the 1860s. It was most likely originally formed as dray tracks used by the first settlers gaining

Jock Manson

Jock Manson was an interesting character who lived alone in a pair of makeshift one room "*sheds*" in Inverness Ave directly opposite where Alamein Ave meets Mountain Highway. His house had no floors and was strewn with papers.

Jock suffered a major tragedy experiencing the death of all his brothers and sisters (in the order of 6 or more) who were shot to death whilst he sheltered under a bed during the War.

He lived by himself and had a number of goats on his property. He was always approachable and was a stonemason who built many a chimney for the local residents and a church in Olinda. He was often seen walking to Boronia with his Gladstone bag.

Before he died in 1987, he was supported to stay in his own home by friends, neighbours and the City of Knox Community Services.

access to their land. It was used for a time as a coach route to Sassafras. A 1919 map shows this road as one of the major routes from The Basin to the top of the Dandenongs. In 2025, the road is blocked by gates where it passes through the National Park.

The Basin-Olinda Road is shown on old maps as taking a relatively direct route to Olinda and terminating near the Olinda township. However, it was never more than a pack horse track past Hazel Dell. Around 1940s, the section past Hazel Dell was rerouted and constructed as a gravel track to Olinda, crossing and following Range Road for a few hundred metres and terminating opposite the Mt Dandenong Hotel. It was originally known as "*Old Shanks Road*" but when first constructed it was never finished. In a 1947 newspaper article, The Bayswater Progress Association was seeking cooperation of The Basin Progress Association in the completion of Old Shanks Road to Olinda.

Planning and land purchase for Mountain Highway (first called the 1 in 20 because it was the gradient engineers made the road between The Basin and Sassafras) commenced as early as the 1880s. Although the Highway was officially gazetted in 1899, the map of land James Griffiths took over from William Tyner in 1888 shows a dotted path of the Highway through the land, although this may have been added later.

The primary survey for Mountain Highway was made in 1914. Construction commenced in 1920 and was finished in 1925 as a gravel road. The Chandlers Hill Estate land brochure of 27th July 1920 shows the new Mountain road bisecting the estate and states: *"... £3,000 is now to be spent on deviating..."* It was sealed in late 1936. Since then, various sections have been upgraded. When first constructing The Basin end of Mountain Highway, screenings were transported up the Cobblestone Road in drays with steel wheels. The metal was rolled in using horse-drawn rollers pulled by three horses. At the end of road, the horses were hooked at the other end of the roller for the return journey.

Government Roads

When land was first surveyed and allocated Crown allotment numbers, roads were required to access the land. These roads were initially named Government Roads and can be seen on early titles.

Forest Road was first sealed in the 1930s and upgraded between Boronia Road and Mountain Highway in 1971. The section between Church Street and Mountain Highway was upgraded in 1983.

Road Name Changes

Many roads had their names changed over the years. Some even been renamed twice or more!

Mountain Highway was first known through Bayswater as Rourke's Road after Hugh and Henry Rourke who had the "*Dandenong Creek Run*" from 1843 to 1853. It was first marked out in the 1850s. The road continued to The Basin and was known as The Basin Road.

In 1886, James John Miller requested Berwick Shire Council to change The Basin Road to Bayswater Road which they agreed to. Various subdivisions around the 1920s called Bayswater Road Mountain Highway. When Bayswater Road was extended from The Basin to Sassafras, it was locally referred to as the "*1 in 20 Road*" because of the road gradient. In the New Mystic Lake subdivision it was called the Wantirna Sassafras Road. The Basin-Olinda Road was also part of Bayswater Road.

The section of Forest Road between Wright Street and Mountain Highway was created in the Forest Heights Estate in the 1920s. It was originally called New Forest Road but later changed to Forest Road.

Church Street was created in Chandlers Hill Estate and first called Forest Road Extension. Its name changed to Church Street in 1966. Church Street was not originally connected to Mountain Highway.

Old Forest Road was originally marked as a Government Road, which ran up the hill then part way along what in 2025 is Toorak Avenue and then down across Mountain Highway (which did not exist then) ending at the Basin-Olinda Road. At the instigation of The Basin Progress Association in 1969, the section of road between Basin-Olinda Road and Mountain Highway was renamed Wicks Road and where Wicks Road connects to Mountain Highway, it was blocked to vehicle traffic. The section of road between Mountain Highway and Toorak Avenue was also blocked to vehicle traffic.

Old Forest Road and Nyora Avenue were marked on survey maps and early titles as Government Roads.

Pavitt Lane was first known as Woodhouse Road, then Fern Glen Road (after a request from Professor Miller to the Berwick Shire Council) as the road led to the Doongalla property first known as Fern Glen. The 1897 Salvation Army title for Crown allotments 72A, A, and 53 has the road marked as Army Lane. Other names were Bruce's Road, Boundary Lane, Kerrs Lane and Pigs Lane (from the Salvation Army pig farm alongside the road).

Part of Liverpool Road was first known as Woodhouse Road from Mountain Highway to Fern Glen Road.

Shanks Road is mentioned in Council correspondence in the 1940s and 1950s. It was formerly the Bullock Track from The Basin to Olinda.

Sources of Information

- "*The Basin Centenary Booklet*" by Ron Ikin.
- "*Fire on the Hill, Flowers on the Valley*" by Rick Coxhill.
- "*History of Croydon*" and "*Founder of the*

Dandenongs" by Muriel McGivern for information on William Turner.

- Interviews with Muriel McGivern for information on William Turner.
- "*Story of the Dandenongs*" by Helen Coulsen for information on William Turner and early roads.
- "*Rural Industries in the Port Phillip Region*" Lynette J Peel for information on Counties and Parishes.
- Knox Historical Society for Estate brochures.
- Berwick Shire Council minutes for information on road names changes.
- Residents at the time of writing and former residents. George Grumont for Cobblestone Road construction information. Frank Parr, Len Herbert and Graeme Linaker for Ravine road information. Bill and Gary Pope for New Mystic Lake Estate information. Jim and Barbara Stephens for general help and information.
- Knox Newsletters for Local Government information.
- Electoral redistributions from the Commonwealth of Australia publication for information on House of Representative Electorates.
- "*Tea and Charity*" The Life and Times of James Griffiths Tea Merchant and Philanthropist by Volkhard Wehner for information on James Griffiths and Ferndale.
- Land selection records from the Public Records Office for early road information.
- Trove for newspaper articles.
- Landata for title and subdivision information.

At the Ferntree Gully council meeting on Saturday it was decided to impose the dog tax throughout the shire, and Mr. G. A. Lovell was appointed inspector. A new main road is to be made to Olinda from the Bayswater-road through what is known as the old bullock track. The Government has allotted £300 for the work, which is to be subsidised by local land-interested owners and the council.

HEIFERS SHOT DEAD

OLINDA.—Two heifers belonging to Mr. F. W. Stewart, dairymen, were found dead in an enclosed paddock on Shank's road. They had been shot in the head. The police are making inquiries.

AUCTION SALES

Estates Passed In

Ferndale, in the Dandenong Ranges, at Bayswater, for many years the home of the late Mr. and Mrs. James Griffiths, was offered at auction yesterday. The property included 320 acres, a large portion of which had been laid out in gardens. More than £40,000 is said to have been spent on improvements. The house contains more than 17 main rooms, and has its own water, sewerage, and electric supply services.

The highest bid for the property as a whole was £5,750, and for the house with 32 acres was £3,750. The bids were below the reserve, and the property was passed in. The Hilton estate of 22 acres adjoining was also passed in at £550.

The auctioneer was George M. Hume Pty. Ltd., of Manchester Unity Buildings.

Action Wanted on Shank's Road

At the Bayswater Progress Association's last meeting i was decided to seek the co-operation of The Basin Progress Association for the purpose of combined action in seeking completion of the old Shanks Road.

Started 26 years ago, it is felt that some effort should be made to complete the road. That portion which is in the Ferntree Gully Shire is metalled and now requires re-metalling and sealing.

From the point near which it becomes part of the Lilydale Shire it is still a bush road, formerly known as the old Bullock Road, which leads to Olinda, terminating somewhere near what is known as the Mt. Dandenong Hotel.

Application by both associations is anticipated, and an early move is to be made to approach the councils concerned.

SHIRE OF FERN TREE GULLY

Unsafe Bridges — Attention is drawn to the reduced load bearing capacity of timber bridges as follows —Bridge over Dandenong Creek near Mr Bert Chandler's. The Basin; culvert over drain. Wellington rd, Rowville, west of Stud road. It is recommended that load limits be imposed as follows—over Dandenong Ck 15 cwt per wheel. over culvert 10 cwt per wheel. The replacement of the latter will become urgent if the metal traffic from quarries at Lysterfield continue, and as 48-in reinforced concrete pipes should be used, the work should be done during the summer: estimated cost £80.

The weight limits were approved; bridge at culvert to be constructed; and report to be submitted for reconstruction of bridge at The Basin.

Augusta road Extension, The Basin —This extension, by way of Stuart street to the Forest road appears to be desirable, and should be effected before the required land is built on. It is recommended that lot 38 of lodged plan 11055 be acquired from the owners (Conyers & Harrison).

Left in the hands of the Engineer and Secretary.

ONE IN TWENTY ROAD.

NEW WALK IN THE HILLS.

By GARRETT J. RUSSELL.

There is no finer outing than a walk along the road known throughout the Ferntree Gully Shire as the One in Twenty road. This road, which is purely a municipal undertaking, was commenced about four years ago, and the formation was completed during the present winter. Councillor A. E. Chandler, M.L.C., conceived the idea many years ago, and, nothing daunted by many discouragements, persisted in his effort to procure a survey. Residents of Sassafras, seized of the importance of such a road to the district, supported the proposal enthusiastically, and a large sum of money was promised upon its completion. Now the road is an accomplished fact, and if metalled would prove a delight to the motorist.

The visitor should take train to Upper Ferntree Gully, going thence by car to Sassafras, and, starting from the Mechanics' Hall, in the centre of the village, begin his walk. The pen cannot do justice to the many charms of the scenery. The panorama of settled land to the west and north, the entrancing tints of greens and purples and browns, the delightful cloud effects, the splashes of sunlight, the song of birds, the occasional crash through the scrub of a wallaby, all add to the delight of the walk. At one point the Macedon range comes into view, then Mount Karnehiary, at Daylesford; Mount Buninyong, and the You Yangs. The next turn reveals the Plenty Ranges, and nearer still The Ridge, hiding Mount Dandenong.

Leaving the village the road branches directly from the old Bayswater road, and, in serpentine curves, skirts McClair's Hill, where one looks down on the lower road. Crossing the creek, the road skirts the base of the Hilton estate, passing through the magnificent property of the late Mr. James Griffiths. Coming to Griffiths's Creek, the road takes a wide loop turn, and one looks down upon the water supply erected many years ago to serve the Ferndale homestead, a small concrete weir, hidden by overhanging foliage. The air is pungent with the scent of peppermint gums. It is a delightful spot in which to rest. Passing on, still winding, the road passes through a settlement known once as Switzerland, but now called Somerville Park. Here are many small week-end homes, clustered amid flowering acacia, gums, and heath. The road is now approaching the foothills, and the beauty of the hills gives place to abundant wild-flowered slopes. The road forks here, the branch to the left going on until it joins the lower road, and leads to the Boronia railway station, which is just inside the 20-mile radius from the city. The right fork comes out at a little store at the junction of the Bayswater road, at The Basin Post-office. Either branch will bring the traveller into pretty country, and the return journey may be made from either Boronia or Bayswater.

A grade of 1 in 20 is an engineering feat of some importance. Someone has said that the Dandenong Ranges should never have been settled, but should have been held as a heritage for the people for all time. Certainly, the whole of the land bounding this glorious road for at least three chains on each side should be held as a national park, and the State should take over the maintenance of the road. It is certain to be popular among walkers, and in dry weather the motorist will be able to traverse it. The late Mr. James Griffiths urged that the road be widened sufficiently for car traffic, and this has been done.

Chapter 3 Houses and Camps

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Summary

"*Fern Glen*" or "*The Basin Bower*" was built by John M. Bruce in the 1880s. It was damaged by flood in 1891.

"*Doongalla*", built by Sir Matthew Davies in 1892, was the most lavish house built in The Basin and would have cost millions of dollars in 2025. It was destroyed by bushfire in 1932.

"*Ferndale*", built by James and Emily Griffiths in 1888, was a large Swiss style house with extensive gardens and farm areas. The property supported a large work force for many years. The house was destroyed by bushfire in 1962.

"*Melrose*" or "*Millers Homestead*", built by James John Miller in 1888, is a good example of the Victorian style houses built in the boom era of the 1880s. Millers Homestead was purchased by the City of Knox in the 1970s.

"*Como*" was William and Kate Chandler's second home constructed in 1878. It was demolished in the 1960s to make way for another house.

"*Glen Elbourne*", situated on the Basin-Olinda Road near Hazel Dell, was well known for its three hectares of botanic gardens. In the 1930s, the property won the "*best garden in the mountain district*" for three years in succession.

"*Cleve House*", later known as "*Clevedon*", was built in 1893 by Percivil Chandler for his uncle Robert Charles Chandler on 35 acres of land bordering Mountain Highway. It later became a guest house, then a camp and later a school. The main house was destroyed by fire in 1972.

"*Hazel Dell*", on The Basin-Olinda Road, was built in the 1880s by T. W. Hodgson and Sutherland for use as a homestead. It later became a guest house and then a camp. The camp stopped running in 1998.

"*Boyup*" was a popular guest house in the 1920s. Located in Mountain Highway on land above the stone wall (before the last bus stop),

The Seventh Day Adventist Youth Club, on The Basin-Olinda road, was conceived by H. J. Meyers and built in 1937. It closed in 1999 as a Youth Club and was purchased by the Romanian Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Ferndale Camp, situated midway along Ferndale Road, operated for about 30 years under the auspices of The Congregational Church before closing in 1992. The buildings were removed, and the land returned to the National Park.

Beauty of The Basin

When The Basin celebrated its Centenary in 1967, the town came alive with amazing exhibitions of a remarkable variety of skills and interests, a close knit community with an extraordinary village quality where everyone knew one another. The Basin Progress Hall was the hub, with the Post Office and shops gathered around it. It remains so today. The same roadside oak trees shelter a delightful park.

The beautiful view across the Salvation Army's farm flats remains unspoilt. The deep hollow which gave The Basin its name sweeps uphill to the Mt. Dandenong TV towers, silhouetted against the sky. At all times of the day the changing angle of the sun beautifies this tranquil scene. The ancient oak on the creek side grows serenely on, sheltering the occasional luncheon or a painter with his easel.

Perhaps the roundabout, in bringing greater safety to the junction of the three roads, making the greatest visual change from the old times, introduced a feature of orderly supervision.

Even waters of the Hughes Creek which meanders through the Army flats have been gently curbed to be most beautifully restrained at the retarding basin in Liverpool Road. The delightful park like surrounds to this water bird haven are a pride and inspiration to all residents and visitors, providing vistas of water, treed meadows, and the Dandenong Ranges, clothed in their natural unbroken forest overlooking this wonderful foothills haven.

The population has grown considerably over the last quarter of a century, but the new homes have been absorbed into the leafy roads with little devastation of the foothills aspect.

May The Basin always retain this peacefulness, and resist the urban sprawl upon its doorstep

Written by Edna Chandler

Introduction

The unique location of The Basin inspired the building of many luxurious homes and bush based camps. Most of the original homes have been destroyed by fire and all camps closed.

Miller's Homestead

Miller's Homestead ("*Melrose*") is located on the corner of Melrose Court and Dorrigo Drive, Boronia. It was built in 1888 on Crown allotment 64 as the second country residence of James John Miller and his family (see page 16).

Crown allotment 64, of 77 acres, bounded by Miller Road, Mountain Highway and Albert Avenue, was first selected by James John Miller's brother, Frederick Richard Miller. He was granted a license in 1872, later a lease, but fell behind in payments. He died in June 1875. James John Miller paid the arrears, took over the lease as administrator of the estate, and secured title in 1881.

The stuccoed dwelling, which replaced an 1870s house on Crown allotment 71, is believed to be designed by English architect Thomas Hunter. Miller occupied the house until about 1893.

A tourist guide described Melrose thus:

"*Of the house itself it may be truly said to be quite up to the requirements of anyone possessing a cultivated taste for beauty, convenience, snugness and true sanitary conditions. It is of brick, of chaste design, and replete with every appliance which in these times is deemed essential to health, and that ample means can supply. The house, situated on rising land, commands a magnificent view of surrounding lands and hills*".

The homestead is a good example of the Victorian style houses built in the boom era of the 1880s. The house has high ceilings and simple lines with a stately elegance about it. A central passageway runs the length of the house from front to back, with all rooms feeding off the passageway. The front rooms are symmetrical about the passageway with doors opening outside onto a verandah wrapping around the front half of the building. An underground wine cellar is located at the rear of the house. Some windows are original stained-glass, thought to have been brought out from England. Period chandeliers (converted to electric) are in some rooms. The original windmill and well stand on the front lawn, but the well has been covered for safety reasons with a pond constructed over the top of the well.

James John Miller had financial problems in the late 1880s, and in 1889 he mortgaged Crown allotment 64 to the London Chartered Bank of Australia. They foreclosed on the property in 1899 and took possession.

From about 1899 to 1906, the Salvation Army leased the house and property from the bank, referring to it as "*Millers Estate*". It was used as a Boys Home for school aged boys.

John Lincoln Yeadon purchased Crown allotment 64 of 77 acres from the bank on 24th January 1907 for 1,150 pounds as shown in instrument number 548787.

The property was first named "*Melrose*" by Yeadon. He used this name when he lived there in 1908 in a letter to the Board of Education regarding a new fence at The Basin Primary School. Yeadon was a member of the school Board of Advice for many years.

Yeadon established a quarry on 6 acres of the land fronting Mountain Highway. Rate Books for the Shire of Fern Tree Gully show rates paid on the 6 acres.

Yeadon mortgaged the property in 1911 and the bank subdivided part of it in 1914. Subsequent land sales were by the bank as proprietor of the mortgage.

On 2nd September 1912, the Shire of Ferntree Gully purchased a 2 acre parcel fronting Miller Road as shown in instrument number 690458. This parcel of land is shown on the 1914 subdivision as a quarry It was purchased by Ronald Keith Finger of Melrose The Basin, Orchardist, in 1941 as shown in instrument number 1804157. He it sold to Churchill Estates Pty. Ltd in 1959

On 7th October 1916, Samuel Collier purchased a parcel of 39 acres consisting of 26 subdivided blocks for 350 pounds as shown in instrument number 812379.

On 24th June 1918, John Gavin Henderson of Bayswater, Farmer, purchased a parcel of 31 acres as shown in instrument number 847922.

John and Serena Henderson planted an apple and pear orchard. The Hendersons are mentioned numerous times in Janet Dobsons diary. Their children were Gertrude who married Albert Kleinert, Ronald, Basil, Merryl and Aura who married Keith Finger. All children were adopted. The last three are recorded as attending The Basin Primary School.

Richard Keith Finger purchased the Henderson property in 1944 and sold to Churchill Estates Pty. Ltd in 1959.

Since then, surrounding land was sold and subdivided into residential blocks and land around Melrose gradually reduced in size.

The property was classified by the National Trust in 1968.

In the late 1970s "*Melrose*" was purchased by the City of Knox as part of the "*open space*" contribution when the land was subdivided for residential use.

The house was in a state of disrepair and in need of restoration. The Government of the day was investing money into several training schemes to teach people some lost skills. It was the money from two of these schemes which enabled the homestead to be restored to its former glory. The only cost to council for these extensive restorations was a supervisory role to ensure the historical aspects of the house were maintained. The gardens were carefully restored with a camellia walk as an integral part.

When completely restored, the house was to be hired for public functions. Sometime between 1994 and 1999

it became difficult to hire Melrose despite being shown on the internet as being available for hire. The homestead fell into disrepair purely because of the lack of use and the failure of Council to maintain this community gem.

In 2018, the City of Knox declared the site surplus, after weighing up the events held there against the cost of keeping it open. Maintenance costs were expected to reach $30,000 a year for the next 5 years. Any sale of the property would include provisions preventing subdivision, ensure the site was only used for residential purposes, and heritage values maintained.

After a public backlash, the City of Knox formally revised its decision and opened up consultation seeking community uses.

Fern Glen

On the 22nd of March 1878, George Williamson Bruce applied for a nonresident license to occupy 237 acres of steep land below Mount Dandenong. He was granted a license for the land later surveyed as Crown allotment 55 in the Parish of Mooroolbark, County of Mornington.

See page 34 for more information about George Williamson Bruce.

On 1st January 1885, he was granted a lease, stating improvements of a 10 room 35 feet by 35 feet wood and brick house, a 4 room 20 feet by 15 feet house, a 1-room house 10 feet by 12 feet, stables and a shed. He had 20 acres of grass, 25 acres under cultivation and an orchard of 5 acres.

Newspaper reports of the day indicate George Bruce and his brother John entertained guests at a "*Fern Glen*" residence as early 1883 and as late as 1889. The reports also variously cite George or John as the owner of Fern Glen. However, given George had developed his housing earlier than John, and it was larger, it is presumed the 10 room 35 feet by 35 feet wood and brick house mentioned in his lease application became known as "*Fern Glen*".

The "*Visitor's Guide to Ringwood and Upper Yarra District*" in 1889 had a long, detailed, elaborate and enthusiastic description of the "*Mountain Home of Messrs J Bruce*" with statements such as:

"*The pretty Swiss like chalet stands well above the mountain runnel which sparkles and leaps over the stones and logs that form its bed."*

"The house combines all the requirements of a pleasant and even luxurious home. It is roomy and airy for summer temperatures, yet snug and comfortable for

Fern Glen or The Basin Bower Circa 1890. This photo shows only part of the house because tourist guides of the time described a much larger building.
Photo courtesy Knox Historical Society

chilly winter, and has a verandah which at any time can be converted into a ballroom or a dining or smoking hall for a hundred guests."

The garden had trees, shrubs, and flowers of many and exotic kinds. There was an orchard with apples, pears, plums, peaches, walnuts and chestnuts. A pathway led to Mt. Corhanwarrabul with occasional rustic seats, steps cut in logs and small bridges.

On 21st January 1891, the Member of Parliament and land boomer, Sir Matthew Davies, Speaker of The Legislative Assembly, purchased Crown allotment 55 from George Bruce along with other properties. See the "*Doongalla*" section on page 80 for more details.

He renamed Fern Glen to "*Invermay*" and used it as his country residence. As reported in part in the Age (Melbourne) 10th February 1890:

"The delegates to the Federation Conference were on Saturday entertained by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly at his country residence, Invermay, in the Dandenong Ranges… The spot chosen has somewhat of an intercolonial fame, seeing that its former owner, Mr George Bruce…"

It had been reported from various sources that Invermay ("*Fern Glen*") was destroyed by heavy rain in 1891. Flooding rain causing some "*land slips*" in the Dandenongs as reported in some newspapers.

On Saturday 18th July 1891, the Oakleigh & Ferntree Gully Times newspaper reported:

"*The Flood*"

"*At Ferntree Gully a land slip occurred at the country seat of Sir Matthew Davies bringing down rocks, large trees, bathroom & outhouses, damages about 600 pounds. Cr. Chandler of Little The Basin, lost 3000 Camellia trees, 60 varieties of hyacinths, and other valuable plants, the nursery being completely ruined, estimated loss 200 pounds. Cr. J. T. Dobson's nursery sustained a very heavy loss of peach and other fruit trees, damage 200 pounds.*"

One of the "*outhouses*" mentioned above was an outdoor laundry.

On Wednesday 15th July 1891, The Age newspaper reported:

"Ferntree Gully Tuesday"

"A land slip at Sir M. H. Davies country residence, Bayswater, about 6 acres in extent, carried away 2 rooms, out houses and trees, doing about £600 worth of damage."

Sir Matthew Davies had taken ownership of both the Bruce brothers' properties sometime before the flood, and it is presumed it was "*Fern Glen*" damaged.

Doongalla

The western face of Mt. Corhanwarrabul, in 2025 known as the Doongalla Forest Reserve, was once the site of a magnificent mansion called "*Doongalla*". The Forest Reserve consists of Crown allotments first selected in the 1870s and 1880s. The Reserve extends from an elevation of 152 m to near Burke's Lookout (previously Barnes Lookout), elevation 628 m. Starting in the 1950s, the properties were reclaimed by the Government and Doongalla Forest Reserve created.

On the 23rd January 1891, the prominent lawyer, investor, Member of Parliament, and land boomer, Sir Matthew Davies, purchased the following Crown allotments (see map on page 39):

- **52.** First selected and licensed to T. Miller and then taken over by J. Topping and then by George Williamson Bruce. Freehold title granted to George Williamson Bruce on 17th December 1889.
- **54.** First selected by Samuel Collier of Macauley, Farmer, and freehold title granted on 27th January 1885. Michael Geraghty of Macauley, Farmer, purchased it from Collier on 1st March 1888 for 260 pounds as shown in instrument number 209523. George Williamson Bruce purchased it from Geraghty on 28th June 1889 for 1,309 pounds 13 shillings 9 pence as shown in instrument number 255752.
- **55.** First selected by George Williamson Bruce and freehold title granted on 6th July 1888.
- **56.** First selected and licensed to Henry Lum, but taken over by John Munro Bruce who was granted freehold title on 28th May 1889.

For Crown Allotments 52, 54 and 55, which were all owned by George Williamson Bruce, Davies paid 14,418 pounds as shown in instrument number 296244. For Crown allotment 56, owned by John Munro Bruce, Davies paid 4,332 pounds as shown in instrument number 296250.

All properties were mortgaged to The Bank of New South Wales. The titles refer to the proprietor as:

"Sir Matthew Henry Davies of 'Bracknell' Toorak Speaker of The Legislative Assembly of the Colony of Victoria."

On May 2, 1890, an advertisement appeared in the Argus (Melbourne) newspaper:

"Tenders are invited for the ERECTION of large country residence at Bayswater for Sir M. H. Davies."

The architects were William Edward Robertson and George Charles Inskip who were prominent architects.

Davies must have agreed to purchase the properties well before he officially paid, or he placed a deposit on them.

Purchasing the properties, and building a "*large country residence*", was an idea to eventually sell to the Government a country residence for the English Governor. However, his plans went astray as the

Local Doctor

They were pretty tough in the old days. For instance, a gardener at Doongalla wrote in his diary he was so worried about some stomach pains he decided to visit a doctor and promptly walked to Lilydale! The gardener was John Flenjar who lived in Upwey.

Governor's country residence was chosen to be at Macedon.

It is unknown who won the tender, but over the next year or two, the impressive house was erected. It was reputed to have cost 35,000 pounds (equivalent to about $6,000,000 in 2025). Davies had already renamed the "*Fern Glen*" residence he purchased from George Bruce to "*Invermay*".

Materials were carted to the house site on a wooden railed tramway constructed to the site from the corner of Pavitt Lane and Sheffield Road. Horses and bullocks would have pulled the tram. No trace of the tramway survives.

The rooms of the house were organised around a central courtyard with main rooms at the front, bedrooms on the wings, and kitchen, storeroom, servant's quarters and stables at the rear. Its 32 rooms were magnificent in every way. Exposed 355 mm x 153 mm Oregon beams protruded beneath the ceilings and rooms were panelled with polished Kauri, silky oak and blackwood, or in one room, imported French tiles screwed onto Oregon boards. The main building was clad in some of the finest machine made bricks from Croydon. The main building roof was slate, and the more lowly quarters in galvanised iron. This fabulous house had enormous cellars, including underground butcher's facilities and a large bell to summon workers. The kitchen and servants' quarters at the rear were made from concrete poured into formwork. A swimming pool was constructed and fed from the creek passing near the house.

It was during this era the wealthy sometimes gathered at Doongalla for a weekend. Food was plenty and wine flowed. The parties sometimes become so merry participants occasionally went for a moonlight swim in the swimming pool. Generally, it was the house parties people enjoyed. A highlight of many of these parties was recitations by Harry Chandler, whose services were called for at many functions throughout the hills.

Matthew Davies was a land developer and financier. He built a network of over 30 companies involved in borrowing money from the public to finance land deals. Some of these companies would buy and sell land several times between each other, vastly inflating the price and making large profits on paper without any money paid out. They could declare large dividends and pay large directors' salaries and yet own no tangible assets.

He was knighted for a donation of 10,000 pounds to a notable charity, but whose money he donated is not known. He was also involved in many projects to change the face of Melbourne such as the later dismantled Outer Circle Railway line.

More detailed information on Sir Matthew Davies can be found in numerous publications. In particular, "*The Land Boomers*", by Michael Cannon.

After the collapse of the land boom in 1892, Sir Matthew Davies was declared bankrupt and the Bank of New South Wales foreclosed his properties in June 1892 as recorded on the certificates of title. His debts totalled over 250,000 pounds as well as many secondary debts. The bank installed a caretaker to tend "*Doongalla*".

Matthew Henry Davies died on 26th November 1912.

The property remained idle but was still subjected to threats from bushfires as detailed in these extracts.

From Janet Dobsons Diary:

"***13 January 1905:*** *Joe went up to Dodds after dinner. The bush fire was all around their house. Joe stopped to help them, it was nearly five when he got home. The fire travelled down to Sir Matthews in the evening. There was about twenty men up there keeping the fire from the house. Some stayed all night, some of the sheds were burnt down. It is dreadful fire, it is coming down towards Jackson now.*"

"***30 January 1905:*** *Joe went up to Sir Matthews this afternoon. The Managers of the bank are going to pay all those who helped to keep back the bushfire and save the house. They got 30/- each. The weather changed on Saturday and it rained nearly all day Sunday.*"

The property was purchased on 9th June 1908 for 6,000 pounds (equivalent to about $800,000 in 2025) by Miss Helen Archbald Luke Simson of Trawalla, Toorak Road, Toorak, as shown in instrument number 573291. It was to be used as her country residence. She renamed her "*country mansion*" as "*Doongalla*" and employed the Box family as caretakers for the property. They stayed as caretakers until at least 1920, well after Miss Simson's death.

On 12th November 1908, she added to her land acquisitions by purchasing Crown allotment 60 from John Barns for 2,305 pounds as shown in instrument number 583525.

From 1909 onwards, she made substantial improvements to the property including fencing the house and grounds, building new servants' quarters, coachmen quarters, laundry, and a butcher's shop. She arranged extensive planting of rhododendrons, camellias and a magnificent lily garden near the house. Alterations were made to the upstairs section of the house and an electric light plant was installed. She had tracks constructed through the property to drive around with her mother in a pony cart. Terraces were built in the front of the house so guests could be entertained outdoors on a sunny day. A new water scheme, higher up the creek, served the house and grounds.

Harry Legg was employed by Miss Simson to do numerous tasks on the property. He kept a diary from 1910 to 1914 and mentions Doongalla, the mansion, terracing, constructing tracks and other tasks.

As an alternative to the old access road, Fern Glen Road, Miss Simson negotiated with the Chandlers, who owned Crown allotment 80, to purchase land for a road

The Apology

In 1935, most of Doongalla land was sold to the Smith Brothers and they installed a mill and logged the area. The logging was done under strict supervision of the Forest Commission.

Long after the Smith Brothers had left and Doongalla was under control of the Forest Commission, a pamphlet produced about Doongalla Reserve stated: "*During their period of ownership the Smith Brothers destroyed much of the natural beauty by putting in timber tracks, breaking fences and snigging with bullock teams down the graded tracks. Vandalism was also rife during this period and many of the garden shrubs and household effects disappeared."* Much of this was untrue, and when Roy Smith discovered what had been written, he approached the Forest Commission demanding an apology and withdrawal of the incorrect information. The Forest Commission agreed certain phrases in the pamphlet conveyed the wrong impression and the pamphlet was withdrawn and all copies destroyed.

from Doongalla Road into the property. Chandlers agreed, and on 12th March 1910, she paid 6 pounds six shillings and 3 pence as shown in instrument number 616157.

Tenders were invited to build the road via an advertisement in the Reporter (Box Hill) dated 22nd October 1909. She contracted John Yeadon to construct the road.

The land purchase gave her a "*right of carriageway*" through Crown allotment 80. This became the in 2025 road from Doongalla Road into the property called Simpsons Road The road was named after Miss Simson, but misspelled

To tend and upgrade her property and house, she employed men at 8 shillings per day when 5 shillings a day was the going rate. This attracted men from as far away as Monbulk, camping and returning home at weekends or walking to and from Monbulk. Invermay Road, in Monbulk, was the track of many Monbulk workers to and from Doongalla (formerly Invermay) and was so named.

Miss Simson was generous and community minded. As reported in The Reporter (Box Hill) newspaper at various times she:

- Made an offer to the local Shire to pay part of the cost of metallising a government road near her property.
- Published a letter of thanks and offered payment to those people who helped protect her property from a bushfire in 1912.
- Made various donations to community projects. For example, she donated 1 pound towards the cost of tree planting at Bayswater Park.

Miss Simson died from complications of cancer on 23rd June 1912 at the age of 55 and was buried in the Melbourne cemetery with her parents John and Margaret Simson. She had a will dated 16th May 1912, and had appointed her brother, Robert James Phillip Simson, and Lauchlan Kenneth Scobie MacKinnon (her sisters' husband), a solicitor, as trustees.

Miss Simson signed her will with an X. Her will was attested by her physician, Dr R H Morrison, and her nurse, Eileen King. In the grant of probate application, Dr Morrison explained why Miss Simson signed in this way.

"*...at the time of the execution of the said will was in full possession of her mental faculties but was suffering from cancer for which she had some time before been operated upon, and, as the result of such operation she was unable to use her right hand with which I believe she always wrote, and therefore signed the said will with her mark with her left hand..."*

In summary, her will had the following provisions:

- Bequeathed all her jewellery and other articles of personal ornament use or enjoyment to divide between her sisters (Mrs MacKinnon, Mrs Reynolds and Mrs Hake).
- Pecuniary legacies to the 4 members of the Box family who were the caretakers, to her chauffeur Richard Fortune who drove her 6 cylinder 20 HP Talbot motor vehicle (which Miss Simson bequeathed to her mother), her maid Annie Toohey and others.
- For her mother to use and occupy the property during her life or other such period.
- After her mother's death, the residue of property, investments, and income be held in trust for her nieces and nephews.
- After her mother's death, her sister, Margaret Jessie MacKinnon, be given the option of purchasing "*Doongalla*" at the probate valuation.

Other publications reported the property passed to her fifteen-year-old niece Margaret Flora MacKinnon, whose father was the prominent racing man, L. K. S. MacKinnon (and one of the trustees) and daughter of her sister. However, certificates of title for the properties do not show Miss MacKinnon as ever becoming the proprietor. Miss MacKinnon died on the 20th August 1919 from a pulmonary embolism after appendectomy. She was 22 years old.

Probate was recorded on the certificates of title on 9th August 1922, 10 years after probate was granted in the Supreme Court. The title is marked with a "*Red Ink*" alert, indicating there was something unusual about the transaction. The title's office were unable to provide information about the Red Ink alert.

In The Reporter (Box Hill) newspaper dated 28th June 1912, an advertisement for the sale of the "*Bonnie Doon*" property below Doongalla referred to Miss Simson's country mansion as "*Doutta Galla*" (see

Frank Grumont and Doongalla Burning

Frank Grumont was only sixteen when the bushfire threatened Doongalla. Bert Chandler drove Frank, his brother George, and others in his Morris Commercial truck to help fight the fire using knapsacks with water containers and hand pumps attached to them. Frank related to me by letter the fire was caused by a bird's nest in a vent and a spark set the house alight. It was well over 100°F (38° C) and the owner brought them beer chilled in a creek nearby.

Fergus Chandler and Doongalla Burning

I interviewed Fergus in 1992 about Doongalla. He was at Doongalla waiting with others and making preparations to protect the house from the bushfire.

Doongalla had a reticulated water supply and was well cleared. Fergus recalled commenting to another "*the house would be safe*".

Fergus recalled the bushfire was still some distance away when the top of the house suddenly erupted into flames, assumed to be from a cinder blown from the fire into a birds nest in a vent. Those in attendance fed hoses up the stairs but the hoses were not long enough to reach the source of the flames. It was quickly realised the house could not be saved, so some furniture and carpets were quickly removed from the house and placed on the large grass area in front of the house. The fire quickly took hold. Everyone was forced to flee the house and watch as it burnt to the ground. All remaining were the servant's quarters, and 13 chimneys.

Fergus encountered a gathering of newspaper reporters at the Doongalla main gate as he was leaving. He recalled reciting his version of the burning of Doongalla, but this was never reported in the press.

newspaper reference on page 100). The same advertisement also appeared in The Age on 4th July 1912. An earlier advertisement for a clearing sale at Bonnie Doon referred to "*Miss Simson's Mansion*"

These references to "*Doutta Galla*" were 4 years after Miss Simson purchased the property and soon after her death. Later references to the property used the name "*Doongalla*" including in the will of Miss Simson.

The above information, combined with the environmentally related improvements made to the property in the 4 years Miss Simson was there, indicate she may have used the name Doutta Galla at some stage. Doutta Galla means "*Place of Peace*" to the Indigenous Australians, and it is presumed Doongalla is a contraction of this term. The location of Doongalla was undoubtedly a place of peace. An alternative contraction of Doutta Galla is "*Dutigalla*", the name of the tribe of aborigines on the original Batman treaty deed.

On 13th June 1921, Lauchlan Kenneth Scobie MacKinnon purchased part of Crown allotment 51 from Alfred Ernest Bright of 34 Queen Street Melbourne, Esquire, for 5 pounds 19 shillings and 3 pence as shown in instrument number 880005. He also purchased parts of Crown allotments 51 and 51A on 13th June 1921 from Denis Bowes Daly of 591 Chapel Street Prahran, Gentleman, for 144 pounds 19 shillings and 3 pence as shown in instrument number 880004. Total area of the two purchases was 11 acres and both were adjacent to the west of Crown allotment 52. The purchase may have been part used for western road access into the Doongalla property. Why MacKinnon purchased the property by himself is unknown.

In 1922, MacKinnon transferred the above properties to Robert James Phillip Simson, and consolidated it with the rest of the Doongalla property of which they were executors.

Social notes in various newspapers of the day show Doongalla used for gatherings of prominent people. For example, a report in the Australasian, dated 17th May 1919, stated:

"The Governor-General and Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, with Captain Duncan in attendance, paid a visit to Mrs John Simson, at Doongalla, her beautiful home in the Dandenong Ranges…"

In the early 1920s, a local estate agent, T. M. Burke, expressed interest in purchasing Doongalla, and he may have given a deposit.

The Melbourne publication Table Talk, dated 5th October 1922, contained an article detailing a function held at Doongalla for Burke's clerical staff. The house was described:

"*…as one of the most interesting and beautiful in the state*."

In The Melbourne Argus newspaper, dated 3rd November 1922, a tender was called for:

"Grubbing and Clearing. Golf course at 'Doongalla', 5 miles from Bayswater. Plans and specifications at T. M. Burke's Office, 340 Collins Street

Sir Matthew Davies and Highmoor House

Highmoor House, on the corner of Highmoor Avenue and Alwyn Street, Bayswater was built in the 1880s. It is the oldest building in Bayswater. The Wine Saloon is the second oldest.

Various publications report Highmoor House was built as a private residence for Sir Matthew Davies. Title searches for the property reveal Davies never had a titled interest in the property, but he may have lived there or had a financial interest in it.

In the 1880s, the land that in 2025 sites Highmoor House, was on a title containing about half of allotment 31 (120 acres). It was owned by Emily Kate Sherlock from 1882 to 1888 and then by George Albercrombie Gardner for 3 years.

In 1891, The Freehold Investment and Banking Company of Australia Limited purchased the property from Gardner. At the time, the Company owned the adjacent property of about 120 acres. Together, the two properties were the original allotment 31 in the Bayswater township area. The managing director of the Company was Matthew Davies brother, Joseph Bartlett Davies. The Company was primarily engaged in land subdivision. The Company subdivided the combined land into 149 blocks creating "*The Bayswater Estate Scoresby"*. Also known as the "*Bayswater Railway Station Estate*". Main roads created were Station Street, High Street, Myrtle Street, Pine Road and Orange Grove.

In 1891, Matthew Davies purchased lots 7 and 8 in the Estate (in 2025 a shop site) located on Station Street near Mountain Highway. Davies purchased the property on 11th March 1891 for 99 pounds as shown in instrument number 299294.

By 1894, the Freehold Investment and Banking Company was in liquidation but continued to sell land in the Estate as late as 1913.

In 1897, Annie Isobel Morphet purchased 10 Estate lots, a total of about 11 acres which included Highmoor House. The property is mentioned numerous times in early newspapers as an "*artists retreat*". Later owners of the 11 acres were William Louis Nederhoed, then Alice Maud Pegler and Charlotte Dobson, and Matthew Rafferty in 1921. He subdivided the 11 acres into 33 lots creating Highmoor Avenue and Myrtle Street.

In 1923, Patrick Wallace purchased most of the lots. He sold lots 8, 9 and 10 to George Collie in 1925. Highmoor House was located on lot 9 and became a Private Hospital which closed in the 1930s. In 2025, Highmoor House is a private residence.

and at Falconer's store Bayswater."

One of the tracks on the property was named "*Golf Course Track*" presumably in preparation for the planned golf course, but the golf course never eventuated.

On 2nd December 1922, a notice appeared in the Melbourne Argus, reporting Doongalla had been sold to Mr T. M. Burke but no official record could be found.

On 25th January 1924, a notice appeared in the Melbourne Herald newspaper:

"*Doongalla Estate Proprietary Ltd. has been formed to acquire the property known as "Doongalla" situated on Mount Dandenong, about 22 miles from Melbourne.*

The capital is £35,000 in 35 shares of £1,000 each, to be allocated as follows: Five fully paid shares to Mr E. V. Jones for the purchase of his option on the estate and in consideration of his services to the company; two fully paid shares to Mr J. R. Drake for his services in organising and promoting the company; twenty-three shares to be issued for cash, and five held in reserve.

The property to be purchased comprises 810 acres of freehold land and a residence of the mansion type surrounded by attractive grounds. The company's prospectus states that the original cost of the buildings and improvements alone was fully £25,000. The option which it is proposed to take over provides for sale at £23,000 on a walk-in walk-out basis. A cash deposit of £5,000 is required, and the balance in twelve months. Earlier payments can be made on giving three months notice."

It is unknown how or why the Doongalla Estate Proprietary was formed and what, if any, progress was made.

On 17th May 1925, parts of Crown Allotments 55 and 56 (part of Doongalla) were transferred by the executors of Doongalla to the Shire of Lillydale for the new Basin-Olinda road as shown in instrument number 1224657. About 1 acre of land was acquired at the southern end of the Crown allotments. The instrument shows in part:

"*...in consideration of our being satisfied that the land remaining unsold is sufficient security for the balance of the purchase money owing by THOMAS MICHAEL BURKE.*" This gives credence to the fact Burke had given a deposit for the purchase.

On the 11th June 1929, the executors of Doongalla officially sold all of Crown allotments 52, 54 and 60, eleven acres of Crown allotments 51 and 51A, and Crown allotments 55 and 56 less about 1 acre for a road, to T. M. Burke Proprietary Limited as shown in instrument number 1388528. A total of about 810 acres.

The settlement date of the above transaction was 15th October 1928, and three days after this date, on 19th October 1928, T. M. Burke Proprietary Limited donated the lookout area (previously known as Barnes lookout) to the Crown (on the title transferred to "*His Majesty George V*"). The area was to be used as public park, and Burke requested the name be changed to Burke's Lookout. The area donated was part of Crown allotment 60, totalling 7 acres, 3 roods and 18.3 perches (3.18 Hectares). By Order-in-Council, dated 16th September 1929, the site was permanently reserved as a public park, and gazetted as such on 18th September 1929. In later years, members of the Barns' family attempted to change the name back to Barnes lookout, but were unsuccessful. Although the family name was Barns, the lookout was known as Barnes. Janet Dobsons diary uses the family name Barnes.

During Burke's ownership, a caretaker was installed, and the property was used for both family visits and as a rest home for Catholic Priests. However, the property was not properly maintained.

On 28th May 1931, a land area of approx 24 acres (9.95 Hectares), part of Crown allotment 56, was sold to Joseph Edwin Chater of 255 Beaconsfield Parade Middle Park, Manufacturer, for 825 pounds as shown in instrument number 1482044. This land was later reclaimed by the government and transferred to the Crown.

In January 1932, a bushfire swept towards the house from the northwest. Burke's daughter, Mrs J. Byrne, was staying at Doongalla with her children, relatives and a friend.

Nearby residents, including Fergus Chandler and members of the Dobson family, were waiting at Doongalla anticipating the coming bushfire, and making preparations to protect the house from being destroyed.

Shortly after, the bushfire passed through and Mrs Byrne, her children and the visitors, were protected by sheltering under a bridge in a nearby creek as reported in the newspapers.

While the property remained in Mr. Burke's name, the house was never rebuilt, and the property remained idle. The buildings and furniture were insured for a total value of 9,750 pounds and the amount of the loss claimed was 8,825 pounds.

In appreciation of the efforts of The Basin Fire Brigade in attempting to save Doongalla, Burke donated a bell to The Brigade, the first formal alarm the Brigade utilised. In April 1932, a concert organised by the residents was held in The Basin Progress Hall and the bell was formally presented.

Around 1934, T. M. Burke Proprietary Limited subdivided about 93 acres of parts of Crown allotments 55, 56 and 60, creating the Doongalla Estate alongside

Wally Goodwin and Doongalla Burning

I interviewed Wally Goodwin in 1992 and he related to me he was only ten years old when he watched Doongalla burn from near his parent's property near the corner of Millers Road and Mountain Highway. In those days, the mansion could be clearly seen nestling on the hillside. Wally recalled although the bushfire sweeping in from the northwest had not yet reached the house, the house ignited, presumably from a cinder blown from the fire.

Ridge Road at the top of Mt Corhanwarrabul. Sixty-three blocks were created with road names Osprey Road, Eyre Road, Ornata Road, Prion Road and Toroa Road. Some roads and blocks were later reclaimed by the government.

On 6th March 1935, all the property owned by T. M. Burke Proprietary Limited was sold to Smith Bros. Proprietary Limited of River Street South Yarra, Merchants, (John Robert Rollo, George Henry, Roy Dudley and Robert Ashman) for 2,000 pounds as shown in instrument 1571689. The brothers built a saw mill, initially sited behind the ruined house, and over the years logged much of the unburnt mountain ash and messmate which remained on the upper sections of the property. Frank Grumont's brother-in-law, Ernie Westwood, was employed cutting gum trees and messmates. He also worked the bullock and horse teams. Once the best timber on the upper ground had been cut, the mill was moved to the north side of the Dandenong Creek. The timber was logged under strict supervision of the Forest Commission.

On 13th October 1937, a notice appeared in The Argus (Melbourne) declaring:

"*... Doongalla, near The Basin, Bayswater, has been declared sanctuaries for native game*"

The declaration may have been the provisions of a caveat lodged on the certificate of title on 30th August 1937 affecting part of the property. The title's office was unable to locate the caveat, presumed lost or destroyed, so it is unknown what was in the caveat. However, the caveat lapsed after 3 years. The official proclamation was issued in the Victorian Government Gazette on October 13th 1937 with a detailed description of the land boundaries.

In 1939, a bushfire threatened the remaining buildings, but they were saved primarily by members of The Basin Fire Brigade. A notice in The Argus (Melbourne), dated 18th January 1939, stated:

"MRS ELIJAH, Doongalla, The Basin, wishes to

Forgotten Roast

When Doongalla was burnt to the ground in 1932, it seemed little of any value would be left, but a patrolling fireman found looters at work early the next morning. Just the same they didn't find the leg of lamb which had been put in the big wood fire stove but forgotten in the heat of the moment. Next day the ash covered doors were opened to reveal a nicely done roast.

Invermay Circa 1900. Later renamed Doongalla
Photo courtesy: A. J. Campbell Collection in Museum Victoria Collections

tender grateful THANKS to all those firefighters and especially Mr B Chandler and members of the Basin Fire Brigade whose valiant efforts resulted in saving the Doongalla buildings and gardens in last week's disastrous fire."

On 1st August 1940, the Smith Brothers sold the property to Mabel Annie Elijah of 3 Lockhart Avenue Camberwell, Married Woman, for 2,000 pounds as shown in instrument number 1782254. Mrs Elijah must have had an interest in the property earlier than 1940. Mr Elijah was an inspector of schools for the Education Department. The Elijah's kept the area closed, made the servants quarters habitable and let the property to a man named Clay.

In the late 1940s and into the 1950s, there was an extensive campaign for preservation of the Dandenong Ranges. Local politicians were lobbied, in particular Sir Gilbert Chandler.

In May 1950, to the surprise of those involved in saving The Dandenongs, auction notices appeared in Melbourne newspapers for a:

"Realising Auction
DOONGALLA THE BASIN, BAYSWATER
689 ACRES"

A brochure with pictures of the ruins, scenery, and the "*New House*" (the old servants quarters) was produced. The brochure touted:

"*At the head of the Dandenong Creek.*

East of Chandler's Como Nurseries and The Salvation Army Farm.

Comprising heavily timbered slopes, wonderful fern gullies, and many acres of undulating rich soil, also timbered. All the lower slopes are suitable for development into Week-end Home and Farmlet Sites and portion of the upper slopes adjoining Burke's Look-Out.

There is a Wonderful Supply of Water from springs supplying House, Garden and Concrete Swimming Pool, etc., easily channelled to provide private irrigation for gardening and nursery work of all kinds.

There has been a considerable amount of developmental work done on the section nearest The Basin, such as roads and bridges, and on these could be planned the First Subdivision of Outer Suburban or Weekend Home Sites.

A design of the western lower slope section depicts 339 good Home Sites then there is the most southern section south of the Dandenong Creek, with a long frontage to the Old Government Road which climbs a ridge and eventually joins the Olinda Rood.

The Outlook from the house which is on the Lower slopes is right out to Port Phillip Bay.

Properly handled and developed, there should be a fortune in the lower slopes alone.

About 300 acres of the steeper slope could possibly be sold for Public Park purposes, like the National Park at Ferntree Gully, which serves to make the surrounding fringe always in the vicinity of a forest."

A plan of subdivision for 339 blocks was produced over 344 acres including roads. Road names in the subdivision included Dandenong Road, Valley-View Road, Glenview Road, Olinda Avenue, The Boulevard, Doongalla Avenue and Fern Grove. Three hundred and forty-five acres was not subdivided but included in the sale.

There must have been some fast high level dealings, because one month later the auction was cancelled, and the State Government purchased the property owned by Mabel Annie Elijah for 8,000 pounds. It was officially transferred to the Crown on 12th July 1950 and has since been administered as a Forest Park reserve.

In 1951, the body campaigning to save the Dandenongs officially formed "*The Save the Dandenongs League*" and continued lobbying.

The final 2 acres owned by the Smith brothers was transferred to the Crown on 17th March 1966.

The stables at Doongalla were demolished in the late 1950s as they had become unsafe. The floor of the stables was lined with bluestone pitchers. These were removed and used to build fire places/BBQ at the Olinda golf course. The only other building remaining was the servants' quarters and in 2025 these serve as a residence for the park ranger.

In 2025, the site on which the main building stood is lawn area, equipped with picnic facilities. There was a huge wine cellar underneath the house and this was filled in to create the lawn area. The lawn area has been used for all types of functions, including weddings (my daughter had her wedding reception there in 2001). The bases of the old chimneys act as enlarged flower boxes. The steps leading down from this area give access to the several large terraces which Miss Simson had constructed. The old stable site forms a second picnic area.

Many attractive walks lead from the two picnic areas following some of the original pony tracks which extended over much of the property. Some tracks were first named to associate with early settlers and people associated with creation of the "*Doongalla Forest Reserve*". These were "*Collier Walk*" to commemorate one of the earlier settlers. "*Chandler Walk*" commemorated Sir Gilbert Chandler who led the campaign to buy back the land. "*Lawrence Walk*" commemorated a Chairman of the Forest Commission. Track names were later changed.

Ferndale

Ferndale was built for James Griffiths of Griffiths Tea fame. The brand of tea was known as Signal Brand.

In 1888, brothers James and John Griffiths were granted title to Crown allotment 87 consisting of 184 acres of land near what, in 2025, is Ferndale Road. The land was first selected, licensed, and leased by William

Tyner. See page 44 for details on Tyners land transactions. In July 1888, the Griffiths brothers took over the lease from Tyner, and in August were granted title.

In 1897, by agreement and at no cost, Crown allotment 87 title was transferred from James and John Griffiths to James Griffiths. John purchased "*Forest Park"* in Upwey from a Mrs Dean in 1902.

Tyner may have called the simple timber cottage he built on Crown allotment 87 "*Ferndale*" and Griffiths kept the name. When the brothers took over the property, they moved the cottage to a new site near the creek and for many years it served as the manager's residence.

It was reported in 1889, an impressive three-storey Swiss style home was constructed having 17 main rooms including 11 bedrooms. These were complemented by three bathrooms, three studies, numerous amenity rooms, workrooms, and maid's quarters. Tudor style half-timbering was used on the upper portions of the house, with a prominent tower affording it great charm.

Despite the claims Ferndale was built in 1889, a probate application by John Griffiths dated 1925 listed the house as only 20 years old.

Lighting for the house was initially kerosene lamps. Larger rooms had fixed lighting and other rooms portable lights. Not long before his death, James Griffiths had a generator installed with batteries in preparation for electric lighting.

The house was situated on the western face of the Dandenongs with the mountain as a background and commanded an excellent view overlooking the Dandenong Creek valley and the eastern suburbs of Melbourne. Downhill from the main house were cottages for the labourers and farmhands who tended the animals, orchards, and gardens.

The extensive gardens around the house included lawns and immaculate flower beds. The heavily ornamented entrance gates opened into a bluestone courtyard with fishpond and fountain.

One of the many special garden features were chrysanthemums grown in a special area with a pipe framework to support a canvas cover which sheltered the blooms from adverse weather conditions. These blooms had been disbudded and tied to thin wire lines. These large round, almost perfect flowers were the incurved varieties. When blooming, on fine sunny days, the canvas cover would be drawn back to expose these magnificent blooms for all to see. Guests were amazed at the spectacle.

The property had varied agricultural interests. There were vegetable patches, 2 acres of orchards with various fruits and berries (currants, raspberries, gooseberries and strawberries). There were 5 to 6 acres of cropping paddocks to grow fodder for horses and cows. Harvesting of fodder crops was by horse-drawn reaper and binder. Tea was grown in the lower part of the main gardens for experimental purposes, but not on a large scale.

Stock on the property included poultry, turkeys, cows, pigs, sheep, ponies for wagonettes and working horses for the farm. All confined stock was beautifully housed, bedded and well-fed. The stables had a drinking trough outside the door and a manger to every stall. Drinking troughs were supplied to every paddock and operated by ball stopcock. Feed and harness rooms were next door to the stables. Wagonettes and buggies were housed off the bluestone courtyard. Milking cow stalls were off the courtyard and a small dairy was situated beside the creek. Bacon was smoked and cured in a caged room beneath the dairy.

Ferndale had a unique water reticulation system. On the high side of Ferndale Road, near a sharp bend, the creek had been dammed with a stone and concrete retaining wall. In the "*Ferndale Estate*" brochure dated 1927, there is picture of the dam. Water was taken from low in the dam's wall and fed through a six-inch steel pipe to just above the house where it was broken into smaller piping and used throughout the property. It is unknown how long the dam was used, but in later years, a system was installed to pump water up from the creek.

In 2025, the dam wall was intact, except for sections along the top which collapsed. An overgrown track leads up to the dam.

Watercress flourished in the creek running through the grounds, whilst a cool, shaded fern gully nestled

Memories of Ferndale

Born in 1916, Frank Grumont was brought up in a little cottage on the Ferndale estate. His father Frank was one of the gardeners at Ferndale who had romantically eloped with Annie Jennings, then "*in service*" at a farm in Werribee.

In the early 1920s, Frank and his siblings (Frances, Eunice and George) walked along muddy roads to The Basin Primary School. They stood and honoured the flag.

The days were hard and long at Ferndale. Horses were used for ploughing and transport including mail delivery until 1926 when cars delivered the mail.

Ferndale was self sufficient except for bread and sugar. The milk churn was hand turned to make butter and laundry was done in the wash house, where a little wood stove heated the irons to press the linen. The brothers sometimes watched as the carcasses of pigs were scalded, and the meat cured by smoking it. Men used scythes to cut the hay and a diesel generator kept down the temperature of the huge cool room where fruit, butter and milk were stored.

"*We cycled to Ringwood for a haircut.*" Frank recalls. "*And the nearest dentist was in Melbourne.*"

"*Nights were very quiet. We had a crystal radio and the adults listened at times. We played" tip cat", marbles or played outside.*"

Tragedy befell the Grumont family in 1925 when Frank's father died in hospital. Mr Stephen of the Salvation Army broke the news to Annie in the middle of the night. There were around five telephones in The Basin then, but Ferndale did not have one.

In 1925, when James and Emily Griffiths were killed in a level crossing accident in Bayswater, the Ferndale Estate was auctioned but not sold. A Mr Gans ran the property for a while. He employed Frank's mother as cook and housekeeper for several years. Frank's sisters, Frances and Eunice, cooked and looked after Frank and his brother.

alongside it. Aborigines had previously inhabited this serene natural paradise.

By the early 1900s, James and Emily were living at Ferndale. He was an accomplished horseman and keen naturalist. He took great pride in an enclosure of koalas he had erected on the property. Daily, he would stride across the paddocks, sickle in hand, and gather fresh leaves for them. James was a man of great curiosity, with vision and an eye for detail. He would often return from walks around Ferndale with natural "*treasures*" in his pockets such as birds' eggs, feathers, and cocoons. All were brought home for the children's interest and instruction.

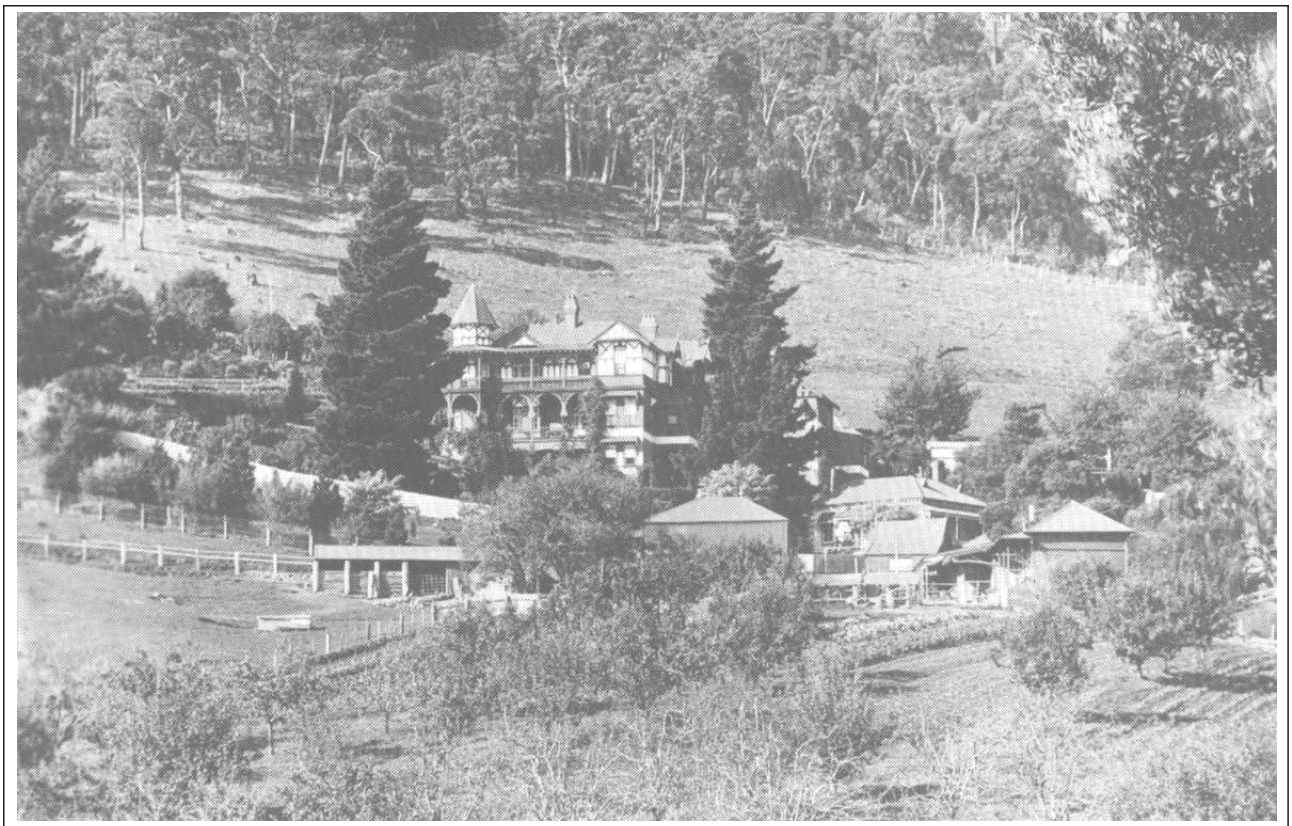
The way of life in the house was gracious. Staff included a cook, kitchen maid, two parlour maids, housemaid, and two laundresses. The cook presided over a large black-leaded stove with ovens flanking a firebox. It was fuelled by wood from the property, and provided hot water, which was reticulated throughout the building. The house was considered modern at the time with plumbing to each bedroom, and electric lights throughout. In winter, the housemaid would fill hot water bottles and place them in the family's and guest's beds. A diesel generator and sophisticated battery bank supplied electric power to the property. There was a huge cool room, where fruit, butter, and milk were stored. The milk churn was hand turned to make butter. Ferndale was self-sufficient except for bread, sugar and rice.

The evening routines reflected the order and atmosphere of the house. At dinner time, maids carried the meals from the kitchen to a dumb waiter in the hall. From there, the parlour maid took over. A hot dinner was always served, usually comprising a roast and three vegetables from the garden. Three sweets were also served, comprising a rice or sago milk pudding, a steamed pudding, and a fruit pie. There was always abundant homemade cream available.

To keep the meals warm, special serving dishes containing hot water were used, with large heavy silver covers. James would carve the meat, the maid would serve the vegetables, and Emily would pour the tea into beautiful China cups and saucers. The tea for home consumption was blended by James in the "*tearoom*", adjacent to the dining room.

After dinner, it was a ritual for children to go outside and feed the goldfish that glimmered in Ferndale's pond.

Every evening before supper, a bell resounded through the house alerting staff and guests that it was time for prayers. James conducted these in the dining room, always decorated with flowers from the gardens, beautifully arranged in silver centrepieces. Hymns were sung and lessons read.



Ferndale Circa 1910.
Photo courtesy Knox Historical Society

The domestic affairs of the house were maintained with characteristic unruffled calm and routine. Friday, for example, was baking day, when the kitchen would be filled with the aroma of cakes and pastry being prepared. Also, on this day, the parlour maids would clean the silver, cake stands, entrée dishes, meat covers and cutlery. All would be burnished with a combination of Goddards silver plate powder and Methylated spirits. In addition to their other duties, the housemaids attended to the setting of the table and caring for the exquisite China and glassware. This was mostly purchased from Thomas Webb & Sons in Collins Street, who specialised in imported tableware. A system of bells that connected to the kitchen, summoned staff to where their services were needed. By the back door, there was always a basket of snow apples for between-meal snacks.

A dark circular staircase led down to the basement, where the laundresses worked. It was a large room containing a wood fired copper, wash troughs, scrubbing boards, a mangle, a seldom used bread oven, ironing table, a stove for the flat irons, and a Goffering machine, incorporating heated rollers to crimp on frills for pillowcases and "*Madam's*" night dresses.

In the entrance hall at Ferndale were reclined mounted wallabies and wombats caught on the property.

On 29th April 1904, James Griffiths increased his holdings when he purchased adjacent Crown allotment 86 consisting of 169 acres for which he paid 1,000 pounds as shown in instrument 487681. This was first selected by J Cape and taken over by Reverend Rivers Beachcroft Dickinson, and title granted to him in 1881.

As shown in instrument number 512129, on 13th September 1905, James Griffiths purchased land of 21 acres, part of Crown allotment 79, title originally granted to James Richards in 1882.

During the time post World War I, the Salvation Army had a fine brass band. On Christmas Eve, they would march up the Old Coach Road from the Salvation Army Home in The Basin to Ferndale and assemble at the front entrance and play band music and sing carols. All local residents were invited, and this was a highlight of Christmas Eve.

James held an annual Griffith Brothers employees and a family Christmas party in Melbourne. He would arrange for Father Christmas in full regalia with a cart and team of oxen, to journey from Ferndale to Melbourne, which always delighted the children.

In 1925, James and Emily Griffiths were killed at the Bayswater level crossing after a collision between their wagonette and a steam train. Then, James was 75 and Emily was 83.

James and Emily had wills, but complications caused Emily's will to be contested. See page 29 for more details.

The executors of the wills organised for the property owned by James to be sold. For details on the subsequent transactions see page 62.

The house was used in the late 1930s and 1940s as a guest house and was a favourite place for honeymooners.

In 1949, Musia Rubinstein purchased Ferndale.

A Victorian Tourist Brochure of 1947 described the guest house thus:

"*Take your holidays at the prettiest place in the hills — all modern conveniences. Excellent accommodation and cooking. Wonderful garden. Delightful walks*."

After the Second World War, Ferndale was used for a time as a migrant hostel for Dutch immigrants. Don Maguire, a Basin resident, recalled carting tons of potatoes up to Ferndale at the time. They seemed to be the residents' staple diet. Don encouraged them to take on pumpkin, but apparently it was not a vegetable Dutch people ever used, and all efforts failed miserably.

As reported in The Mountain District Free Press dated Oct 1951:

"*HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT 'FERNDALE' THE BASIN Advice has been received from the Health Department that this property must be considered as being subject to the Boarding House Regulations. In the circumstances it is recommended that the owner be asked to show cause why action should not be taken.*"

The early 1950s saw an effort to improve the property but insufficient funds hampered any progress. Souvenir bricks from the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games were found on the property, possibly to rejuvenate some landscaping.

During the late 1950s the mansion slipped into disrepair. About 1960, Don Maguire recalled Jack Masters, who managed a small nursery on the property, calling him in to look at the interior. Vandals had broken in and completely smashed the interior including the beautiful chandeliers.

The 1962 bushfires destroyed another of The Basin's historical buildings. Many older Basin residents interviewed in gathering information for this book recalled visiting the ruins of Ferndale after the fire and how they looked upon the ruins with sadness at the loss of this remarkable building.

After Ferndale was destroyed, Don Maguire, a former captain of The Basin Fire Brigade, asked the local Council to repair the dam and clear the track, so the dam could be used as a water storage for firefighting purposes, but it never eventuated.

In the 1960s the property was used as a goat farm.

In 2005, a new owner erected a new building with its view aligned to the tallest building in the (Melbourne) Central Business District (CBD). Major landscaping finished the restoration of the property. In 2025, two full time employees maintain the property.

There was another house called Ferndale in Silvan. The house was originally part of a property called "*Fernydale Farm*". It was established in 1886 by Albert Wiseman and operated as a boys reformatory home. It

was sold in 1907 to Rear Admiral Sir William Creswell who renamed it Ferndale.

Como

William Chandler brought his family, then consisting of a wife and three children, to live at The Basin in the season of 1873. They first lived in a weatherboard building (mentioned in his lease application) built on the creek flats, well in from the existing corner of The Basin-Olinda and Sheffield Roads.

The house was built from straight manna gums and messmate timber found on the property. The timber was pitsawn, even to the weather boards, but had another refinement lacking in most other bush dwellings; galvanised iron roof instead of shingles. Archibald Chandler was born in the original house in 1875 and thought to be the first white child born at The Basin. However, in 1851, Louisa Turner was the firstborn in The Basin district as detailed in the Chapter 1. Legend has it the large oak tree in Sheffield Road beside the creek was planted to mark Archibald's birth. It was certainly planted when the family occupied the original home.

Como was William and Kate Chandler's second home, constructed from bricks made on the property. Their first home was first known as "*Fern Glen*", but when George Bruce's house higher up the mountain was named "*Fern Glen*", William renamed his property "*Como*", after the famous Italian beauty spot, to avoid confusion. The brick house was first occupied in 1878.

In The Argus newspaper on 22nd December 1925, Como was advertised for sale by auction:

"*...COMO HOUSE, THE BASIN, BAYSWATER*
Como is the old homestead of the famous Chandler's Como Nurseries. It is 7-room brick bungalow, standing on about 1¼ acres. The huge cedar tree in the front garden is one of the landmarks of the district. Half-acre is under pears…"

In the 1960s, Como was in poor condition. It was demolished and replaced with another building.

Glen Elborn

Situated on the Basin-Olinda Road near Hazel Dell, Glen Elborn was first known as "*The Bungalow*".

In 1905, John Cuthbert Traill purchased part of Crown allotments 82 and 83, which he later subdivided as "*Traills Estate*".

On 24th April 1922, Thomas Elborn Simpson of 19

Como House. Second home of William Chandler. Circa 1913. This home was demolished and replaced with another building in the mid 1960's.
Photo courtesy Fergus Chandler

Herbert Street St. Kilda, Tobacconist, purchased two parcels of land in Traills Estate for 561 pounds 9 shillings as shown in instrument number 1058101. The parcels were the part of Crown allotment 82 mentioned above and a section of Crown allotment 83 which together made a total area of 47 acres.

Simpson built a house he called "*The Bungalow*". Several tourist maps from the 1920s and 1930s show a track leading from the main road to a property marked "*The Bungalow*" (see map on page 40). A earlier tourist map dated 1911 showed Hazel Dell but not The Bungalow. The property would have offered accommodation but no advertisements could be located.

On The Basin Primary School roll dated February 1921, Thomas Simpson (No 159) is listed as a pupil, with address "*The Bungalow*" and father listed as a "*Merchant*".

Simpson must have changed the property name to "*Glen Elborn*" (after his middle name) because before the Second World War, there existed a Mountain District Garden Competition, and the property won the "*best garden in the mountain district*" for three years in 1936, 1937 and 1938. It was well known for its three hectares of botanic gardens and two kilometres of pathways.

When electricity came to The Basin in 1939, one of the first to be connected were the Simpsons of "*Glen Elborn*".

Mrs T. E. Simpson, of Glen Elborn, is quoted in the social section of several newspapers in the 1920s and 1930s.

William John Wallis of Bayswater, Managing Director, purchased the property on 15th June 1943 as shown in instrument number 1887072.

Bertram Thomas Drowley, Merchant, Beatrice May Drowley, Married Woman, Myrvyne Joan Drowley, Spinster, all of Mirboo North, purchased the property on 3rd November 1947 as shown in instrument number 2108459. The title included a provision to take water by means of piping from a dam on an adjoining property.

In 1948, Mrs B. M. Drowley was an entrant in The Herald Garden Competition Section 1. The property was advertised in the Argus newspaper for accommodation in 1948 as "*Modern holiday cottage in lovely garden*".

Over the years, various owners added to and improved the property. The main house was 32 squares with views of the city skyline and there was a second house of 12 squares. The gardens included a bewildering variety of trees, two waterfalls, a gazebo, a trout pond and a bowling green.

An extensive collection of trees and shrubs were planted over the years, including collections of Rhododendrons and Azaleas, Maples, Camellias, Ash, and Conifers. Being long-established and growing in favourable conditions, some specimens were by Australian standards, relatively large, for example: a Tulip Tree, Copper Beech, Ginkgo and Liquidamber.

Gwennth Victoria Perry of 69 Mont Albert Road Canterbury, Married Woman, purchased the property on 2nd February 1950 as shown in instrument number 2276181.

The gardens were often opened to the public as reported in The Mountain District Free Press in Oct 1952:

"*GLEN ELBORN THE BASIN*
OPEN TO PUBLIC
Mr and Mrs Noel Perry, of "Glen Elborn" The Basin, are opening their lovely garden for inspection on Saturday, November, 1 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Proceeds are in aid of St. John's school and bus transport starting from Belgrave at 1.45 p.m. will go direct to the garden."

On 12th November 1968, the government paid Gwennth Perry $8,695 for about half of the northern section of the property as shown in instrument D270202. The purchased land was incorporated into the Doongalla Forest.

In 1980, part of the land was transferred to The Shire of Sherbrooke to be used for the route of the new The Basin-Olinda Road as shown in instrument number H924638.

In 1983, Gwennth Perry sold the property to Brian Westall Perry, Farmer, and Helen Maree Perry, Married Woman, for $240,000 as shown in instrument number K345454. They sold the property that year to Tophus Tess Pty Ltd for $265,000 as shown in instrument K474640.

In 2025, the property is a Bed and Breakfast known as Glen Elborne Estate.

Clevedon

"*Cleve House*" later known as "*Clevedon*", was built in 1893 by Percival Chandler for his uncle Robert Charles Chandler on 29 acres of land bordering Mountain Highway. Robert Charles purchased the property from his brother William in 1893.

Percival Chandler was well known as a builder and is credited with building "*Sherbrooke Lodge*" near Kallista. He also built a house at Point Lonsdale where the Chandlers would holiday.

Robert Charles Chandler was a naturalist and devoted much of his time prospecting for gold. He is credited with discovering a gold reef at Reefton, near Warburton. His two children attended the first The Basin School in Doongalla Road. Robert Charles sold Cleve House sometime in the 1910s.

During the First World War, Cleve House was said to have been occupied by a German family who were discovered sending coded messages to someone in the Croydon area. The Defence Department were contacted, and the messages stopped.

In the late 1910s Cleve House became a guest house with Frank Agar and his wife as the managers.

Electricity for the guest house was supplied by a

generator driven by a water wheel in the creek at the rear of the property.

The first advertisement for accommodation appeared in The Argus in 1918 (see a copy of the advertisement on page 100).

In 1926, the property was managed by W, D. McCallum. The first advertisement with the new owners appeared in The Argus in 1927 (see a copy of the advertisement on page 100):

Around 1929, the name of the property was changed to Clevedon and Mrs Hartley managed the property (see a copy of the advertisement with the new name on page 100).

In 1930, a newspaper item offered a reward for a stolen or lost cow (see a copy of the item on page 100):

In 1936, A G Martin was managing the property.

In October 1938, the guest house was auctioned. The auction brochure described it thus:

"*The Main Building contains 8 Rooms, Large Verandah's, Detached Ladies' and Gent's Bathrooms, 8 sleepouts and 3 bungalows.*"

From 1939 to 1944 Mr and Mrs Donnelly took over the lease of the guest house. Mr Donnelly enlisted into army service shortly after they took over the property and Mrs Donnelly managed the guest house by herself. Many local residents were employed at the house by Mrs Donnelly to help in its running.

During this period the guest house became successful with bookings arranged through the Victorian Government Tourist Bureau. At weekends, the house offered Devonshire Teas for passing tourists.

Soon after reticulated electricity arrived in The Basin, Mrs Donnelly paid for and arranged it be extended and connected to Clevedon.

From 1893 to 1949, the property ownership had changed 5 times. During these years Clevedon's facilities were improved and its popularity dramatically increased. At one stage the property had 10 acres of orchard, a large vegetable garden, a piggery and 9 nine cows.

Sid and May Thornton took over the lease of Clevedon in 1944.

On 15th December 1949, Sidney Thorton and Amelia May Thornton both of "*Clevedon*", The Basin, Boronia, Guest House Proprietors, purchased the property for 1,770 pounds as shown in instrument number 2275098.

The Thorntons further improved the property. A notable addition was the purchase of several old green buildings lining the driveway from Mountain Highway into Clevedon. These were old miners' huts and used for accommodation until about 1973.

In 1953, they subdivided about 3 acres of the western part of the property and created the "*Clevedon Estate*". Seventeen lots were created with the streets Ross Street, and Clevedon Road. The Thorntons retained lots one and two, which were on the highest part of the estate. They had a display house erected and lived there until about 1960 when they moved out of the area.

A dark moment in Clevedon's history occurred on Sunday, June 1st 1952. A group of mainly teenagers left Clevedon on a bus heading home. They had attended a religious weekend at Clevedon. After a stop at the Boronia Church of Christ in Boronia Road where they attended a service and sang hymns with local parishioners, the bus headed down Boronia Road

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"CLEVEDON" GUEST HOUSE, THE BASIN, VIC.

towards the Boronia railway crossing. It was reported the bus driver slowed down to check for approaching trains, but not seeing any, continued. A Melbourne bound train slammed into the bus, cutting it in half, with parts of the bus on each side of the line. Initial reports had 13 dead and 16 injured, but the death toll was later amended to 9 (see insert "*Fatal Crash Memories*" on page 141).

Between 1926 and 1998, 28 people were killed and 54 injured at the Boronia crossing which earned it the title of "*the death crossing*". The public outcry after the 1952 accident saw flashing lights installed in October 1952, but it was not until 1972 when boom gates were installed. In 1998, the rail line was put underground ending delays and accidents at one of Melbourne's worst railway crossings.

Clevedon was becoming increasingly popular with groups from the Methodist Church. One of the Church leaders realised the potential of Clevedon as a camp and approached the Thorntons asking if they ever considered selling Clevedon, would they give the Church first option to buy.

In 1953, the Thornton's sold 4 acres including the guest house and outbuildings, to the Methodist Church Young People's Department for 6,000 pounds as shown in instrument number 2547781. The property to be used as a camp and conference house. The buildings then consisted of the Guest House, Promenade and Green Cabins. The Church relocated several buildings, including a house and hall onto the property.

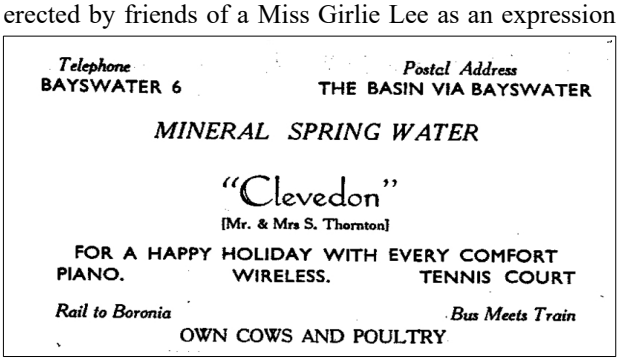
The remaining area was sold to Peter Hill who later subdivided an area of about 3 acres into 17 building blocks with Cleve Avenue running down the middle.

In the late 1950s, a building known as "*Valley View"* was relocated to Clevedon. It was thought to have been transported from the Eildon Dam site.

In 1960, the Methodist Church purchased the remaining land of about 16 acres from Peter Hill at a cost of 5,400 pounds.

In 1961, a dining hall and recreation room were relocated to Clevedon. These were also transported from the Eildon Dam site. The recreation room was officially opened by the President of the Methodist Conference Centre, Reverent G. D. Brinacombe.

In 1961, on the nature strip of Mountain Highway, outside what was then Clevedon, a concrete cross was erected by friends of a Miss Girlie Lee as an expression of thanksgiving for her life and constant witness to her faith. Girlie Lee was killed in the tragic level crossing accident at Boronia in 1952.



Around 2014, after noticing the cross was in poor condition, a group of locals arranged for it to be repainted.

The original house built at Clevedon for Robert Charles Chandler was destroyed by fire in the early hours of March 22nd, 1972. Only the original homestead garden and steps remained.

In 1975, a new conference centre building was erected on the site and this was opened by the then Minister for Sport and Recreation, Mr Brian Dixon.

In 1977, the Methodist Church amalgamated with others to become the Uniting Church of Australia.

Clevedon held an open day in 1993 to celebrate 100 years since erection of the original building. Previous owners and dignitaries were invited to a day of celebrations.

In the early 2000s, the site was purchased by a company and in 2009 leased to the Christadelphian Society. With the help of church members, the site was transformed into a school called the Christadelphian School Heritage College opening in 2010. In mid 2020, the school relocated to Ferntree Gully.

Fernbrook School commenced operation in 2020, taking over the land and buildings from Christadelphian Heritage College.

Managers of Clevedon over the years are listed in the Appendix.

Hazel Dell

"*Hazel Dell*", or "*Hazel Glen*", on The Basin-Olinda Road, was built in the late 1870s by Thomas Walsh Hodgson for use by his family as a homestead and later for traveller refreshments and accommodation (see map on 40 and photo on page 94). Hodgson was one of the original selectors in The Basin (see page 38). He was granted title to 194 acres for Crown allotment 83 in 1881.

His wife Anne, and son John, moved into the house soon after the house was completed. John Hodgson attended the first Basin Primary School in Doongalla Road. Agnes Wakefield, Anne Hodgson's niece, joined them at Hazel Dell when her mother was expecting her tenth child. She spent her thirteenth birthday there in December 1879. She stayed there until after the death of her aunt (see below).

The Hodgsons and Agnes fraternised with other selectors in the area. They were particular friends with the Murphys and Fetherstonhaughs. Many good times were had between these families, and they assisted each other.

On 17th December 1886, Harold Pocock Hayward J.P. held a Magisterial Inquiry to investigate the death of Ann Hodgson, the wife of Thomas Hodgson.

Hayward determined:

"*…the deceased Ann Hodgson came by her death on 15th December 1886 by reason of poison to wit arsenic, self administered while in a state of unsound mind. Also, that her condition of mind was brought about by the severe pain she was suffering from".*

He could not explain how the poison got inside the house.

Crown allotment 83 was sold on the 15th January 1890 to Salisbury Anne Rocke. She died in 1894. Her probate application shows James John Miller was "*indebted to the estate*" and "*it is well known that the debtor is in insolvent circumstances*". Miller never owned Crown allotment 83 on which Hazel Dell was situated, but his investment may have only been with the house. See page 40 for more information.

Shortly after Hazel Dell was sold, an Argus newspaper advertisement offered to:

"To *Let or SELL, the lovely mountain home HAZEL DELL…*"

An early reference to "*Hazel Dell*" offering accommodation was in 1891 according to advertisements appearing in The Argus newspaper. Mr and Mrs Sutherland were quoted as tenants and proprietors of the house. In 1893, Sutherland secured a wine license.

Bushfires were always a threat in the Dandenongs. Fortunately, no fire managed to consume Hazel Dell. A newspaper report on February 21st 1893 of bushfires near Hazel Dell quotes Mr James John Miller as owning Hazel Dell with a tenant Mr Sutherland:

"*…The fire reached the outside edge of the cleared patch and halted, roaring three or four chains away from the house. Mr Sutherland mounted the wooden roof of the barn began the work which kept him at the highest pitch of tension for two days. In a high wind, sparks will fly like live things, and burning branches, each as dangerous as a loaded shell, were thrown incessantly upon the barn and against the house from the blazing mountains that towered high over Hazel Dell. As the firebrands fell, Mr. Sutherland, on the roof, attacked them with wet blankets, while Mr. Dawson and Mr. Mitchell, on the ground, beat them out with branches*

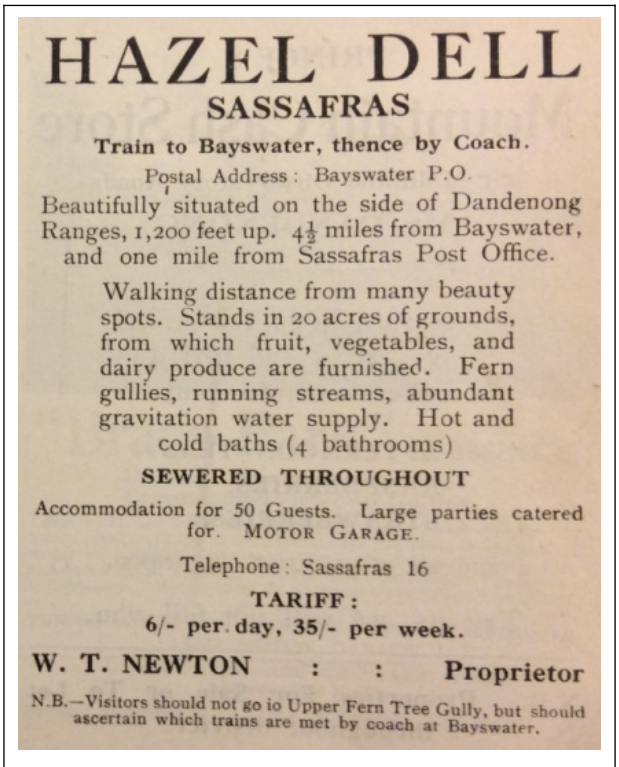
Hazel Dell. Also known as Hazel Glen.
Photo Courtesy: A. J. Campbell Collection in Museum Victoria Collections

and stamped them underfoot. Mrs. Sutherland fetched the water in buckets, and in spite of her mature years, carried the same full buckets up the ladder placed against the barn and brought them down again empty to be replenished at the creek. This went on for hours and it was plain that the enemy would not easily be tired out. Several times, in spite of all efforts, the fire almost effected a lodgment, and a huge hole burnt in the roof of the barn still attests the stubbornness with which the fight was continued on both sides. Mrs. Sutherland had been carrying buckets up and down the ladder for seven consecutive hours, when suddenly the wind changed, veering to the south-west, and it changed not a moment too soon, for the strain could not have been borne much longer. The fire retired sullenly on the side where the first attack was made, and there was a short suspension of hostilities…"

Between 1890 and 1893, newspaper articles describe parties, picnics, socials, and Field Naturalist Club visits at Hazel Dell. The dray track ended at Hazel Dell and visitors wanting to ascend to the Mount Dandenong summit had a choice of following a track by foot or on a pony.

Opening of the Old Coach Road, and introduction of a coach service between Bayswater and Sassafras via the Old Coach Road, was beneficial for Hazel Dell. Patrons were dropped off near the track into Hazel Dell and ferried to the house. It was not until the 1950s when the Basin-Olinda road was completed, there was a road passing Hazel Dell.

From about 1900 to 1906, Hazel Dell was run by Mr. and Mrs. Hayes and the Gilmour Family. Ada Gilmour (later Mrs. Harry Chandler), Lizzie Gilmour, and Mrs. Hayes had the largest input in running the guest house during this period.


HAZEL DELL

SASSAFRAS

Train to Bayswater, thence by Coach.

Postal Address: Bayswater P.O.

Beautifully situated on the side of Dandenong Ranges, 1,200 feet up. 4½ miles from Bayswater, and one mile from Sassafras Post Office.

Walking distance from many beauty spots. Stands in 20 acres of grounds, from which fruit, vegetables, and dairy produce are furnished. Fern gullies, running streams, abundant gravitation water supply. Hot and cold baths (4 bathrooms)

SEWERED THROUGHOUT

Accommodation for 50 Guests. Large parties catered for. MOTOR GARAGE.

Telephone: Sassafras 16

TARIFF:

6/- per day, 35/- per week.

W. T. NEWTON : : Proprietor

N.B.—Visitors should not go to Upper Fern Tree Gully, but should ascertain which trains are met by coach at Bayswater.

Hazel Dell was described in a railway guide of 1905 as:

"…providing an excellent standard of accommodation … and was very popular."

On 13th July 1905, Rocke sold the property to John Cuthbert Traill as shown in instrument number 508790.

From about 1906 to 1909, Mrs Nelson ran Hazel Dell.

From about 1910 to 1916, Mrs Briginshaw ran Hazel Dell. They had the telephone connected around 1911 as "*Sassafras 16*".

On 7th July 1916, Traill sold the property to William Tait Newton of "*Hazel Dell*" Sassafras, Boarding Housekeeper, as shown in instrument number 805500. The sale involved a payment to Traill of 550 pounds by Edgar Percy Briginshaw formerly of Number 42 York Street St. Kilda, Musician, but now of 129 Cochrane Street Elsterwick, Importer, and Newton paying Briginshaw 850 pounds.

On 31st October 1922, Newton sold the property to Thomas Henry Flanagan of Commercial Road Prahran, Pastry Cook, and George Alfred Woodward of New Street Brighton Beach, French Polisher, for 1,013 pounds 15 shillings as shown in instrument number 1074043. In 1926, Woodward sold his interest in the property to Flanagan.

In the mid 1920s, Mr & Mrs A. H. Bickerton were managing Hazel Dell. The telephone number was "*Bayswater 70*".

Alice Emma Rowe of Sassafras, Married Woman, purchased the property on 8th December 1926 from Flanagan as shown in instrument number 1306479. The sale involved Flanagan transferring ownership of 2 residential town blocks to Rowe, and Flanagan paying Rowe 200 pounds.

Rowe sold the property to Lydia Josephine Reeves, Married Woman, and Andrew Clifton Reeves, Tool Maker, both of 24 Waltham street Richmond for 1,050 pounds on 28th January 1943 as shown in instrument number 1877314.

Around 1946, Mesdames O'Beirne & Stevens were managing Hazel Dell.

Advertisements over the years for Hazel Dell listed numerous features of the property. This included a holiday health resort, log fires, glorious surroundings, music, library and reading room, sewered, hot and cold baths, recreation hall, billiards, tennis, dancing, excellent meals, week-end dinners a speciality, own farm produce, children welcome, and admirable medicinal mineral springs. Hazel Dell offered everything.

In later years, the building was used by the Presbyterian Boys Association and eventually purchased

by the church in 1950. In 1977, the Presbyterian Church amalgamated with others to become the Uniting Church of Australia who took over running of the property.

As well as managing Clevedon, Alan and Linda Dixon managed the camp for 3 years from 1990.

In 1993, Hazel Dell was sold by the church to be used as a residential property.

Boyup

Located in Mountain Highway on land above the stone wall, Boyup was a popular guest house in the 1920s. Many of The Basin early residents had their first visit to The Basin staying in this guest house.

Charles and Mary Ann Gretton, who took over the lease of Canes store in 1930, had their first view of The Basin in 1923 when they stayed at Boyup with their children.

Little is known about Boyup, but it must have been built in the late 1910s because it was on land part of Schneider's Estate which opened in 1913.

Seventh Day Adventist Youth Camp

In the early 1930s the Seventh Day Adventist Youth Club had a dynamic leader by the name of H. J. Meyers. He had a vision — to build a Youth Camp to be used by the youth of Victoria to enhance their educational, spiritual, moral and social welfare.

Meyers investigated many potential sites for the camp. One significant criterion Meyers required was that the selected site must have a perennial water supply. Before finally choosing the site on The Basin-Olinda Road, he traced Dobsons creek (then known as Blind Creek or Little Blind Creek) at the rear of the property back to its source to satisfy himself of its perennial supply.

Land of some 15 acres was purchased in January 1937, plans drawn up by architect Mr. E. F. Billson, and timber buildings were constructed using voluntary labour under the supervision of Tom Harrington. The initial buildings comprised a Dining room, Vestibule, Kitchen, Supt. Quarters and Office, caretaker's lodge and four shacks each with 32 bunks.

A water permit was obtained in 1938 to pump water from the creek to supply a pool constructed that year. The ethics of the day dictated that boys and girls were not allowed to swim in the pool together, but this was relaxed in later years. Local children were permitted to use the pool at convenient times.

In the early days the camp was so popular that sometimes far more attended than could be

Seventh Day Adventist Youth Camp on The Basin-Olinda Road soon after building. Circa 1940.
Photo courtesy Wilma Gotts

accommodated. On these occasions the overflow stayed at Hazel Dell.

Alfred Richard Baxter Cox, a nearby landowner, gave permission in January 1948 for the camp to run poles across his land to enable the connection of electricity. Electricity was eventually directly connected in 1952 enabling modern conveniences at the camp.

In 1963, 4 acres of the original 15 acres purchased for the camp were sold to Michael and Ann Spry.

A fire in late 1972 destroyed the main building. In 1973, a larger steel and concrete building incorporating a hall was erected at a cost of $50,000 and was fully funded by the Church.

From 1994 to 1999, Alan and Linda Dixon used the camp to accommodate overflow from Clevedon.

In 1999, the camp ceased operation and was idle for some years.

For the many youths of Victoria who have passed through the camp since it commenced operation, the vision of H. J. Meyers has certainly been fulfilled.

In 2001, the land and buildings were purchased by the Romanian Seventh Day Adventist Church. The main hall was renovated to be utilised as a church and Community Hall.

Ferndale Camp

Little information is available about this camp, situated midway along Ferndale Road. Apparently, it was originally the site of an early settler who built a house there. The site was part of the Ferndale Estate, subdivided in the 1920s. This house was destroyed by fire around the 1950s. The property was subsequently purchased by the Congregational Church to be used as a Youth Camp and many buildings erected. For over 30 years it operated successfully as a Youth Camp.

Towards the mid 1980s it's use diminished, and it fell into disrepair. In the late 1980s it was used for homeless youths for a while when taken over by Harrison House.

In 1992, the property was acquired by the Department of Conservation and Environment to be amalgamated into the surrounding forest park. The buildings were demolished in 1993.

Other Notable Residences and Land

Bonnie Doon/Brockbury

The land that in 2025 is occupied by the Lilydale Bowmans Club and Doongala Pony Club was once a farm called Bonnie Doon and is shown on early maps.

The land was first selected by William Jackson as Crown allotment 51 which he secured title to in 1893. The title incorporated a "*Special Railway Condition*". The condition may have been associated with an 1888 proposal for a tramway from Bayswater to Olinda through the land.

Jackson subdivided and sold parcels commencing in 1898. A 102-acre parcel on the corner of Pavitt Lane and Sheffield Road was used as the farm called Bonnie Doon.

After several owners, Dudley Mitchell Hayes secured title to the property in 1905 but defaulted on the mortgage. The mortgagee, John Thomas Blake of Bayswater, foreclosed in 1908. He transferred title to Robert Moore Gibson of Roseneath Street Clifton Hill, Farmer, on 17th March 1910 as shown in instrument number 616547.

A clearing sale on 1st December 1911, and auction on 28th June 1912, were reported in the Reporter (Box Hill) newspaper. The clearing sale reported:

On the Farm "Bonnie Doon",
THE BASIN
Adjoining Miss Simson's mansion and
"The Eden", the Salvation Army
Model Farm
BAYSWATER
By order of Mr. D. Gibson
CLEARING SALE
Of his Reaper and Binder (Osborne),
Fruit Waggon, Jinker, Chaff
Cutter, Spray Pump, Cream Separator,
Ploughs, Pumps, Harrows, Roller, Tools,
and sundries; and will sell the
FARM OF 102 ACRES
divided into 5 paddocks, watered by
the Dandenong Creek, with
SPLENDID HOMESTEAD
Of 8 rooms 19×13,6, 17×12, 13×13,
&., and good outbuildings, occupying
a lovely position, commanding far
reaching views.

Around 1915, Thomas and Annie Burden, and their family, came to live on the land, and renamed the farm Brockbury. Thomas Burden was born in 1869 in Chaldon Herring, Dorset, England, and Annie Gertrude Ellen Parker was born in 1877 in the same locality. They were married on the 21st December 1899 in Godstone or Whyteleaf, Surrey. They came to Australia in 1912, first to Gippsland, and then to The Basin.

They had 9 children:

1. Walter Thomas (Wally) Burden (1900-1959). In 1927, he married Janet (Jean) Dobson, granddaughter of original settler David Dobson, and sister of Kit Burden's husband Robert (Bob) Dobson.
2. Henry Burden (1901-1901).
3. Francis George (Frank) Burden (1902-1973). Married Winifred (Winnie) Goodwin.
4. Harold William Charles Burden (1903-1968). Married Grace Saltwell.
5. Kathleen Gertrude (Kit) Burden (1905-1975). Married Robert Dobson, grandson of David

Dobson, one of the original settlers in The Basin.

6. Ernest Edward (Jack) Burden (1907-1977). Married Grace McLean.
7. Victor Gilbert Frederick (Vic) Burden (1909-1984). Married Ivy Goodwin.
8. Margery Winifred Annie (Madge) Burden (1911-1998). Married Alan Campbell.
9. Joan Gertrude Ella Burden (1918-2005). Married Ted (Edward) Shearer.

All children were born at Court Farm, Wookey, Somerset, UK, except the youngest, Joan, born six years after they came to Australia. Winnie and Ivy Goodwin were sisters. Five of the children attended The Basin Primary School.

Margery Burden wrote the following excerpt of life at Brockbury:

"*The property, Brockbury under-the-hill, which the Burden family leased at The Basin, was a market garden and the whole family was expected to help work in it. The children would come home from school, change their clothes and go straight out to the paddock, except Madge who was considered too young and had to do jobs in the house and look after baby Joan. During the day Annie took the baby down to the paddock in a clothes basket while she worked there also. From here Wally, the oldest son, used to take the produce to the Victoria Market in the wagon, which was pulled by two horses. When he'd sold the fruit and vegetables, he'd buy supplies for the family. There were always more volunteers to unload the goodies from the wagon when Wally returned than there had been to load it the previous day. The wagon was also used on Sundays to transport the family to church at Bayswater, four and a half miles away.*"

The Janet Dobson diary mentions the Burdens many times.

A house fire resulted in them losing most of their possessions, photos, etc. The Burdens left the farm in 1925 to live in Bayswater. Thomas Burden died in 1934 and Annie died in 1944. Both are buried at Ferntree Gully cemetery.

Torwood

In 1878, John Barns applied for a license to occupy 230 acres on steep land running up the side of Mount Corhanwarrabul which included the area later known as Barn's Lookout. The license was granted for Crown allotment 60. Although his land was not in The Basin, Barns had a large influence on local affairs.

He was in residence there by 1879 as he was a signatory to the petition for a school in The Basin and promised two children would attend if a school was opened. The children were Amy (11) and Minnie (9).

Freehold title to a second Crown allotment, 52A, adjacent to Crown allotment 60, was granted in 1887, on which the house named Torwood was erected near the corner of Sheffield and Glasgow Roads in Kilsyth. One of the attributes of the property was a stream rippling through the property. The house was built mostly by John using handmade bricks made from clay on the site. Torwood was finished Christmas 1894 and the family retired there to live. Fruit trees and raspberry canes were planted, and grazing afforded dairy products.

From Janet Dobsons diary:

"***Saturday May 28 1921:*** *I hurried over my work this morning and Jim drove Emily and I over to a furniture sale at "Torwood House" we did not buy anything. Mr and Mrs Burden and Mr And Mrs Henderson and Girty and ever so many others we knew were there*"

Minnie Barns later married David Dobson, son of Thomas Dobson Junior of Ferntree Gully.

Hillside

Known for its extensive gardens in the 1960s, Hillside at 20 Old Coach Road, The Basin, was built around the turn of the century by Percival Chandler. The garden was carefully laid out to give protection from north winds while still providing plenty of sun.

The house and garden were added to over the years by successive owners, but most of the mature trees reflect many years of growth. One outstanding tree was a large wattle (believed to be a type of New Zealand wattle) which flowers during February. As well as old type rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias, the garden contained nearly every kind of deciduous tree listed as noncombustible after the 1962 bushfires.

Calanthe

Built by Gordon Chandler in the 1930s, the house know as Calanthe on Liverpool Road near Chandlers Lane was known in the 1960s as having a unique garden environment.

Reclaimed from the bush, the garden was first planted with trees and shrubs that would grow without watering as no water was available then. Around 1960, the layout was reorganised when water became available.

The entrance was through an avenue of trees. The north side had 14 different varieties of Crataegus (Hawthorn) and the south various flowering Crab apples and Cherries. The garden had numerous Rhododendrons and Azaleas, as well as winter and spring flowering plants and trees. Notable plants in the 1960s were 2 weeping maples over 40 years old, one of the oldest Crazy Filbert in Australia (about 30 years old) a large tree of Magnolia Veitchi and an unusual Crab apple (Craig Hall) with large fruit like large plums. Calanthe was known for many years for its Liliums.

Sources of Information

- "*The Basin Centenary Booklet*" by Ron Ikin.
- "*Fire on the Hill, Flowers on the Valley*" by Rick

Coxhill.
- George Grumont and Don Maguire for Ferndale information.
- Wally Goodwin and Fergus Chandler for Doongalla fire information.
- Forest Commission brochure for information on Doongalla.
- Wilma Gotts for information on and photos of the Seventh Day Adventist Youth Camp.
- Romanian Seventh Day Adventist Church for information on their camp.
- Seventh Day Adventist Church for information on their camp.
- Knox Historical Society for photographs.
- Alan and Linda Dixon for Clevedon and Hazel Dell information.
- Landata website for titles and subdivision plans.
- Mrs Donnelly, Sid and May Thornton, and Eileen Gridley for Clevedon information.
- "*Family of William Chandler horticulturist*" by Helen Coulsen for information on Percivil Chandler and Robert Charles Chandler.
- Boronia and The Basin Community News for memories of Frank Grumont.
- *"Dear Fethers -An Historical Saga by Tess De Araugo*" for information on Hazel Dell and Thomas Hodgson.
- Letters from George Grumont for miscellaneous information.
- Frank Grumont and the Ferndale Connection. Boronia and The Basin News, July 2004. Frank was a gardener at Ferndale.
- Val and Noel Bland letters. Val's parents were caretakers at Ferndale from 1947 to 1951.
- Facebook for various information.
- "*Victorian Country Hotel, Guest and Boarding House Guide*" for information on Hazel Dell.
- Janet Dobson and Legg diaries. Held by Knox Historical Society.
- "*Tea and Charity*" The Life and Times of James Griffiths Tea Merchant and Philanthropist by Volkhard Wehner for information on James & Emily Griffiths and Ferndale.
- A relative of John Flenjar who confirmed he was the gardener at Doongalla who walked a long distance to attend a doctor.
- "*The Book of the Dandenongs*" by John Larkins, for information about Invermay Road and workers at Doongalla.
- Elsie Cowin (née Collier). Reminiscences of "*Ferndale*" by an ex-kitchen maid. Held by Knox Historical Society.
- "*The Land Boomers*" by Michael Cannon for information on Sir Matthew Davies.
- "*A View to the Past*" Australian Studies document by Angela Mignot.
- Public Record Office for probate and wills.
- Museum Victoria for photographs for which copyright is acknowledged.
- Trove for newspaper extracts and clippings for which copyright is acknowledged.
- Margaret Banks. Granddaughter of Thomas and Annie Burden for Burden family information.
- Public Record Office. For information about the inquest into the death of Ann Hodgson.
- Many other people whose names I have forgotten.

THURSDAY NEXT, JULY 4.
AT Three o'clock.
At the Rooms of Messrs. Ievers & Sons, 265 Collins street, MELBOURNE.
COGHILL and HAUGHTON will SELL by order of the mortgagee.
BONNIE DOON FARM, THE BASIN BAYSWATER.
Adjoining Miss Simson's country mansion, "Doulta Galla," and the Salvation Army Model Farm, "Eden."
All that piece of land, part of C.A. 51, parish of Mooroolbark, county of Mornington, containing.
101 ACRES
or thereabouts, more particularly described in certificate of title entered in the register book, vol. 3306, fol. 661,196.
This property occupies a commanding position, with far-reaching views, and is well improved, having a good 7-roomed W.B. house and farm outbuildings. A large portion has been cleared, and is watered by the Dandenong Creek.
Solicitors, Messrs. Oldham and Oldham, 450 Little Collins street. Terms can be arranged.
Coghill and Haughton, auctioneer, 79 Swanston street, Melbourne, &c.

NEXT TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22.
At Three O'Clock. At the Chamber of Commerce, 25 WILLIAM STREET, MELBOURNE.
By Order of I. W. Chandler, Esq.
COGHILL and HAUGHTON will SELL
COMO HOUSE, THE BASIN, BAYSWATER.
Como is the old homestead of the famous Chandler's Como Nurseries. It is a 7-roomed brick bungalow, standing on about 1¼ acres. The huge cedar tree in the front garden is one of the landmarks of the district. Half acre is under pears. £50 deposit, 20/ week, including interest at 7 per cent., 5 per cent. discount for cash.
Further particulars, 79 Swanston street, Melb.

SALE OF DOONGALLA.
Frank J. Bellamy and Co., stock and station agents, 421 Bourke street, Melbourne, report having sold the country residence, Doongalla, Mount Dandenong, with an area of 800 acres, and furniture, stock, and plant, to Mr. T. M. Burke, Dandenong road, East St. Kilda, on behalf of Messrs. L. K. B. Mackinnon and Robert Simpson, trustees for the late Miss Helen Simpson. This property was originally the country residence of the late Sir Matthew Davies, and was acquired by the late Miss Simpson, who considerably added to and improved the home, with its beautifully laid-out grounds.

BEAUTIFUL BAYSWATER.
To Let or SELL, the lovely Mountain Home, HAZEL DELL, 194 acres, containing two magnificent fern gullies, and immediately adjoining the Great National Park and Glorious Sassafras. This land is of the richest character, and the situation commands extended views of delightful scenery in every direction. Conveyances from railway station to within a mile.
For particulars any of above properties,
Messrs. HAM,
Swanston-street; or
MUNRO and BAILLIEU,
Collins-street.

ACCOMMODATION, with or without board, farm, most lovely part Ferntree Gully. Address Hamerup, Hazel-dell, Bayswater.

AUCTION SALES

Estates Passed In

Ferndale, in the Dandenong Ranges, at Bayswater, for many years the home of the late Mr. and Mrs. James Griffiths, was offered at auction yesterday. The property included 320 acres, a large portion of which had been laid out in gardens. More than £40,000 is said to have been spent on improvements. The house contains more than 17 main rooms, and has its own water, sewerage, and electric supply services.

The highest bid for the property as a whole was £5,750, and for the house with 32 acres was £3,750. The bids were below the reserve, and the property was passed in. The Hilton estate of 22 acres adjoining was also passed in at £550.

The auctioneer was George M. Hume Pty. Ltd., of Manchester Unity Buildings.

AT CLEVE HOUSE, The Basin P.O., Sassafras North. Booking now week-ends, Christmas. Cards, tariff, on application. W. D. McCallum. 'Phone 6 Bayswater.

The Argus 1918.

Dandenong Ranges.
AT Clevedon Guest House, Basin, New Switzerland, Bayswater, ideal resort, up-to-date, E.L., new., H.C. baths, splendid table, tennis, lovely gardens. Mrs. Hartley, 'phone 6. Tariff, £2/2/, £3/3/. When visiting Boronia farm try our Devonshire teas.

The Argus 1927

TWO Pounds Reward.—Stolen or Strayed, 1 Jersey Cow, in full profit, from Hartley's, Clevedon, The Basin, Bayswater. Detainer prosecuted.

The Argus 1929

Boronia
BORONIA Clevedon, in heart of hills. Under new management. Excellent accommodation, log fires, tennis, afternoon tea and supper. Reduced tariff. Open 29th. 'Phone Bayswater 6. G. Martin

The Argus 1930

Managers of Cleve House (Clevedon)	
Year	**Manager**
1918-1925	Mr & Mrs Frank Agar
1926-1929	W. D. McCallum
1930	Mrs Hartley
1931-1936	Mrs A. James
1937-1939	Berry Martin
1939-1944	Mr & Mrs Donnelly
1944-1953	Mr & Mrs Thornton
1953	C. Zelley
1953-1956	E. W. Taylor
1956-1958	L. Tweedale
1958-1960	Fletcher
1960-1961	Rushton
1961-1967	R & G Dixon
1967-1971	C & N Dixon
1971-1972	K. Becks
1972-1973	A. D. & L. J. Dixon
1973-1979	A & G Bailey
1979-1980	A. D. & L. J. Dixon
1980-1988	U & H Roy
1988-2008	A. D. & L. J. Dixon

Chapter 4 Teaching Institutions

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Summary

The Basin State School was first occupied in December 1880 with the title "*Dandenong Range School No. 2329*" on property purchased from William Chandler in Doongalla Road.

In 1899, the school closed, but in 1900 the existing building moved to a new site on the corner of Mountain Highway and Liverpool Road and reopened in 1901.

In 1925, a new school building opened set further back from the road. Over the years, substantial improvements were made including a new art room (mid 1970s), addition of The Basin Boys Home Special School buildings (1980), extra land (1980) and a major upgrade of the Administrative section (1989).

Boronia Heights Secondary College began in 1973 as Boronia Technical School located on Mount View Road, Boronia. Initial buildings and grounds were basic.

Buildings were added in 1974/75 (Home Economics, Science, and Trades/Math), and 1987 (Gym/Music/Drama, Library and Auto).

The School closed in 2014 and the buildings demolished in 2017.

St. Bernadette's Primary School commenced operation in 1983 with 117 children.

Over the years a gymnasium, computerised library and playground equipment were added. In 1997, a major new addition to the School buildings was St. Bernadette's Community Hall.

The Basin Boys Home Special School was built to cater for the education of boys from the Salvation Army Homes and is described in Chapter 6.

The Basin Pre-School Kindergarten commenced operation in 1956 in The Basin Progress Hall. In 1958, a special purpose building opened in Forest Road.

In 1994/95, major upgrades to the building occurred following a turbulent period when the kindergarten nearly closed.

The Goodwin Estate Kindergarten commenced operation in 1980 in a new building in Rome Beauty Avenue.

The Basin Infant Welfare Centre commenced operation in 1944 in a room at The Basin Progress Hall In 1956, a special purpose building was erected on donated land in Forest Road. The Centre later closed, and the building used for playgroup activities.

Distinguished Resident

Arthur Cooper

Member of The Basin Fire Brigade and Batterham Reserve committee for 43 years, President of the Fire Brigade for 14 years, Football President and then Treasurer for 8 and 9 years respectively, Progress Association Treasurer 10 years and Progress Association Life Member. These and many other posts surely qualify Arthur Cooper for a place in The Basin Hall of Fame.

After moving here in 1946, Arthur undoubtedly compiled the best record of meeting attendances among his contemporaries. Always a direct but fair man, he made his opinion well known on many local matters. To quote his own words "*I always call a spade a shovel*". It was this forthrightness standing him in good stead in the community.

Coop as he was known, was the guardian of The Basin Football Club's interests for many years, as delegate to the Eastern Suburban League around the time when the Right Honourable Gib Chandler was its president. In 1990, as a tribute to Arthur's unselfish contribution to the club, the Arthur Cooper Scoreboard was erected by the Batterham Park Committee, the Football Club with assistance by Knox Council. Arthur was present when the board was unveiled, as were many older residents from local, country and interstate.

After a long illness, Arthur passed away on 11th November 1990. He will be sadly missed.

Schools

The Basin Primary School

1879 Establishment and Opening

In March 1879, David Dobson, supported by residents, petitioned the Board of Education for a school. The petition, reproduced on pages 107 and 107, represented parents of 45 school age children unable to avail themselves of the surrounding schools, the closest 4 to 5 miles (8.05 km) distant.

Inspector John Dennant's report of April 1879 confirmed the need for a school in the area. However, no action followed and on August 30th, Mr Dobson again wrote to the Minister of Public Instruction as follows:

"*Permit me (on behalf of the residents of the north east portion of Scoresby and part of Mooroolbark) to respectfully call your attention to the urgency of a School in our District. It is now about 5 months since the Inspector visited the District to report upon it and from the number of children he saw without education, he led us to believe you would cause the School to be erected without delay. I trust the urgency of our case will be a sufficient excuse for troubling you."*

"With regard to myself, I have six children; my oldest I send to School on horse back, but the others are quite neglected. It is a dreadful thing to see children running about almost wild."

William Chandler Junior offered 1 acre of land for the school situated on the north-east corner of Crown allotment 93, Parish of Scoresby (in 2025, this would be near the corner of Simpson Road and Doongalla Road). This land was in the then centre of The Basin and attending children lived in homesteads nearby. This offer was accepted, and Mr Chandler was paid 1 pound as compensation.

Tenders for the erection of a wooden school, 24 feet by 16 feet, to accommodate 40 children, and a three roomed attached teacher's residence were called for. In May 1880, William Swanson was awarded the building

The Dandenong Range School built in Doongalla Road in 1880. In 1899, the School was closed. In 1900, this building was moved to the corner of Mountain Highway and Liverpool Road and in 1901 the School reopened. Photo circa 1890, courtesy Knox Historical Society

contract at a cost of 437 pounds ten shillings.

Building operations were finished in November 1880. The school was opened on 10th December 1880 with the title "*Dandenong Range School No. 2329*" (see photo on page 106).

The first Head Teacher was James Maddern who stayed until February 1881. His 48 pupils (enrolment in 1881) included A. E. Chandler and William Tyner both of whom became members of Parliament. Other families represented were the Dobsons, Kerrs, Kleinerts, and Wicks. The average attendance in 1881 was 27.

1883 School Name Changed

During 1883, under Head Teacher Alice Hammond, the school was renamed "*The Basin*" as the previous name was too indefinite. This arose after a visit by Inspector Walter Gamble in November 1883 (when the average attendance was 20). He recommended:

"...the School be known as "The Basin" State School No. 2329, North Scoresby. Dandenong Range is too indefinite and is not recognised in the district. The Basin is the local name and is likely to be permanent."

The name was officially adopted by the Department in 1884.

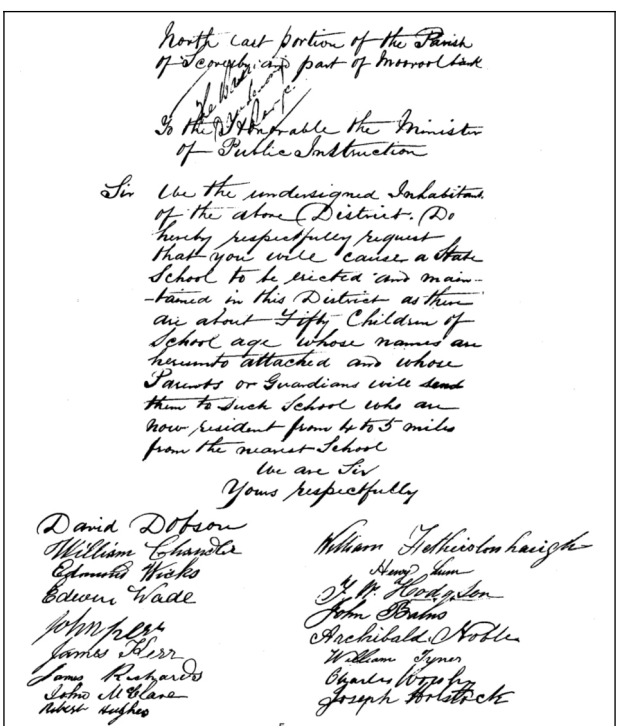
1893 Falling Attendances

By the 1890s, school attendance had declined with only 18 children attending as at 8th March 1893. These children are listed below. Ages in years/months in parentheses as at 1st January 1893. Home location distance from the school in brackets.

Herbert (12/10), Louisa (11/2), Gilbert (8/9), Ettie (7/2), and Kitty (5/9) CHANDLER [200 yards west]. Maud (12/8) and Elsie (7/2) DOBSON [¼ mile west]. Florence (10/1) and Ethel (8/2) CHANDLER [1 mile west]. Lily (11/1), Charlotte (9/0) and Henry (5/0) KEMP [1¼ miles west]. John (10/7), and Isobel (12/1) GERAGHTY [2½ miles north]. Frederick (8/0) GADD [2 miles west]. Mary (7/0) KING [2¾ miles west. Henry (9/6) LUM [400 yards west]. Ellen (11/6) TRUSWELL [3 miles west].

In early 1893, several parents submitted a petition to the Minister for Education as follows:

"As it is probable the School numbered 2329 and known as The Basin School at Bayswater in Fern Tree Gully Shire will become unclassified through want of the statutory number of scholars — the cause being that the



North east portion of the Parish of Scoresby & part of Mooroolbark

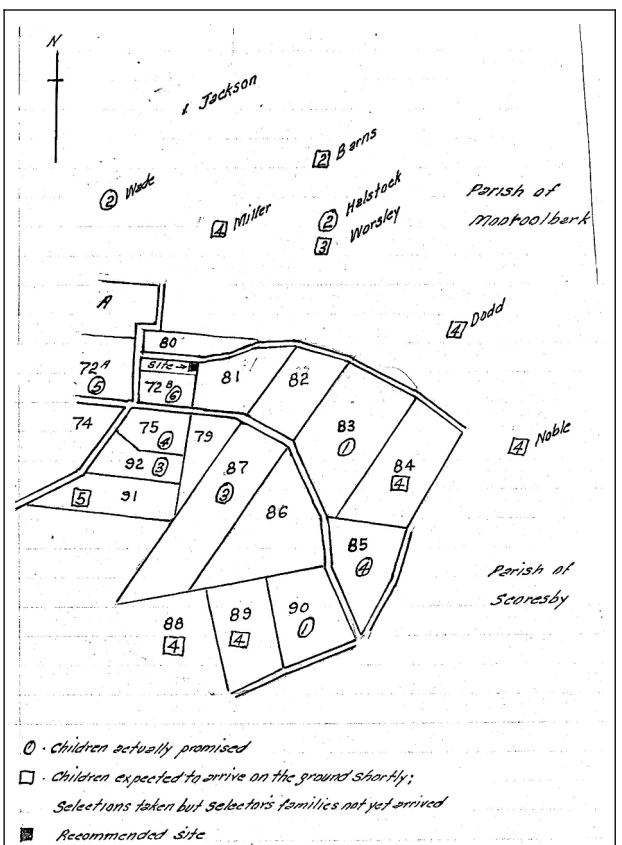
To the Honorable the Minister of Public Instruction

Sir We the undersigned Inhabitants of the above District. Do hereby respectfully request that you will cause a State School to be erected and maintained in this District as there are about Fifty Children of School age whose names are hereunto attached and whose Parents or Guardians will send them to such School who are now resident from 4 to 5 miles from the nearest School

We are Sir
Yours respectfully

David Dobson
William Chandler
Edmund Wicks
Edward Wade
John Kerr
James Kerr
James Richards
John McClare
Robert Hughes
William Gethicolon haright
Henry Lum
H. M. Henderson
John Bains
Archibald Noble
William Tyner
Charles Wopp Jr.
Joseph Kerbleck

Part 1 of a Petition requesting provision of a State School for The Basin district 28th February, 1879.



Part 2 of a Petition requesting provision of a State School for The Basin district 28th February 1879.
This is a reproduction of the original map showing only the relevant details. The road junction at Crown allotments 72A, 72B, 74 and 75 is the corner of The Basin-Olinda, Wicks and Sheffield Roads.
The school site location shown is opposite where The Old Basin Theatre is located.
Map courtesy Knox Historical Society (H. S. McComb Compilation).

Schoolhouse is placed in a remote and inaccessible position in the mountain and the approaches thereto are only through private and very low lying lands which are completely inundated with water in the winter months and therefore the children have to sit in wet boots and clothes the whole of the time. In fact, the School is in a most inconvenient spot and really serves two families (Dobsons and Chandlers)."

"It is now respectfully requested that the Schoolhouse be removed about ¾ mile to the west on a site on the properties of Messrs J. Bruce or J. J. Miller on the Bayswater Road, The approaches to which would be on made public roads, would avoid parties having to go over the lowlying lands and save the majority of the residents who live to the west of the present site and the children of the two families before mentioned would only have to come about ¼ mile."

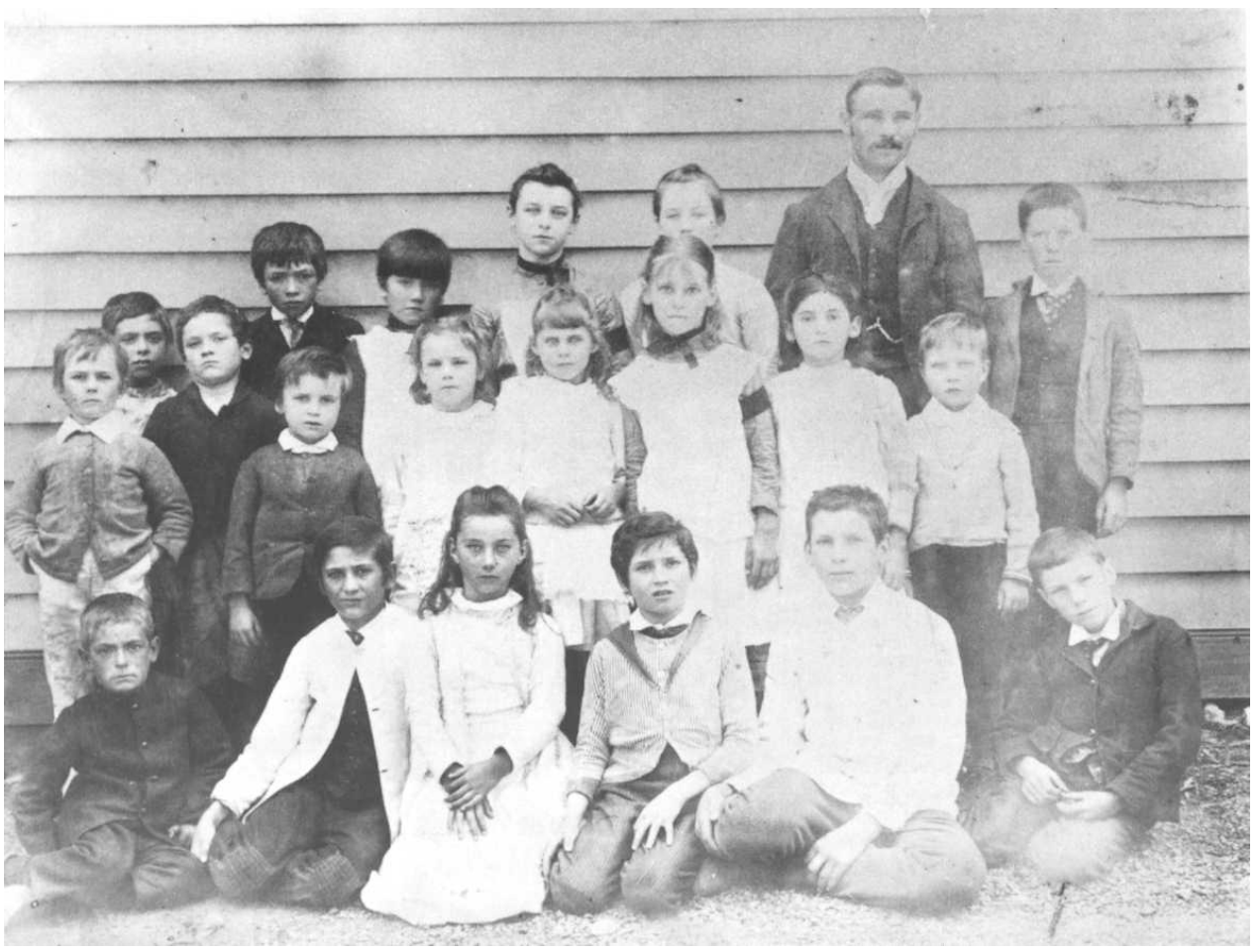
"If this alteration is made the School would at once become reestablished and a great convenience to the district and would be gratefully acknowledged by the undersigned parents."

"Susan. Kemp, C. H. Maher, James Kerr, James Jackson, Henry Baldwin, C. H. Intermann, J. Gadd, Moses Truswell, James Jennings, Sarah Joyner, Fred Silk, Robert C. Chandler, Charles King, G. W. Bruce, James J. Miller."

James John Miller personally gathered information and compiled a list of available scholars at The Basin School, if removed to a more suitable site.

In May 1893, a meeting was held to consider the proposal to move The Basin School to a site on the main road as reported by District Inspector Dennett, as follows:

"*Present: Messrs Miller, Baldwin, W. Chandler, C.*



Pupils of The Basin State School in 1892
Against Wall Ada Williams, Frank Gerraty, Isobel Gerraty, Charlotte Dobson, Florence Gerraty, Mr. Treyvaud, (Head Teacher) William Kerr.
Middle Row Albert Kerr, John Gerraty, Gilbert Chandler, Isabella Kerr, Agnes Dobson, Maude Dobson, Louise Chandler, Henry Turner.
Front ? Williams, Wreford Chandler, Ellen Truswell, Bert Chandler, Percy Chandler, Fred Kerr.
Photo courtesy Knox Historical Society

Chandler, Leach (grandfather of the boy Lum) and Dr Simpson and Mr J. Dobson, members of the Board of Advice."

"A spot to which it is proposed to remove the School is on allotment 74, Parish of Scoresby, commencing about 2 chains from the western boundary. It is suitable ground. Mr J. J. Miller, the owner, offers a block of 2 acres for 25 pounds. The ground to abut the Main Road."

"The only objector is Mr Leach. Mr Baldwin is indifferent; in reality he thinks that to remove it such a short distance would be useless. It will be observed from the plan that it is only proposed to remove the School from 48 to 50 chains."

"The members of the Board of Advice present mentioned that settlement was taking place now in the Dandenong State Forest and that this School in its present position might suit the selectors."

The proposed site offered by John James Miller appears to be near The Basin post office).

The Inspector considered it was not worthwhile incurring the expense of removing the school as it was convenient to all.

In August 1894, the Inspector recommended the school be classed unclassified, since there was little prospect of the average attendance reaching 20. This meant a less qualified teacher would act as Head Teacher.

Minor repairs and the erection of a new fence to replace one previously destroyed by fire were finished in January 1897 at a cost of 6 pounds and 15 shillings.

In April 1897, David Dobson reported in a letter:

"My son took the tree down that was leaning over The Basin State School but unfortunately it fell onto one of the closets and smashed it to pieces. He had the Forest devil on it, but it was so much burnt away at the root of the tree and the lean was so great towards the School that he had the greatest difficulty to prevent it from smashing the School. It is the girls' closet and I suppose there will have to be another put up. Will you kindly see and oblige?"

1899 School Closed

A recommendation to close the school in January 1899 was made by the Correspondent, R. Minns, with only 13 pupils on the roll. Closure followed on 9 June 1899. The surnames of the 13 children were Lum (1), McKay (4), Chandler (4), Pope (1), Gadd (2) and Hayes (1).

An inventory of items when the school closed was as follows:
4 desks, 4 forms, 1 teachers desk, 1 stool, 1 easel, 2 blackboards, 1 table, 1 chair (damaged), 4 spring blinds, 10 framed 2 unframed slates, 5 safety inkwells, 16 porcelain inkwells, 13 good 3 damaged. Large World, Australia, Europe, Victoria. Small Asia, Africa, America. school register, Rolls, Educational reports, Circulars, school history of Aust, Empire History, Sullivans Geog Generalised, Sutherlands New Geography, Descriptive Geog of Aust & New Zealand, Agricultural Teacher Book II, Needlework and Cutting out, Health and Temperance, Royal Reader 1 VI, 4 V, 3 IX, 2 III 1 good and 1 much worse, 12 pamphlets, Apparently Drowned, 1 Hackwood Morals, 1 Parkes Health, 1 Physiology, 1 Drill manual, 1 Barnard Smiths Exercises, 1 answers to do, 1 key to I. N. Arithmetic, 5 Colensos Progressive examples, 3 answers to do, 5 arithmetic for Class IV, 3 for Class III, I. I. N. Geography. Infantry Drill 1897.

Apparatus — 1 barometer tube, 1 barometer (unfinished), Abt 11b Mercury, 3/4 pound Glass tubing, Lever & Fulcrum 4 feet, 1 set of simple pulleys, 1 set of 2 compound pulleys, 1 air pump and receiver, 1 siphon, 1 Bar & Gauge, 1 glass funnel, 1 spirit level, 1 spirit lamp, ¼ pint Methylated Spirits, 1 retort stand, 1 thermometer, 1 model lift pump, Wall sheets — Drawing, Snakebite Silk Accident and Emergencies.

The school building had been used on Sundays for Methodist Church services and this continued until 1901.

During the time the school was closed, the attached teacher's residence was rented for 5 months to Mr W. K. Scott of Ferndale.

1900 Parents Request School Move

On 20th June 1900, a deputation consisting of several members of the Ferntree Gully Board of Advice met with the Minister of Education. The Chairman of the Ferntree Gully Board of Advice said residents of the district had waited on the Board and asked for their cooperation and sympathy. They asked the building be removed about 1½ miles nearer to Melbourne. Some children had to travel 4 or 5 miles to school.

Mr Collier said if the school was shifted and reopened it would not interfere with any other school. The Bayswater, Mooroolbark and Ferntree Gully Schools were overcrowded.

Mr Chandler said if the school was not moved, the chances were that it would burn down in the summer as it was surrounded by scrub.

The Minister said he would send an officer of the Department who would tell them of the day and time he would be there. If the report of the officer showed the facts were as stated by the deputation, he (Dr. Salmon) would make provision for the education of the children.

Inspector Alfred Curlewis visited the area to investigate the feasibility of the school's removal in July 1900. On his recommendation, the school (with attached teacher's residence) was moved to a 1 acre site on the corner of Mountain Highway and Liverpool Road purchased from John L. Yeadon for 25 pounds.

The Inspector's reasons for the choice of this site were as follows:

"The owner, John L. Yeadon, agrees to sell one acre,

triangular in shape, with a frontage of 4 chains to Bayswater Road, at 25 pounds per acre. The land is good and under crop, the terms are not very extravagant. This site is much superior to land on the other side of the road."

Certificate of title shows Mary Ann Bruce owned the above land. Instrument Number 450259 dated 24th February 1902, records Yeadon paid Bruce 25 pounds, and Yeadon was paid 25 pounds out of the "*Public Account*". Yeadon agreed to transfer the land to The Honorable William Gurr in his capacity as the responsible Minister of the Crown.

In June 1901, William Chandler wrote:

"*I wish to purchase the land from which the Basin School No 2329 was removed. It was formerly part of my block. I gave it to the Education Department and would like to buy it back.*"

In December 1901, permission was granted for him to purchase the land and in August 1902 he paid 3 pounds to the Education Department.

1901 School Opened on New Site

Head Teacher Paul Shugg took over the school in July 1901.

In January 1902, Shugg asked additions be made to the attached teacher's residence which then comprised three small rooms. Margaret Shugg also made a plea by letter for additional accommodation. Plans of a proposed addition of 2 rooms were drawn up by District Architect J. B. Cohen. The estimated cost of the project was 220 pounds, but as no further applications were made by the Head Teacher, the building did not eventuate.

In 1905, Mr John L. Yeadon made application to have the fences along the road frontages renewed, as:

"*…stray cattle get in and destroy the young trees and flowers, which I think is a great pity as the teachers and scholars have done good work and have got a beautiful garden, a good class of flowers and shrubs and it is well kept. Mr Gamble, the Inspector will bear me out when I say it is a credit to them.*"

Inspector Walter Gamble stated a cyclone fence was urgently needed to protect the school and well-kept garden, and the application was approved.

Pupil activity at The Basin State School in 1914. Games played include "the fox and geese game" and hopscotch. On the right, some children are gathered around a maypole. Children in the photo include Jim Dobson, Bob Dobson, Ruby Collier, Alma Collier, Edgar King, Doris Chandler, Gordon Chandler, Gordon King, Hazel Gordon and May Dickson.
Photo courtesy Knox Historical Society.

The school was awarded a certificate for its gardens in 1909.

Early in 1910, Head Teacher William Thomas reported a steady increase in attendance had led to overcrowding at the school. By March that year, there were 48 children on the roll, and an average attendance of 42 had been reached. Thomas suggested that temporarily, the problem could be resolved by removing the partition between the schoolroom and the teacher's quarters, thus using the small residence. Mr Thomas did not occupy the three small rooms of the residence as he had a family of seven children.

On June 20, Building Inspector Neville reported it would be altogether impractical to remove the wall and chimney dividing the school and quarters, as suggested by the Head Teacher, to provide additional space for classrooms. He pointed out that the buildings were in a bad state of repair, and it was estimated it would cost 29 pounds 2 shillings 6 pence for repairs which were:

"...really necessary."

Previously Boards of Advice were responsible for several schools, but in 1911 School Committees were elected for each school, with members having a more personal interest in the school.

1911 Salvation Army Proposal

In April 1911, Head Teacher William Thomas reported a meeting of parents had been held to form a parents Committee related to The Basin State School and there was one matter of urgency which the meeting asked him to bring under the notice of the Department. Viz.

"The Salvation Army has a boys' Industrial Home and Farm in this neighbourhood in connection with which they have two schools, one about a quarter of a mile and the other about 1 mile from the above State School. The boys sent there are often badly disposed and have many bad habits and a source of anxiety to the parents whose children attend the State School."

"The Army authorities have now decided to move their School for the bigger boys to a site close to the State School. The two buildings will be about 100 yards apart and the grounds will approach to within one chain of each other. The parents regard this as being exceedingly objectionable and have asked me to bring the matter under your notice with a request that everything possible be done to prevent the erection of the Army School in such proximity to ours. A deputation of parents will probably wait on the Director or Minister of Education as soon as the Parents Committee get going, but as the Army Authorities intend beginning the erection of their school during the present (Easter) holidays I have been asked to write to you as a matter of urgency and ask that if possible, some steps may be taken to induce the Army Authorities to at least hold their proposal in abeyance until the matter can be more thoroughly gone in to."

The site of the proposed new school was north of the present State School with a frontage onto Liverpool Road.

Mr A. E. Chandler wrote to Mr Keast, M.L.A., and asked him to oppose placing the school so close to the State School and stated it was the intention of several of the parents to send their children to other schools should the Salvation Army scheme be carried out.

Mr Archibald C. Chandler of Kilsyth wrote to the Hon. E. H. Cameron, M.L.A., and asked him if he would try to prevent such a shameful affair. He stated:

"...if such a thing is allowed it will cause intense bitterness between the residents and the Salvation Army as parents are determined that their children shall not mix with such as are placed under the care of that Institution."

He described where the school was situated, then added:

"*Our children from this side attend same!*"

Mr S. Collier, Chairman of School Committee, called at the Department on 3rd May 1911, and asked something be undertaken to induce the "*Army*" to build on some other portion of its land not so close to 2329. Mr H, R. Chandler, Secretary of the School Committee, also wrote to the Director of Education.

Mr Keast and Mr Cameron, in making their representations to the Minister of Education, enclosed the letters from Mr A. E. Chandler and Mr A. C. Chandler. The Department replied:

"...it does not appear a matter in which the Department can interfere, but they will ascertain from the Salvation Army Authorities what they propose to carry out."

On 23rd May, the Salvation Army from National Headquarters for Australia, 69 Bourke Street, Melbourne, informed the Director of Education:

"...the proposal we have in hand merely deals with the school which has always been connected with our Bayswater Institution and of course is in no sense a Public School."

"Judging by the action of Mr Thomas, the Headmaster of The Basin School, he considers the site we had proposed as undesirable and we have endeavoured to meet his difficulties. As a matter of fact, the whole question is in abeyance as far as we are concerned, and we cannot at the moment say what will finally be done."

"The delay, however, has nothing to do with Mr Thomas' contentions, but only arose through circumstances affecting our work at Bayswater. We would like it to be quite clear that this is not the establishment of a school, but simply a change of site and of course we are most anxious that nothing should be done to cause conflict."

On 8th June, William Thomas, Head Teacher, wrote to Hon. E. H. Cameron, M.L.A., re the proposal by the

Salvation Army. He stated:

"*I believe the Government contributes towards the cost of the boys. If so, they have some hold over them.*"

On 29th August, H. R. Chandler, Secretary, School Committee, in again bringing the matter before the Director of Education stated:

"*You will understand our anxiety in this matter when I tell you that already cases have occurred where these boys have molested little girls on their way home from school.*"

The School Committee objected to the Army's proposal and suggested a site about a quarter of a mile away, near No 3 home, would not be detrimental in any way to the interests of the State School. The signatories were:

Samuel Collier, Chairman; Janet Dobson, Committee; John Collier; Ada J. Chandler; H. R. Chandler, Elizabeth Collier.

On 11th October, District Inspector W. A. Cavanagh reported on a meeting held at The Basin to consider the question of the erection of a school for the boys attending the Reformatories established by the Salvation Army near Bayswater. He had been informed:

"…the school is to be carried on at the No.3 Home, the place mentioned by parents as being acceptable to them. It is quarter of a mile from the State School. Happily the question has thus been amicably solved, as the Department could hardly raise any legal objections to the erection of a school anywhere on their own ground by the Army Authorities."

In 1912, a shelter shed was erected by a working bee. From a Newspaper report, June 7:

"On Saturday a working bee was held at The Basin State School, the object being to erect a shelter shed. The arrangements were in the hands of the School Committee and all the details had been so carefully thought out and provided for that, although the work began early in the afternoon yet by 5 o'clock in the evening the building was finished. Mr P. B. Chandler, an expert builder, was made working manager, and he was ably assisted by the Chairman of the Committee, Cr. S. Collier, and the correspondent, Mr H. R. Chandler. The whole affair was an object lesson in what may be done by a number of willing workers when properly organised and wisely directed. During a break in the work, refreshments were provided by the ladies of the district, the tables being presided over by Mesdames Collier, senior and junior. The thoughtfulness of the ladies was much appreciated by the workers and they were tendered hearty thanks. The building is a strong and suitable one, and will no

The Basin State School Committee 1927
Mr. B. Chandler, Mrs. M. E. Pickett, Mr. A. Collier
Mr. J. Maguire, Mr. H. Chandler, Mr. Sam Collier, Mr. A. Pope.
Photo courtesy Knox Historical Society

doubt be a very useful adjunct to the school."

"Note: 5 pounds towards the cost had been promised by the Department; E. Kleinert supplied the material at cost of 5 pounds 13 Shillings and 1 pence."

1915 Additional Land

In 1913, Mr H. R. Chandler, correspondent of the School Committee, drew attention to the smallness of the school for some children in attendance. As the residence adjoining had not been used by the teacher for several years, suggested a door be made into one of the adjoining rooms.

He also stated the playground was too small, had a bad slope as a playground for children, and there was no available land for an agricultural plot. He suggested a 1 acre adjoining be purchased from the Salvation Army.

Inspector J. H. Betheras reported the matter was not urgent, but needed relief could be given by allowing one of the residence rooms to be used for school purposes. The extra land should be purchased if the price is reasonable.

The earliest existing register of The Basin State School commenced in 1913. Student No. 1 was Robert John Dobson.

In 1914, Mr H. R. Chandler, Correspondent of the School Committee, wrote to The Hon. W. S. Keast, Parliament House, Melbourne, asking him to urge upon the Minister of Education the necessity of providing extra accommodation. Mr Keast forwarded letter of 19.2.14 to the Minister of Education. The Department replied:

"...in view of the large number of urgent works already authorised that there must be some delay in having the works carried out."

Herbert Godden, Head Teacher, advised the Department:

"...the quarters are now vacant and are being used for cloak room, infant room and library, museum, etc."

The average attendance having reached 40, expenditure of 90 pounds was authorised towards improving lighting, ventilation, general repairs and renovating the school, following intervention in the matter by the Hon. W. S. Keast, M.L.A. All the work was finished by November 1914.

The first Inspector's report still held at the school was written by Mr I. H. Betheras in 1914:

"The grounds have been much improved since my visit last year...the School Committee is taking a lively interest..."

He reported a:

"*...good supply of school requisites.*"

...and:

"...was pleased to see that word building is used in the teaching of spelling — the learning of disconnected words is out of date."

The School Committee's pleas for additional land as an extra play area for the children resulted in the purchase of additional land costing 50 pounds, when the adjacent block, owned by the Salvation Army was purchased in March 1915. After the purchase, an exchange of areas between the Department and the Methodist Church took place.

Mr Betheras repeated his appreciation of the improved appearance of the grounds as he:

"...used to be ashamed to pass by this school and grounds" and noted that the boys had *"sold the produce of their agricultural plots for the benefit of the patriotic fund."*

A football field was added in 1915.

To raise money for the comforts of the soldiers in the first world war, the headmaster organised a concert. At the concert, the girls sang a song beginning:

"*I'm a busy little cook,*
With cap and apron white,
If at my work you look,
You'll find I do it right."

Of interest from 1925, and still displayed at the school, are an Honour Roll of the 1914-1918 War, a clock, the registers, and a photograph of the school committee.

In 1918, Inspector J. McOwan reported:

"In Tables and Spelling more smart drill work is needed as well as constant recapitulation."

Herbert F. Godden was Head Teacher at the school from 1913 to 1918. In 1919, he moved to Talbot State School. Before coming to The Basin, he was Head Teacher at Montrose. He was presented with an engraved silver tea pot on his departure from The Basin.

Head Teacher Elisha Robertson complained of cramped conditions at the school in March 1919:

"... 40 in the one room is not fair to the children or teachers."

However, Inspector J. McOwan found accommodation adequate. Average attendance for March 1919 was 56; April 54; May 50; whilst there was provision for 70 children on a 12 square foot basis.

Concerning teaching, he noted:

"...instruction was carried on actively in accordance with sound methods of teaching."

However, in 1920, District Inspector Burgess noted:

"*…the teacher now in charge ... found the school in a backward state.*"

…and advised him to:

"...concentrate on English and Arithmetic mostly for the rest of the year."

A considerable increase in attendance in February 1921 necessitated the supply of 20 additional desks. Head Teacher H. Henry Berry wrote:

"... Since Christmas, I have had many new pupils and none have left. There are now 70 pupils who attend regularly and it's likely that there will soon be more..."

Inspector Burgess reported:

"...the Head Teacher has an easy, friendly manner. He has the children here well before 9:00 am and late after 4 of their own free will."

Transport was still a problem. Children, often barefooted, walked, cycled or rode. Winter conditions were so bad some tots were carried to school by their mothers for distances up to three miles. Special events enjoyed then were Arbor Days with Maypole Dances, Concerts, happily arranged by Mr. Berry, "*Bird Days*", and a picnic to Mordialloc by special steam train.

In 1922, District Inspector Burgess reported:

"...attendance has been interfered with by the ravages of scarlet fever, mumps and chicken pox."

…and directed the Head Teacher to:

"...train the children to put their dinner papers and litter into some receptacle." He also noted some:

"interesting occupation work is being done with stringy bark fibre."

In 1923, District Inspector Henderson noted:

"...a girl pupil has a sweet and sympathetic voice."

…and was impressed by the Honour Roll of the 1914-1918 War as he mentioned it in several reports. Apparently, the Honour Roll was erected before the end of the Great War as the date for the end of war has never been added. He also reported the pupils:

"...have a good grasp of the influence exerted by the British during the Napoleonic Wars."

General repairs were carried out and two new outhouses and tanks supplied in 1923 at a cost of 75 pounds 15 shillings 6 pence.

In 1924, Inspector Henderson reported:

"...boys keep the grounds free from lunch papers."

1925 New Building

Following Inspector William Henderson's second recommendation, and intervention into the matter of accommodation by the Hon. F. Groves. M.L.A. and W. Tyner, M.L.C., the erection of a new school was finally approved in September 1924. The new wooden building was 43 feet x 24 feet (partitioned to form 2/21 feet 6 inches x 24 feet plus storeroom) and costing 934 pounds 11 shillings 6 pence. It was officially opened on 22nd May 1925. Mr Henderson reported:

"...the school is beautifully situated. It would be difficult to secure a better position for a school building."

However, he also noted:

"the school library has become almost obsolete."

In 1927, the Committee asked for a subsidy to erect a shelter shed, finished in June. Inspector Henderson noted:

"...the school library contains some suitable books. To encourage the reading habit is one of the most important functions of an elementary school."

Pupils of Basin Primary School in 1913. Head Teacher Mr. Herb Godden.
Back Row Myrtle Collier, Cicily Hills, Olive Puddephat, Doris Chandler, Freda Kirsten, Robert Dobson, Harry Dickson, Herb Smith, Jim Dobson, Victor Murielle, George Puddephat, Les Dickson, Laurie Chandler, Unknown
Middle Row Gladys Collier, Hugh Chandler, Li Collier, Faith Skinner, Rose Afferent, Ruby Collier, May Dickson, Alma Collier, Mabel Henderson, Unknown, Hazel Godden, Wreford Chandler, Steele Murielle.
Front row Gordon Chandler, Stan Collier, Alfred Chandler, Arthur Collier, Ron Collier, Alan Collier, Eric Collier, Gordon King, Unknown, Unknown.
Photo courtesy Knox Historical Society.

In 1929, a tennis court was constructed at the school, apparently without Departmental authority, but the Minister (Hon. H. I. Cohen, K.C., M.L.C.) officially opened it on 15th November 1929. The first tennis tournament on the new court was organised by the Mothers Club in May 1930 and was a huge success.

In 1936, eleven years after the construction of the new school, 68 pounds was spent on painting and general repairs, and the old tanks replaced.

Average attendance at the school for June 1939, on Inspector E. A. O'Brien's visit, was 41; net enrolment 72. The Inspector noted the need for internal renovation, and repairs to the out offices (toilets). The latter, a more urgent task, was immediately attended to. Repairs to fences and painting were left until the following year, when the average attendance for October was 56, (net enrolment 79).

For years, the District Inspectors, Head Teachers and the Committee had advocated the provision at the school of a second exit to facilitate ingress and egress, particularly in case of fire, but their appeals were repeatedly ignored. Finally, in April 1941, the new doorway was installed.

During the renovations carried out in August 1941, children were housed in a room at the adjacent Salvation Army Home for four days.

In applying for a new tank in May 1942, Head Teacher Thomas Reardon stressed the need for a large (800 gallons) one as:

"... About 80 children have their lunches at this school and a plentiful supply of water is necessary."

By 1943, the net enrolment having reached 94, provision of increased accommodation became a matter of urgency. H. Reardon's application for an additional room was inquired into by Inspector J.0. Archer who stated in June:

"In 1938 there were 72 pupils. In the district there are about 20 children aged between 3½ and 5½ years and probably 14 will be enrolled by the beginning of next year. Five young children have been refused admission during the present term. In all likelihood, six of the present pupils will be transferred to secondary school

Local ladies at The Basin State School at the opening of the new school building 1925.1. Mrs Frank Collier, 2. Mrs Tom Clarke, 3. Mrs Dave Pope, 4. Mrs Esther Goodwin, 5. Mrs Norman, 6. Mrs Janet Dobson, 7. Mrs Martin, 8. Mrs Florence Smart, 9. Mrs Annie Burden, 10. Mrs Parr, 11. Mrs Allen, 12. Mrs Bill Collier, 13. Mrs Serena Henderson, 14. Mrs Albert Collier, 15. Mrs Bird, 16. Mrs Pickett, 17. Mrs Jessie Chandler, 18. Mrs Ada Chandler, 19. Mrs George Feidler, 20. Mrs Cawley, 21 Mrs Louise Maguire, 22. Mrs Pat Rafferty. Photo courtesy Knox Historical Society

next year. The settlement is of a permanent nature and an enrolment of between 90 and 100 will probably be maintained for some time."

In his opinion, additional accommodation of a pavilion classroom for 35 pupils was necessary.

The Minister promptly approved the provision of a standard classroom measuring 24 feet x 22 feet 6 inches, costing 699 pounds to erect, with an additional 21 pounds allowed for painting the existing building, but apart from the approval, little progress made.

Only after several representations to the Hon. G. L. Chandler, M.L.C., and the Hon. G. H. Knox, M.L.A., by the School Committee, was any action taken. In 1946, The Basin Methodist Church was rented, pending the erection of the additional room. The leased premises were vacated on 19th July 1946, and the new premises occupied on July 22nd.

During his inspection, District Inspector J. O. Archer noted:

"...there is excellent activity in securing equipment: a new sewing machine, 20 kindergarten chairs, a chain measure and sporting materials. The Social Service League sent 4 pounds 10 shillings and 3 dozen eggs to the Children's Hospital and 65 packages to the Food for Britain Appeal."

In 1947, Inspector Archer commended the planting of shrubs and noted the school was awarded the A.N.A. Prize for the most improved grounds in the district. He also commended the provision of equipment:

"...a fine five valve wireless, electric gramophone and a dozen records, a projector and 60 films...have been obtained."

Of the pupils he wrote:

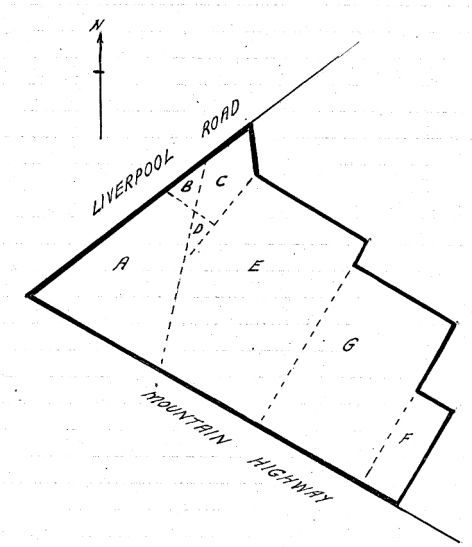
"...they express themselves very well in writing... especially in graphic vigorous style. They do not express themselves so well orally."

In 1948, District Inspector J.W. Elijah noted:

"...new entrance gates with pergola attachments have been erected...a basketball court has been constructed."

He also stated:

"It should be placed on record how satisfactorily cooperatives the School Committee and Mothers' Club have been with the Head Teacher in building up such an excellent store of equipment for their school."



The Basin State School Land Acquisitions 1902-1960
A. Purchased from Mary Ann Bruce in 1902.
E. Purchased from Salvation Army in 1915.
F. Purchased from Salvation Army in 1951.
G. Purchased from Salvation Army in 1952.
D. Purchased from Methodist Church in 1924.
B. Purchased from Methodist Church in 1960.
C. Purchased from Methodist Church in 1960.
Map courtesy Knox Historical Society (H.S. McComb Compilation).

1949 Additional Land

In July 1949, the School Committee inquired into the possibility of purchasing a block of land for a teacher's residence. An offer by the Salvation Army of a ¼ acre block adjoining the grounds was considered, but the Department preferred a larger site. Hence, a one acre block, valued at 450 pounds was purchased from the Salvation Army in June 1952.

In March 1950, The Basin community arranged a formal farewell in The Basin Progress Hall to Jack Smith, headmaster for the past 5 and a half years. He had recently been promoted to Mt Evelyn State School. His dedicated work for the school was much appreciated by the community.

In his report in 1950, Inspector J.W. Elijah noted:

"...accommodation needs will become pressing...a special report will be submitted regarding pupils' work he noted "a commendable feature of recorded work in both history and geography is the use of well executed diagrammatic sketches."

In 1951, Inspector H. A. Flinger noted:

"...the recently constructed tennis court will be a definite asset. All in all the school is a very happy place with children and teachers striving zealously."

1953 New Classroom

While waiting for the erection of an extra classroom recommended by Inspector J. Elijah in December 1950, the Department leased the premises of The Basin Methodist Church until December 1952. A prefabricated timber classroom to house 50 infants, was occupied on 3rd February 1953.

Provision of a sick bay and storeroom requested by the Committee in February 1953 was refused, for as J. Webster, Inspector of Works stated:

"The incidence of sickness during school hours doesn't appear to be greater than in other schools of

similar size and type…the existing store room is 6 feet x 4 feet ... considered ... adequate for storage of stationery…"

By June 1954, two additional tanks, drinking taps, (and a flagpole) were installed on the southwest side of the building.

In July 1954, the Public Works Department (P.W.D.) was advised by the School Committee electric light and power had been extended to the newly erected prefabricated classroom.

An application from the School Committee in December 1954 to build a bicycle shelter was acknowledged thus:

"*If you submit to this office for prior approval, full details, plans and specifications, and quotations, consideration will be given to a subsidy of 2 pounds for 1 pound basis, maximum Departmental share 150 pounds, towards a bicycle shelter provided that funds are available when you make application."*

The application made in August 1955, was approved, but requests for the provision of a library and projection room, and an additional shelter shed were rejected claiming:

"*… existing commitments will not permit (the Department) undertaking the erection at present of rooms other than class rooms."*

As recommended by the Inspector of Works in 1951, painting and external renovations costing 482 pounds 10 shillings were finished in March 1955.

To relieve the problem of limited accommodation it became necessary once again to lease the Methodist Church premises. Inspector R. P. McLellan urged in February 1957, immediate occupation of the leased premises, for he noted:

"The present net attendance has risen sharply to 187. Accommodation at 12 sq. ft. per pupil is available for 177 pupils. Immediate steps are being taken to recommend the building of an additional classroom.

Staff members of The Basin Primary School 1980
Back Row Ellen Larsen, Deborah Slatter, Kay Purdey, Vivian Clissold, Lyn Wilson, Rob Hopman, Lillian Smith, Jan Hutchins.
Middle Row Helen Wakelam, Kath Robinson, Peter Ridgewell, Ian Laird, Aiden Crilley, Geoff Eady, Debra Rhodes, Grethe Doebler, Unknown.
Bottom Row Jan Donnelly, Unknown, Don Brown, Ron Fry, Unknown, Debbie Roberts, Nola Bailey.
Photo from The Basin Primary School Centenary booklet.

Plans for the additions were finalised on October when the School Committee was informed that…a cloakroom at present being used as a staff room is to be vacated as soon as a new additional classroom has been erected. A permanent staff room will be located in the new classroom. Approval has been granted for the provision of additional hat and coat racks and these will be installed in the cloakroom as soon as it is vacated."

1958 New Buildings and Egg Appeal

The new buildings, erected at a cost of 4,770 pounds, were occupied on 17 February 1958. They included a 24 feet x 24 feet classroom, a 16 feet x 12 feet staff room and a 16 feet x 12 feet office. A further 65 pounds was spent on painting the structure. Committee Secretary R. Dobson drew the attention of the Department, in June 1958, to the urgent need for improved sanitary facilities at the school. Adverse reports on several schools including The Basin, appeared in the local paper in February and April 1958. Then, in May 1959, Dobson listed the following works deemed necessary:

"1. About five years ago we understood a new boundary fence along the Mountain Highway and Liverpool Road had been approved, but as yet, nothing has been done. The existing fence is a disgrace to the school and is falling down.

2. The Committee would like to draw your attention to the lack of shelter shed accommodation. There is space for only about 50 children and there are 200 pupils at the school. The shelter sheds have not been extended for over 20 years.

3. The promised extension to the existing area of asphalt has not been made with the continual increase in the number of pupils attending the school. These extensions are badly needed.

4. The drainage needs attention. The water from the new buildings constructed last year runs anywhere…

We would like to point out the urgent need to provide a new toilet block at the school, especially now that water is available. The present facilities are totally inadequate for the number of children present."

Having received no reply to the above letter for some time, Dobson appealed to the Hon. Sir George Knox, M.L.A., in June, to intervene and expedite proceedings. In reply to his letter, the Minister explained to Sir George (in October) he could not follow the Committee's requests, as the Government's policy was to use available funds to supply urgently needed classrooms. Septic sewerage could only be provided if a new toilet block was under construction, or if no municipal sanitary service was available.

The Royal Melbourne Hospital (RMH) Annual Egg Appeal, inaugurated in 1924, was a highlight of RMH activities for six decades.

In the early 1920s, the cost of purchasing more than 100,000 eggs for patient meals each year strained Hospital finances. This was exacerbated by the fluctuation of egg prices after the war. In 1924, kitchen staff decided to store eggs to use when supplies were short, and called on the RMH Auxiliaries to help gather eggs from the community and the Egg Appeal was born!

Once collected, the eggs were sorted and higher quality intact ones were put aside for immediate use. The yolks and whites were removed from those with cracked shells, frozen in tins and stored for a later date.

In 1958, the price of eggs dropped to 1 shilling per dozen, and sales increased by 30%, which contributed to the success of the Appeal that year. The Basin Primary School 1,130 that year.

Enrolment at the school for July 1959 was 245. Additions including a classroom and staff room were finished in November. Approval was given in November 1960 for 223 pounds to be spent on re-blocking the floor of Room 2 and external painting.

Under Head Teacher Mr. Koetsveld, sport flourished with The Basin children playing a prominent part in local meetings and creating new records. Children travelled by bus and grounds were enlarged by the removal of the church. The school by this time had eight classrooms, graded and sealed areas, and population of about 340 children.

1962 New Buildings

After years of pressure exerted by the Committee, Mothers' Club, Shire of Fern Tree Gully, the Minister of Agriculture (G. L. Chandler) and others, regarding the sanitary facilities, the Minister issued the following statement:

"*…in accordance with the recent announcement by the Hon. the Premier, the P.W.D. Is being asked to submit a scheme for septic sewerage at The Basin School. The matter will be given further consideration when the scheme is to hand from that Department…"*

The letter was dated 5th May 1961. Installation of a new out office block, fire service, and septic tank was carried out in July 1962 at a cost of 4,838 pounds.

Two new light timber classrooms, each 24 feet x 24 feet, and a 24 feet x 8 feet storeroom, were added to the school in October 1962.

In 1963, District Inspector R. H. Brown reported:

"…an area has been established for items of permanent play apparatus. This section has been boxed and filled with sand to provide very good facilities for younger pupils."

With an enrolment of 315, District Inspector L. H. Blake reported in 1964:

"…present accommodation 8 classrooms is sufficient."

He found the Grade 5 pupils:

"…obviously entranced with their dramatic work" and that "many children especially in Grades 1 and 2 have made exceptionally good progress in reading."

Reticulated water supply was connected during 1964, and a special committee devised an overall plan for grounds improvements.

A television set and a typewriter were purchased during 1965.

With an enrolment of 346 in 1966, accommodation was insufficient, and a small group of Grade 4 children was taught in the staff room. Inspector Blake reported the tone and discipline of the school as:

"excellent."

...and commended the:

"delightful and educationally valuable activities period for beginners."

By 1967, an additional room had been added and a basketball court had been constructed to the stage of levelling. The garden area near the canteen was planted with camellias and rhododendrons donated by Mr J. Chandler of Como Nurseries, and gas heating was installed throughout the school.

1968 First Principal

In 1968, the school had its first Principal appointed, Mr. Roy White, due to a reclassification of the school. The opening of Boronia Heights Primary School that year meant, although the school population declined in numbers, with enrolment dropping to 267, an improved staffing provision meant smaller class sizes could be established. The Mothers' Club began operating a daily canteen.

In 1971, District Inspector H. Hobbs:

"...found this to be a most interesting school."

He was particularly impressed with:

"...the sincere regard for all round personality development of the pupils."

…and the conscious effort of staff to preserve:

"*…a close personal attachment towards the children."*

He also noted several parents had contacted him:

"...to express their pride in the school and their appreciation of the work of the principal and staff."

Under the next Principal, Mr. John Kett, affectionately known as "*Jack*", the school was praised for its:

"...sincere regard for all round personality development of the Pupils."

1972 Library Built

Evidence of community support was shown in 1972, when the library was built with an Education Department grant of $7,000, and a local contribution of $4,000. During the year two additional classrooms were built, and a staff room modified at a total cost of $17,000.

1972 Yumbunga Camp Established

In November 1972, children and teachers from The Basin were the first group to use the newly established Ferntree Gully District Camp at Yumbunga. Lake Eppalock. Principal Jack Kett and Committee members Kevin Gale and Max White represented the school on the Management Committee which brought the camp into existence and many staff members and parents have been involved in the management and improvement of the camp since then. Twenty-seven schools in the Fern Tree Gully Electorate financed the building of the camp and these schools used the camp throughout the year.

Mrs Edna Thoren of The Basin Primary School canteen and her husband Frank became the camp's first manageress and caretaker. Mrs Thoren ran the school tuck shop for 25 years up until 1972 when they left to manage the camp. After the Thoren's left Eppalock, two other couples from The Basin have been managers.

By 1975, 460 children attended the school and 13 classrooms used.

1976 Art Craft Room and School Councils

The art craft room, built at a cost of $29,000, was brought into use in 1976.

School Committees were replaced by School Councils whose duties include tendering advice to the Principal and Staff regarding the general educational policy of the school and ensuring all money received by the Council is spent for proper purposes. Councils are required to ensure buildings and grounds are kept in good condition and may make recommendations regarding improvements and alterations. The School Council at The Basin Primary School consisted of 8 members elected by parents and 4 teachers elected by teachers, all of whom held office for two years; the Principal and 2 members nominated annually by the Mothers' Club. Two other members could be appointed by Council for a term of up to two years.

1977 Enrolment Peaks

In 1977, school enrolment was 497 and five portable classrooms were on site to accommodate the students and classes. Mr. Neville Heffernan was Principal and will be remembered for the work he undertook to clean up The Basin school by arranging to replace the inadequate toilet facilities with modern covered ones. He dealt diplomatically with the Salvation Army and the Education Department to achieve a deal over disputed land between The Salvation Army Special school and The Basin school.

The school was given permission to use the gym in the Salvation Army Special School and barbed wire fences and dairy cows made a trip over to use the gym a most interesting one.

In 1978, after the new toilet block was finished, District Inspector L. McMahon noted little evidence of progress in grounds improvements. During his review he met with members of the school community, and discussed procedures which helped in this regard.

1979 Environment and House Teams

In 1979, the school focused on its environment. The oval replanted and sown, an adventure playground constructed, the car park graded and gravelled, and a barbecue area paved. Planting and site works undertaken enabling the school to win environmental awards from the Australian Natives Association.

Four well known district names were chosen for house teams at the school. These were "*Miller*", "*Doongalla*", "*Ferndale*" and "*Chandler*". The Eastern Rosella chosen for the school emblem.

1980 Centenary

1980 was a "*BIG*" year for the school, celebrating its Centenary in fine fashion, with many events involving all segments of the school community. Painting and renovations finished, further adventure playground equipment installed, the unused Salvation Army Basin Boys Home Special School buildings added to the school buildings and more portable classrooms removed from the main site. Negotiations were well under way to purchase the land between the two sets of buildings and a netball court was constructed. Further information on the Centenary celebrations are detailed in the Chapter 11.

The then Principal, Ron Fry lead a team of parents, teachers and students who believed strongly in the identity of their school, its environment and special nature. During his period at the school his services were required often by the Regional Office of the Ministry of Education and the school was run in his absence by Don Brown, the Vice-Principal, and a local identity.

In 1984, Ian Green became principal and brought energy and character to the school. He was instrumental in bringing together all the strengths within the school community to ensure the school maintained a modern yet strong learning environment for its students. He reorganised working bees to cope with the enormous task of maintaining the largest primary school grounds in Melbourne. Ian restructured the internal and external car park and pick-up areas to ensure safe delivery and pick up of students by a highly mobile school community. He negotiated for the school to gain ownership of an adjacent Department building (previously used as a Teachers Residence), and negotiated to transfer the property to Knox Council to enable the establishment of The Basin Community House.

The Basin Primary School Mower Saga

A rideon mower purchased by the school in 1990 to enable the school community to cut the grass of the large school grounds was much sought after by thieves.

Over several years, the mower was stolen four times but was recovered each time. One time the mower was recovered from Bairnsdale after the Police traced the serial number on the motor.

Twice thieves were caught redhanded by a Police helicopter and Police vehicles whilst removing the mower from the school grounds. Another time thieves had removed the mower from its storage area but were disturbed and fled the scene.

James Griffiths' School Promise

In 1924, when the erection of the "*second*" The Basin State School was approved, James Griffith promised at the opening of the new school he would present all children enrolled at the school with a mint condition one shilling coin.

Unfortunately, James Griffith was killed at a tragic accident at the Bayswater railway crossing shortly before the opening of the new school in May 1925.

James' brother John undertook to make the presentation on his behalf. However, the children did not receive a mint condition coin, much to their disappointment. Instead they each received a used one shilling coin.

1985 Victoria's 150th Year Celebrations

In 1985, the school was involved in Victoria's 150th year celebrations. A weather station was constructed and near the station a time capsule was embedded in concrete and buried. It contains a piece of work from every child at the school, video and audio tapes, school council minutes of the period, photographs, and school paraphernalia.

The capsule was due to be recovered and opened in 2035. However, in 2018, a gymnasium with a full size basketball court was erected where the time capsule was located. It was recovered, and in 2025 the capsule is stored in the school office to be opened in 2035.

1985 Recycle Shop

The school opened a "*Recycle Shop*" in 1985 in a small shop beside The Basin post office. Garments were received by the shop and sold at a price set by the owner. The school received a proportion of the selling price. It operated as a fundraising effort for the school and to help the local community. The shop was manned by volunteers from the local community and parents from the school.

After 4 successful years of operation, the shop closed in 1989 due to difficulties in manning it.

The school continued to develop and grow. With the emphasis on local development of school policies and programmes, the school had to identify the significant qualities making The Basin individual in its nature and cater for these special qualities.

1989 Major Building Upgrade

Ian Green was instrumental in the design of a Master Plan enabling the school to grow in an organised way, rather than the improvised compromises often affecting the development of schools. This lead on to a major upgrade of the administrative section of the School in 1989. Anne Tierney took over from Ian Green in 1993.

1995 New Classrooms

In 1995, four classrooms were placed on the land between the existing "*Junior*" and "*Senior*" buildings. The classrooms were from a school which had closed

down. The Department relocated the classrooms and refurbished them to "*connect*" the two school buildings. The school then had 5 permanent buildings, unlike many schools which have only one permanent and several portables.

In the late 1990s, the school adopted a policy of compulsory uniforms, but the older children were reluctant to adopt the uniform. In 2000, Linda Cooney took over from Anne Tierney, and she led a push to enforce the compulsory uniform. With the provision of up-to-date uniform options including bomber jackets, divided skirts and gym skirts, all children wore them with pride. In summer terms, school hats also became compulsory outside.

The school had full time Physical Education programs for many years and excelled in sporting events, regularly beating much bigger schools at District and State level, in Netball, Football, Athletics, and Bat Tennis.

In 2001, the school became part of a State research project, called Science in Schools, involving students academically in several Science studies. The project was a Global Classroom project using the Internet, researching and comparing environmental issues with a school in New Zealand. The students used computers daily, having "*epals*" across the world and were involved in teleconferencing.

2002 Queens Golden Jubilee

In 2002, the school was selected to be Australia's only contributor to the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations, through a commissioned Art Project, the Rainbow of Wishes sculpture. This sculpture has the wishes of children from one school from every Commonwealth country incorporated into the sculpture. So the children from The Basin Primary School are part of Commonwealth history!

One of the school's greatest strengths has always been community involvement — and the school continued to promote this by encouraging local organisations to make full use of grounds. In 2002, the school was home to The Basin Brownies, The Basin Wildcats Basketball Club, as well as a martial arts club, callisthenics groups and a Dog Training school.

The school is fortunate to have one of the largest playgrounds in the State with large ancient oak trees shading many of the school buildings. Unfortunately, in 2002, an arborist's report found some of these trees diseased, and they were removed.

In 2005, the school was the first Knox School accredited with the Performance and Development Culture award.

2007 General Improvements

In 2007, the school was fortunate to have many building and grounds work improvements. Retaining walls, extensive planting along the fence lines, installation of bollards, removal of dangerous trees, refurbishment of the Prep toilets, new courtyard and a fantastic new mural in the courtyard. Many grant applications were successful. $535,000 for classrooms, $50,000 water grant, a chaplaincy grant for 2008, $70,000 grant for asphalting and further toilet works, Fruit for Friday $1,600 each semester until 2011.

2009 Major Building Upgrades

In 2009, the school built a new multipurpose room using a Federal grant of $150,000 from the investing in schools grant. In that year, the school also received $400,000 as part of the State Governments Better Schools grant which allowed the school to increase the size of 10 classrooms and completely refurnish them all.

In 2010, the school produced its first Christmas Carol CD. Each grade professionally recorded one song with bonus tracks performed by the school choir.

In 2011, a new modern classroom building was constructed on site as part of the Building the Educational Revolution (BER) program.

The enrolment continued to increase with 300 students in 2011; up 50 from two years ago. The school also introduced Music/Performing Arts as a specialist teaching area with whole school concerts held biannually. In the last 2 years the dance teams made the state finals in the prestigious Wakakirri Arts competitions with the students awarded the "*Best School in Public*" award.

The rich sporting history continued with success at a District level. As of 2011 the school was District Champions in Athletics and Cross Country coming first in 8 consecutive years. Also, 6 of 8 district champions in Swimming and second twice. This success commenced in 2005. The students were also successful in many team events winning at district, regional and state levels.

2018 Major Building Upgrades

In 2017, a $7,800,000 upgrade was announced. It included a new gymnasium with full-size basketball court, a refurbishment of ageing classroom buildings, a rebuild of the administration building, carpark asphalting, oval works and new lighting.

Works were finished in mid 2018 and catered for a projected enrolment of 570 students in 2018.

The Hanging Shoe Mystery

Since 1983, one or more pairs of shoes had been hanging from power lines in Mountain Highway outside The Basin Primary School.

Legend had it the shoes first appeared in 1983 when "*Justin*" (aged 10) was attacked by bullies who stole his sneakers and threw them over the power lines.

Whenever the shoes fell off, or the power company removed them, another pair quickly reappeared.

Boronia Heights College

The Need for a New School

The late 1960s and early 1970s was a time of great change in the newly proclaimed City of Knox. Large tracts of land, formerly predominantly orchards and market gardens, were subdivided and transformed into housing estates, eagerly snapped up by baby boomers with young families looking to attain the "Australian Dream" of home-ownership.

Knox was growing rapidly; the average annual rate of population growth in Knox between the 1966 and 1971 censuses was 9.3%. House and land packages were relatively cheap in the fledgling outer eastern suburbs, however, the comprehensive infrastructure of services associated with the older inner suburbs had not yet been established.

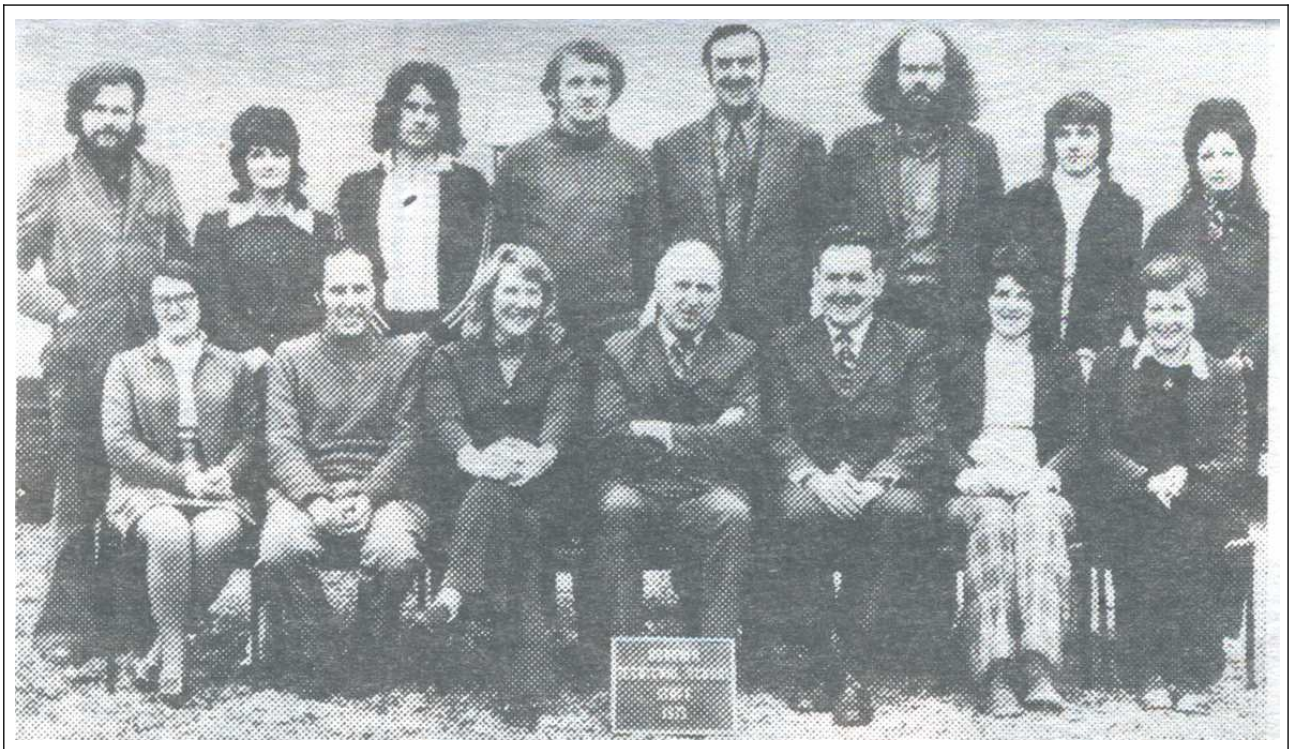
The large and rapid population rise led to an increased need for schools in the area. Several primary schools and a new technical and high school were built in the mid to late 1960s to accommodate the burgeoning student population. Demand continued to outstrip supply, however, and local schools were soon lobbying for more services.

In 1970, F.A. Mitchell, Principal of Knox Technical School, for the Knox Technical School Advisory Council, wrote to the then member for Scoresby, Geoff Hayes, regarding the "phenomenal" expected enrolment increases. Mitchell enclosed with this letter a case proposing a new technical school be opened in 1971 in Boronia. The case contained statistics which showed an increase in projected enrolments over all the next seven years except one and pointed out places at existing high and technical schools fell short of the number of students who required placement. The case also contained a breakdown of projected enrolments based on proportional estimates for each post primary school; the only one expected to exceed capacity for the next three years was Knox Technical School. Knox was already using the sick bay, a staff room and the model office as classrooms. The Principal was concerned using practical classrooms would be prohibitive with larger numbers of students. This concern would have been because technical school classrooms, and therefore class sizes, were smaller than high school classrooms.

The Advisory Council thus saw the provision of another technical school as "*priority one*".

The rationale for establishing a technical school rather than a high school in Boronia, was simply that there was already a high school in Boronia, and it was then common practice to establish technical schools where there were none in the area. Geoff Hayes duly made representation to the then Minister of Education, L H S Thompson, who acknowledged student pressure facing Knox Technical School and advised, while he was aware:

"...that additional facilities appear to warrant



Founding staff members of Boronia Heights Technical School 1973
Photo courtesy Knox News

consideration in the near future…"

He could not advise when an additional school would be provided.

The District Inspector of Schools then, MA Buchanan, also asked for the provision of a co-educational technical school at Boronia for the start of the 1971 school year. A. L. Harris, Acting Staff Inspector for the Eastern Division Placement Committee also made the request. It was, however, to be over two years before this school was established.

Establishment

In 1972, the Victorian Education Department purchased just over 10 acres of land, in Mount View Road, from Donald and Laurence Maguire, who were settling their father's (John Maguire) estate. An additional 5 acres adjoining this land was purchased in 1973 from J P Vincent Pty. Ltd and T C Porter Pty. Ltd. A further 4 acres was purchased in 1975 from J O G and A E Johnson, bringing the total area of the site to over 19 acres, or over 8 hectares. The Education Department paid a total of $129,500 to secure land for the Boronia Technical School site.

Boronia Technical School opened its doors in February 1973, with a student body of 163 students, 13 teaching and 4 non teaching staff. Ken Baldwin was the founding Principal. From the outset, the school was set apart from its contemporaries, both physically and in its philosophy:

"…education should concern itself with areas outside of traditional schooling…"

The general classrooms were based on the "*open classroom*" design model. There were no walls between classrooms; rooms were sectioned by concertina partitions. This particular "*experiment*" was not successful, mainly due to the noise levels associated with running several classes in such an open space, and partition walls were erected by the mid 1980s.

In its first year of operation, the school offered a core curriculum to students where everyone took the same subjects.

Late in 1973, the school introduced a core and elective system, where students followed a common year level core but chose their own electives. Then, electives were an unusual offering and students took time to adapt to the new system. It was only the second school in Victoria to offer such choice. Even as late as 2003, the core and elective system still operated progressively from year 8 and underpinned the school's early philosophy of catering to individual student needs by offering a range of subjects in which students are interested.

Early Conditions

The early days of the school saw a sea of mud and dust. Early photographs show the state of the grounds with its oval as a rutted expanse of mud, and truck tracks creating massive welts through the slush of the play area. In an article published in the Free Press of 2nd July 1974, the headline reads:

"*School in a Frenzy: Portables on Barren Land.*"

…and continues…

"*It was as if the department was playing a dirty joke on them… [by placing them on]… a site that was either a dust bowl or mudpie, depending on the weather.*"

In State Parliament the question was asked:

"I*s it true that a bulldozer is submerged in the pool of mud that is Boronia Technical School's oval?*"

The original buildings consisted of amenities building (incomplete) and four portables; in halves. The amenities building contained the boiler room, toilets, canteen, music room (used for PE) and a sick room (used as an Office). The Library was in the canteen delivery area. Early classes were rostered with girls and boys attending on alternate days until the amenities building was finished.

In 1974, six more portable classrooms arrived but had no drainage, water, heat or other facilities. The Humanities Building was finished, but students had to place their shoes in cabinets outside the building to keep the mud outside. The Home Economics and Science block was finished in 1975 and construction started on the Trades/Maths blocks. Home Economics was slow to take off as most of the ovens were gas — which hadn't been connected to school yet!

No additional construction occurred after 1975 for 10 years and the school stood half built, surrounded by portable classrooms until 1985 when building of the final stage commenced.

Mini Schools

The establishment of a mini school structure at Boronia Technical School was a staff led innovation. It was introduced in mid 1974 and was designed to preserve some unique benefits of working in a small group.

Mini schools were originally named A, B and C. In 1975, a fourth mini school, D, was formed, through a division of A school, and in 1977 all staff were divided equally into the four mini schools. A fifth mini school, E, operated in the early 1980s in portables near the driveway entrance.

Mini school coordinators were elected by members of the mini school: they were to be "*representative of, and responsible to, their particular mini school*". Each mini school was vertically structured to year 11 (technical schools only went to year 11) and operated in a specific wing and form home rooms were located within that wing. Also, each mini school adopted its own philosophy of teaching, where subject areas and curriculum were developed within mini schools operating separate timetables, and its own behavioural approach under the umbrella of school wide

expectations.

Decisions were reached cooperatively at weekly meetings and mini schools were encouraged to develop individually and therefore create alternatives for students, staff and parents to experience different educational approaches.

Each mini school used its own philosophy (below) to emphasise the relationships sought, to draw attention to the focus of its courses and thereby distinguish one mini school from the other.

Mini schools openly competed for enrolments and students chose which mini school they wished to participate in based on this information.

Mini School Philosophies

Establishment and consolidation of the mini school structure is a product of the significant social and political changes occurring in the 1960s and 1970s. Baby boomers grew up and challenged existing institutions, including the way children were educated. It was a time of societal reconstruction, particularly regarding the beginning of the renegotiation of the traditional division of labour and the way this impacted on other community expectations such as work and leisure.

The "*grassroots*" concept of education gained support. Believing local schools were best placed to develop their own curricula according to the needs of their specific communities, and thereby ensure that education was more meaningful and relevant to its students.

Curriculum restraints externally imposed by the Education Department were relaxed in the 1970s, enabling teachers to develop their own courses of study. The only constraints were imposed by the community and the prescribed knowledge required to pass external examinations at senior secondary school.

New ways of teaching, particularly in sciences and new technologies, emerged. Also, many young teachers of this era were influenced by the radical thought and experimentation in education expounded in books by Ivan Illich, Postman and Weingartner.

For many, teaching was a political activity and the mini school system was an effective way of offering a combination of traditional and more radical ideas in education. A major reason why this system flourished is because, as a technical school its educational focus was on technology.

For many students, external exams were irrelevant, and staff and students were not confined to teach and learn merely to pass exams.

Mini school A, in 2003 East saw itself as the more traditional school. As opposed to the other mini schools, it had a more structured timetable, and more "*formal*" classes. However, informal and friendly staff relationships were encouraged.

Mini school B, in 2003 North was concerned with the individual development of students and provided greater opportunity for choice within the timetable, which encouraged self-directed education. It offered a wide variety of social learning experiences and encouraged development of responsible social relationships.

Mini school C, in 2003 West from the basis of close well-developed homegroup structures, where teachers progressed with their group, mini school C aimed to provide a secure, friendly, working environment in which each person was encouraged to reach their potential. Great emphasis was placed on the development of respect and critical awareness.

Mini school D, formerly South, in 2003 Senior was a heterogeneous group of teachers who worked for friendly and happy relationships with students using many teaching styles. Teachers aimed to develop basic skills and provided a wide range of intellectual and manual pursuits. Every effort was made to foster enjoyment and interest in students' work.

Changes to Mini School Structure

The mini school system changed in the early to mid 1980s to a predominantly pastoral care role concentrating on student welfare, discipline and learning, as changes to teachers' career structures occurred. This meant mini school leaders could no longer be elected; teachers who held responsibility positions gained by merit filled these roles. Also, the reintroduction of centrally mandated core curriculum frameworks, a forerunner to the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE), facilitated the merging of mini school philosophies to a single, whole school approach.

The introduction of year 12 at the school in the mid 1980s led to the creation of years 11 and 12 senior mini school, known first as South and from 1993 as Senior. The aim to foster an "*adult*" learning environment by giving students greater responsibility and more flexibility towards welfare and discipline issues. South became an additional year 7 to 10 mini school.

The School Matures

Night classes were introduced to the public in 1976. Then, students took part in a community programme where they built a chair and playground equipment for disabled children. There were also units on Social Work Investigations and other community projects. A scale model of a fully furnished house was built for Fire Prevention week demonstrating various faults causing houses to burn.

The beginning of multi marathons was seen in 1977 with the first Cook-a-thon / Dance-a-thon / Sit-a-thon over a twenty-four-hour period. Students also took part in a sixteen-kilometre walk through the Dandenong Ranges in 1979 to raise money for charity and the school. Committees of students were formed to decide where the funds were to be placed.

In 1983, Mrs. Prue Hewett, Senior Mistress, took over as Principal from Mr Ken Baldwin, who retired.

Slowly the school grew to fruition, with the construction of the Gym/Music/Drama complex, finished in 1987, plus a new Library and Auto area. All of this was a long, long way from the beautiful grounds the school eventually exhibited. The building upgrade allowed the school to restructure its curriculum, which became centralised, and to change its "*technical*" image to a comprehensive secondary school.

The mini school structure was maintained but rearranged into three junior, years 7-10 schools and one senior, year 11 and 12 school.

The school changed its name to Boronia Heights Secondary College in 1990 in response to the Education Department's structural reforms, which amalgamated high and technical schools. The mini school system was adapted to incorporate these structural changes to enable the school to offer a comprehensive curriculum at all year levels. In 2003, the College maintained this system and was one of only a few schools in Victoria operating based on this model of mini schools.

West mini School continued the multi marathon tradition in 1990 with its Dance-a-thon, Games-a-thon, Wake-a-thon, Silence-a-thon to raise money for equipment for the Mini school. Other Mini schools also held various fundraising efforts throughout the year.

Awareness of environmental issues concerned students in 1990 and their thoughts and work were brought to community attention. Various charities received small amounts of money through the efforts of Boronia Heights students.

In 1991, the school increased its offering of electives, still attempting to meet the individual needs and requirements of students. Society is in the technological age and many of the electives were designed with this in mind.

In 1993, Arthur Nilsson, took over as Principal from Mrs Prue Hewitt.

A major refurbishment in 1996 saw the building of a new science complex and 3 new multipurpose tennis/netball courts next to the gymnasium. Also, the library was extended to include a senior study area.

In the latter half of the 1990s, provision of learning technologies was substantially increased. The senior school gained 3 fully networked computer rooms, the library gained a full class set of networked computers and one room in each junior school gained 12 computers.

In 2000, Gray Ryan took over as Principal from Arthur Nilsson.

Boronia Heights Secondary College became Boronia Heights College in January 2002. It was no longer a technical school. Uniforms and surnames for teachers were introduced and more academic curriculum offered.

In 2002, two new general purpose classrooms were created out of an old sheet metal room and adjoining storeroom. A substantial maintenance grant was also provided for painting and flooring of the school.

In September 1976, Tony Lamb (later to become a State member of Parliament) conducted a survey of the parents and students to find out whether Boronia Technical School served the needs of the community. His findings from the survey included the following:

"The high degree of satisfaction with the school held by parents and particularly by the students indicates that the mini school approach offers a wide range of philosophies which caters for the local population which desires a technical education…. Boronia Technical School is making a contribution…by providing a form of comprehensive schooling which will provide a departure point for further education and employment which is acceptable to the general community it serves."

Boronia Heights College maintained these attributes until it closed. From its muddy, unfinished, yet auspicious beginning, Boronia Heights College grew into a school of which the wider community and its students could be proud.

Closure

Planning for an amalgamation between Boronia Heights College, Boronia Primary School and the Allandale Kindergarten commenced in 2010 with the view to creating "*Boronia K-12 College"* on a new site in Boronia.

Construction of Boronia K-12 College commenced in 2011 and Boronia Heights College officially closed in 2014. Buildings and some contents were abandoned and became targets for vandalism with many complaints from neighbours.

In 2017, the buildings were demolished. Plans for development of the site included provision for public housing. Locals argued for retention of some bush areas due to its unique flora and fauna.

In 2018, the State Government revealed plans to rezone the 8 ha site as "n*eighbourhood residential*". The site was sold to a developer at a discounted rate in exchange for including social housing. 2.6 ha of the land was protected under planning controls to stop the developer destroying "*important habitat zones*" and "*established trees*".

St. Bernadette's Roman Catholic Primary School

St. Bernadette's Roman Catholic Primary School is on Mountain Highway, The Basin. The school site consists of 6 acres of land purchased from Mr Forecast for $46,000 in 1974. Mr Forecast was well known in the district as a ham radio operator. The land included a residence demolished before building the school. The site was chosen because it was the only land available of a suitable size. The site was intended to be used primarily as a school site, but consideration was also

given to building a parish centre.

Planning for the organisation of a primary school commenced in 1982 with the appointment of a Principal and staff and inaugural meetings of staff and parents. In 1983 the school commenced operation, with classes Prep to Grade 6, in the grounds of St. Joseph's School, Boronia, using portable classrooms and "spare rooms" at the back of St. Joseph's Church.

One hundred and sixteen children enrolled in the first year under the guidance of Father John Cross, Principal Sr Frances Henderson. Staff were Felicity Weeks, Maria McIntyre, Gerry Lane, Sandra Dyck, Sue Gearon, Liz Murray, Thelma Dawson, Mary Stapleton and Maria Phieler.

The school buildings at The Basin were finished and opened in September 1983. Enrolment grew to 335 in 1992, and by then the school was well established with a range of up-to-date facilities including a gymnasium, computerised library, and playground equipment. Also, the school offered music tuition and participated in local basketball competitions and several community oriented activities.

In 1997, a major new addition to the school buildings was finished in the form of St. Bernadette's Community Hall. Sunday 6th April 1997 was the official opening with a public open mass at 11.00 followed by an official ribbon cutting ceremony.

The hall is fully carpeted with a seating capacity of about 350, raised presentation platform, foyer, public address system, projector screen, kitchen and offstreet parking. To help in raising money for the purchase of chairs for the hall, an active fundraising committee used the idea of "*sponsoring a chair*". Donations towards the purchase of a chair were acknowledged on a small plaque on the back of the chair.

The school shared resources and ideas with Boronia Heights College (in 2025 closed), child care centres, and The Basin Community House. The school buildings have been used as a polling centre for several State and Federal elections. Over the years, the school has been involved in fund-raising events for William Angliss Hospital and Legacy and have participated in Anzac Day ceremonies and the Town Crier competition.

The school has become a valuable addition to the older educational and social institutions in The Basin.

Christadelphian Heritage College

The Christadephian community established this school on the site of Clevedon Conference centre opening in 2010. The school was established to enable children to learn in an environment supporting devotion to God and Biblical wisdom.

In the early 2000s, the site was purchased by a company. For a while the buildings were used for cooking classes. In 2009, the property was leased to the Christadelphian Society. With the help of church members, various improvements to the grounds and extensive renovations to existing buildings were made. The grounds were improved by a new playground, gardens, extended lawns, vegetable garden and chicken coop.

Building exteriors and floor plans were professionally redesigned to fit the identity and needs of a new college. Classrooms were modern, well-equipped, filled with natural light and ideal for indoor learning environments. Also, next to the new classrooms, offices and amenities, was library and large kitchen used for cooking lessons.

In mid 2020, the school relocated to Ferntree Gully.

Fernbrook School

Fernbrook commenced operation in 2020 taking over the land and buildings from Christadelphian Heritage College, originally the site of Clevedon Conference centre.

The Fernbrook School philosophy is influenced by social constructivist theory.

The school opened offering education for children Prep to year 8, with year 9 and 10 to be offered in 2023 or 2024.

Kindergartens

The Basin Pre-School Kindergarten

In April 1956, The Basin Progress Association called a public meeting with the view to the establishment of a kindergarten. A well attended meeting thereupon elected a committee, with Mrs. Fergus Chandler as President, and Mrs. R. Gair as Secretary. Committee members included Mesdames Turner, Petrie, Shanks, and Spry and Messrs. Wallace, Petrie and Chandler.

In October 1956, a play centre was opened in temporary quarters at The Basin Progress Hall, under the leadership of Mrs. Petty. The following year Miss West, a trained play leader, was appointed, and this entitled the committee to a Government subsidy. The committee was enlarged by the inclusion of Mrs. Tweedale, Mrs. Sadler, Mrs. Shirley Brewer, Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Noone, Mrs. Thilby, Miss Marshall, and Mrs. McKinnon.

The need for a permanent building was evident, and an appropriate site was land adjacent to the Baby Health Centre. The Shire of Fern Tree Gully had purchased this adjacent land in 1945 for such a purpose. The land was lot 61 in The Forest Heights Estate (see page 65) for which The Shire paid 80 pounds.

An application to the Council for the concept of a kindergarten was successful and plans were drawn up by Messrs. Wallace, Chandler, and Petrie. A sustained fundraising effort followed and by October 1957 enough funds were in hand to entitle the committee to a capital grant of 2,275 pounds. Ferntree Gully Shire added 100 pound. A tender from Mr. Brian Foster was accepted and the kindergarten was finished in June 1958, for a cost of

3,700 pounds including 500 pounds for equipment.

The charming and modern building was opened by Sir George Knox on the 13 September 1958. Mrs. Chandler and her Committee were congratulated by the director of Maternal & Infant Welfare Dr. Meredith on their achievement of finishing their goal in 2½ years — one of the most rapidly built kindergartens in Victoria.

In the next 3 years, during which Cr. Guy Turner acted as Treasurer, the kindergarten was freed of debt, partly due to an increased subsidy, upon the appointment of a fully qualified kindergarten teacher Mrs. LeRoy.

Since the kindergarten was finished and operation begun, there were some changes in structure. An office was constructed at the front of the building and a "*multipurpose*" room was put onto the rear of the building. This room was used with the children, for meetings and parent get togethers.

In 1967, the Shire of Knox allocated a portion of land at the rear of the kindergarten to be used as a playground. The land had originally been leased to the Basin Scout Group. Reconstruction of the playground was planned and carried out in 1987, largely through the efforts of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Henry and an enthusiastic band of parents. A storage shed for outdoor equipment, pathways and ramps from the rear of the building were acquired and financed largely through the efforts of the then local Ward Councillor, Mr. Peter Maley, from Knox Council grants.

For many years, the kindergarten was fortunate in having Mrs. Esther Bird come regularly to play the piano. This gave the children attending a wide range of musical activities to enjoy.

The Office of Pre-School and Child Care and more locally the City of Knox, took responsibility for major maintenance and administration of the kindergarten. Annually elected Management Committees were given the task of everyday running and upkeep. Largely due to these groups there has been a smooth running of internal matters over the years.

Fundraising Committees have been enthusiastic over the years in their efforts to raise extra funds to purchase new, and update old equipment, for the use and benefit of the children attending. In recent years they have ran most successful fairs raising money for this purpose. Some major leaders of these Committees have been Mr. Randall Robinson, Mr. Stan Ellison, Mr. Peter Maley, Mr. Bill McCallum, Mr. Gordon Wright and Mrs. Val Henry.

The kindergarten does have some financial help in the form of a maintenance grant from State Government funds. This is passed on to the committee through the City of Knox. The major financial burden of running the Pre-School is left to the kindergarten committee. Monies are raised through fees paid by parents and fundraising efforts held throughout the year.

Over the years the population of The Basin grew to a point where the Kinder started a third group of children; these children attended twice a week bringing the full enrolment to 72. Because two new kindergartens were built in the local area, these numbers dwindled and in 1990 this third group ceased to operate.

In 1990, Knox Council resolved to rezone land in Church Street on The Triangle as a potential site for a new Pre-School and to sell the site and building in Forest Road. The decision was based on safety issues, design inadequacies and the cost of redeveloping the existing building.

In 1993, a detailed Council assessment of the Pre-School revealed enrolments had declined since 1990, projected enrolments predicted decline, the building had many design inadequacies and the estimated cost for alterations to meet required standards would be $180,000. Council recommended the kindergarten be closed, and the children be relocated to other kindergartens. Reduced State Government funding for kindergartens also contributed to the Council rationalising kindergartens in the City of Knox.

On hearing of this decision, the Pre-School committee began an intensive campaign of lobbying Councillors, consulting with community members, public protests, press lobbying and arranging public meetings. One public meeting was attended by over 150 people. Community response was overwhelming. Two Pre-School committee members were prominent in the fight to keep The Basin Pre-School — Ann Stevens and Elizabeth Clissold.

After extensive negotiations with Council, an agreement was reached whereby the Pre-School could remain open if the required renovations could be arranged with the help of the local community. Council agreed to help by partly funding the renovations.

Over the Christmas period of 1993, a team of volunteers led by local builder Malcolm Stevens, finished the required renovations at a cost of $15,000. Community support was overwhelming with labour, material and monetary donations. Term 1 1994 saw the Pre-School open for one group of 30 children.

During 1994 and 1995, Council further enhanced the building with the addition of a pergola and the removal of a concrete driveway.

The Kinder commenced having groups of three-year-old children attending the recently formed Basin 3-year-old Playgroup. This group was formed as a separate body to the kindergarten; both groups working closely to provide a valuable facility. It meant the Centre was used by children to its utmost during the week.

Some longer serving members of staff have been Mrs. Norma Batty and Mrs. Jan Barge (Assistants), Mrs. Judy Ledger (Part-time Teacher).

In 1998, Mrs. Vida Kesting was presented with a gold watch in recognition of her 25 years of service as the Director of The Basin Pre-School. In this role she

had played a significant part in the lives of many children living in the area. Vida had an excellent liaison with parents, and over the years had shown her dedication through attendance at working bees, social and fundraising functions organised by the various Committees. The countless children and parents who regularly returned to the Pre-school to say "*hello*" is testimony of the deep affection they felt for Vida.

The major achievement of the kindergarten was the ability to offer to the pre-schoolers of the area a happy place to spend the year before their schooling. It also gave the parents support when needed.

The Basin has a well-equipped Centre due to the efforts of the local community and is hoped this will continue well into the future.

The Goodwin Estate Kindergarten

During 1978, parents at St. Mary's Church of England playgroup (The Basin) discovered several of The Basin children would miss out on a place in kindergarten due to an insufficient number of places available in nearby kindergartens.

A public meeting was arranged for 12th December 1978. Forty parents attended the meeting and elected a committee of 13. The Committee was to approach Council to try to get a new kindergarten built. The Committee was named "*The Interim Committee for The New Basin Kindergarten.*" It was decided to set up a 4-year-old playgroup (with teacher) in St. Mary's Hall (In 2025, site of Hindu Temple) for 1979.

The Committee found many alterations were required to St. Mary's Hall to run a 4-year-old playgroup. Also, of the original 58 Knox children who had missed a kindergarten placing, approximately 35 children found placement in other areas, particularly Heathmont and Croydon. Therefore, whilst there was still a definite need for another kindergarten, the plan for the 4-year-old playgroup was dropped.

Council support for the new kindergarten was given during January 1979. By February, a plan for the new kindergarten was viewed by the committee and the position had been decided as council had purchased the land between Stuart Street and Rome Beauty Avenue during January. The Committee was told they would need to raise $3,000. They were busy running a wide range of activities including — Cake Stalls, Raffles, Auctions, Lolly drives, restaurant nights and Lamington Drives. The Lamington drives were much work as the committee decided to make these themselves, in two working bees. They took orders for 2298 lamingtons. As midnight neared on the night before delivery day, the workers panicked as they ran out of fresh coconut, until a bright spark came up with the idea to wash, dry and reuse the leftover coconut. The idea worked, and orders were delivered on time!

2,000 leaflets were delivered into letter boxes in the area to inform the public of their fundraising activities to establish a new kindergarten. This generated funds in the form of donations, especially one from The Basin Kindergarten for $750.

Until May 1979, the kindergarten was called "*The New Basin Kindergarten*". It was renamed "The Goodwin Estate Kindergarten" in May after the original owner of the land of the nearby housing estate. One hiccup in the building of the kindergarten was a dispute about the roads. Originally the council planned to extend Stuart Street to join Rome Beauty Avenue, making a through road. However, after petitions, and meetings of residents, the situation was resolved. The road was left blocked, making space for car parking, and the building of the kindergarten could commence.

Building was started around July 1979, by construction engineers "*Paynter & Dixon*". The kindergarten plan included a playroom, one of the first in Knox. The total cost of the kindergarten, including land, road works, car park etc., came to $143,000, made up from $100,000 Council contribution, $30,000 of Government grant and an interest free loan from council for $15,000. The Committee's fundraising was to equip the new kindergarten.

In November 1979, Alan Angwin was appointed Director and Margaret Sedlins Assistant (Dec/Jan). Forty-eight children began at the kindergarten in February 1980.

The official opening was on Saturday 29th March 1980. Children participated in the opening ceremony by cutting the ribbon. The Mayor, Hurtle Lupton, unveiled a plaque declaring the kindergarten open.

The early establishment of the Goodwin Estate Kindergarten demonstrated the community spirit and commitment of The Basin residents (several of the original establishment committee had pre-school age children who were zoned for The Basin and Alchester kindergartens). Their concern for the young children in their community ensured a facility was provided for future children and families.

Up to 2002, over 1500 children had attended the Goodwin Estate Kindergarten. There have been three full time Directors, Alan Angwin who resigned at the end of 1987, Helen Stanley, who resigned in July 2002 and Kerryn Rule who commenced on 15th July 2002.

The Goodwin Estate Kindergarten also ran a part-time group (four-year-old group) from 1981 to 1988 and a shared group with Colchester Park Kindergarten in 1989 and 1990. The Directors of these groups have been Robyn Jenes (1981, 1982), Geraldine Hill (1983-1987), Deborah Moore (1988), Wendy Herbstreit (1989) and Di Todd (1990). There also have been several Assistants namely Margaret Sedlins, Lisa Matthews, Estelle Tudor and Yvonne Pretty.

In 1997, the kinder established a private 3-year-old group by forming the Goodwin Estate Pre-kinder. The

group commenced with Kerryn Rule as their teacher with eight children. By July, the numbers had increased to allow the employment of an assistant, Denise Kelly, who in 2002 held this post. The group has an independent committee of management responsible for funding staff salaries and operational costs. In July 2002, Jenny de Kretser took up the Pre-kinder teaching post because of Kerryn Rule becoming the full time Pre-school Director.

The Basin community continued to support the kindergarten and local traders have always been generous in donating goods for fundraising.

The Basin Fire Brigade annually supports the kindergarten by providing a Santa on a Fire Truck to join in Christmas celebrations with the children. The community link between the Fire Brigade and the kindergarten was extended in 1991 with the children performing at The Basin Carols By Candlelight.

In 1990, a resident Peter McErlain wrote a song for the children to perform at the Carols. The evening was notable because the carols were unable to take place due to a storm. However, in 1991 the children sang "*The Basin Bells*" and the stage was crowded with a contingent of 1990 and 1991 children. Also, in 1991 the children sang "*their*" song at the City of Knox Carols at the Arboretum.

Since 1989, the kindergarten has held an annual Dinner Dance. In the early years, its format was in the form of a "*Bush Dance*" which grew in attendance to over 300 people. As well as a financial success, this dinner dance was an event looked forward to by the local community.

During 1993, the children of the kinder performed at the Radisson President Hotel with children from the Rowville Kindergarten. They performed a song and movement routine developed by Helen Stanley and supported by the creative talents of her committee. This "*production*" provided a stirring opening for the annual "*KinderEd Conference*", for educators across the state.

The building remained well cared for and since its original construction has seen some improvements with a large pergola added and plans for a verandah and rotunda to enhance space for children's learning and play in shaded areas.

The kinder is well known for its "*inclusive*" approach to education and over the years many children with "*additional needs*" and disabilities have accessed the programme. The centre philosophy strives to support children and families with additional needs by actively funding additional assistants to work with individual children regardless of government funding. Where funding is not provided or is inadequate, the kinder community fund raises to ensure each child is given the same opportunity as his or her peers. The continued strength of the kindergarten lies in the strong community focus existing within The Basin community.

The Basin Infant Welfare Centre

On the 11th June 1944, at a meeting in The Basin Progress Hall, a decision was made to set up a Baby Health Centre in The Basin. Elected President was Mrs. Bert Chandler and Mrs. Hugh Chandler was Hon. Secretary. Committee members included Messrs Earney, Clark, Turner, Harris, Stevens, Puddy, Battersby. Wright and Freeman.

In a room at The Basin Progress Hall voluntarily lined by Mr. Freeman, a temporary centre was set up, and officially opened by Dr. Doris Officer on 14th October 1944. Sister Lipscombe attended the Centre for ½ a day a week.

On 24th December 1940, land on the corner of Conyers Street and Forest Road was purchased by Charles Herbert Gretton of The Basin via Bayswater, Farmer, as shown in instrument number 1799814. The land was lot 61 in the Forest Heights Estate (see page 65) for which he paid 65 pounds. The land was transferred to Frank Orgill Gretton on 17th January 1941.

On 2nd November 1945, Gretton sold it to The Fern Tree Gully Shire as shown in instrument number 1973782. A condition was the land be used for a Baby Health Centre. He received 90 pounds and used it to purchase a Blackwood dining room suite. The Shire also purchased adjacent lot 61 for 80 pounds on the same date as shown in instrument number 1973699.

The acquisition of land inspired the Committee to raise funds for a permanent building, the plans of which were drawn by Mr. L. R. Henley.

Fund-raising in those days was difficult, and it was not until 1952, when the Government granted 1,000 pounds, building commenced. These years had seen Mrs. Earney as President, Mrs. West as Secretary and Mrs. Greenwell as Treasurer. By 1953 it was necessary to revise plans to meet new Health Regulations and Mr. Westly of Ferntree Gully Shire helped greatly in this regard.

The Shire added to the fund, and it was then possible to accept a tender, from Cowin Bros., of Boronia, to build a modern brick centre, fully fitted and tastefully furnished. To the Committee's credit the Centre opened free of debt.

On 11th February 1956, the Centre was officially opened by Dr. Doris Officer; the culmination of twelve

Health Centre

Sister Ann Peters, Sister in Charge of The Basin Infant Welfare Centre for over 15 years, recalls how keen some mothers were in ensuring their children attended the Centre.

Around 1980, a mother who lived in Golden Grove in The Ravine walked to the Centre and back with her young children. Apparently, she was disabled and could not drive.

A few years later, another mother who lived in Alpine Road (up Mountain Highway towards Sassafras), walked from there down to Claremont Avenue and caught the bus to the Centre.

years planning and local effort.

Knox Shire Council took over responsibility for the maintenance of the centre and for attendance of a qualified sister for a full day weekly. This was Sister Shirley Pask, followed by Sister Margery Eve.

In 1975, it was proposed to introduce Playgroups. Playgroups are run by parents and allow groups of children too young for Pre-School Kindergarten to come together and "*play*". Then, one committee was responsible for running both the Infant Welfare Centre and the Pre-School and would not permit Playgroups. The Council allowed the Infant Welfare Centre to form its own committee to oversee the upkeep of the Centre. This committee initiated the commencement of Playgroups.

In 1976, Toddler Groups were introduced in Knox as a pilot scheme. Toddler Groups are identical in concept to Playgroups but are organised as part of the Centre and teachers are funded by the Council. An extension to accommodate the children and a storeroom for the equipment to be used was constructed. As part of the extension, hot water was reticulated throughout the Centre. Before this, the Centre had no hot water. In July 1976, Toddler Groups commenced. Christine Bowan was the Toddler Group teacher.

In September 1976, Sister Ann Peters took over as Sister in charge from Margery Eve. Ann remained as Sister in charge until June 1992.

Due to lack of a teacher, Toddler Groups ceased in December 1990. This was a loss to the area. Then, Playgroups organised by the parents were still running. The original Playgroup commenced at the Centre and later moved to St. Mary's Church (later, the site of a Hindu Temple) disbanded in 1991. Another great loss to The Basin.

The Basin Infant Welfare Centre has had a changing face over the years. From the beginning it has been a meeting place for families, some of which were isolated. The introduction of First Mother Groups around 1975 was the beginning of many friendships. The Centre has had children attending whose parents attended the Centre as children.

In 1976, many of the streets in The Basin were unmade and many a time, whilst doing home visits, Sister Peter's car became bogged and required towing. With the sealing of most roads, home visits became pleasurable.

Over the years, the infant population of The Basin was not high enough to keep the Centre open for more than four days a week. In 1990, it dropped to three days a week.

Originally the Centre was known as "*The Basin Baby Health Centre*" and later the Infant Welfare Centre. About 1986, it became known as "*The Basin Maternal & Child Health Centre*".

In 1990, Knox Council announced plans to build a new Centre on The Triangle, off Church Street. The proposed new building would contain both the Pre-School Kindergarten and the Maternal & Child Health Centre, but with separate facilities. However, due to lack of enrolments and funds the plan never realised.

Special mention must be made of the dedication to the Centre given by Sister Ann Peters over the seventeen years she was Sister in Charge. She became well known in the local community as a caring person genuinely interested in the task to which she is committed.

Sources of Information

- "*The Basin Centenary Booklet*" by Ron Ikin.
- "*Fire on the Hill, Flowers on the Valley*" by Rick Coxhill.
- Local newspapers for "*hanging shoe*" information and Boronia Technical School staff photograph.
- Knox Historical Society for photographs and access to the H. S. McComb compilation of Basin School correspondence.
- The Basin Primary School Centenary Booklet 1980
- Residents at the time of writing and former residents. In particular, Jim and Barbara Stephens for general help and information.
- Boronia Heights College 30 year reunion booklet for College history.
- The Basin Primary School for principal information.

FLOWER DAY AT THE BASIN SCHOOL.

On November 2 a bazaar was held at the Basin state school, and was opened by Mr. James Griffiths. The proceeds were in aid of the children's flower day repatriation fund. The people of the district, especially the ladies, who were enthusiastic, were working for several weeks beforehand, and their efforts were a grand success, resulting in a net profit of £61/2/3 for the fund. The committee are to be complemented on the result of their effort, of which they are deservedly proud. On the same day, just before the bazaar was opened the school honor roll, containing 26 names, was unveiled by the shire president (Cr. A. E. Chandler, J.P.). The unveiling ceremony included songs by the school children, and a few remarks about "Our splendid men" by Mr. H. R. Chandler. A large gathering attended, and the day was one to be remembered in the years to come by the people of the Basin.

At The Basin.

Crs John L. Yeadon and Alfred C. Chandler were instrumental in providing a most pleasing and profitable demonstration on the 26th June for the children attending The Basin school. About 100 parents and children were present. Crs Yeadon and Chandler, in addressing the children, feelingly alluded to the king's illness, and also impressed on the children's minds the fact that they were a part of the British empire, and were under that flag that spoke for freedom and justice wherever it waved. Messrs Shugg, McCann and Bray gave patriotic speeches suitable to the occasion. The councillors presented each of The Basin school children with a beautiful medal and an excellent book commemorative of the occasion. The "Union Jack" was hoisted by a little girl, and the children respectfully saluted the flag and all sang "Oh, God, our help in ages past," and "God save the king." After the children had been regaled with a tea, lollies, &c., the proceedings closed with a hearty vote of thanks to Crs Yeadon and Chandler for their interest in the children and district, and three cheers for the king.

THE BASIN

Mothers' Club's Efforts.

Favoured with a fine afternoon, the tennis tournament organised by the Mothers' Club was a pronounced success. The function took place in the newly-laid-out court near the school, and the occasion took the form of the formal opening. Keen interest was taken in the mixed doubles tournament, the contestants being former scholars of the school. The following competed:—Miss M. Stewart, Mr. Fred Kirkmen, Miss Myra Collier, Mr. V. Chandler, Miss M. Dickson, Mr R. Hodson, Mrs. Maguire, Mr. G. Chandler, Mrs. Ritchie, Mr G. Ritchie, Miss C. Fisher, Mr. F. Chandler, Mr and Mrs. Chapman, the last named being declared the winners after a spirited contest. Mr. Chapman very generously donated the prize money back to the club. Miss Fitzaptrick and Mr. Bert Chandler acted as umpire and scorer respectively, and gave every satisfaction.

In conjunction with the tournament, a jumble stall was arranged, and met with such liberal patronage that a complete clearance of everything was effected. Mrs. A. Collier and Mrs G. Bird were in charge. Delicious afternoon tea was served by the committee. A children's tournament held on the preceding days resulted in a win for Joan Bird and Master Fielder. The prizes for the tournament were generously donated by Mrs. Pickett and Mrs B. Chandler.

Going after 25 years

Leaving a tuck shop for bigger things

It won't be quite the same again at The Basin State School tuck-shop now that Mrs. Edna Thoren won't be behind the counter to serve the students.

Not that there's any doubts that the tuck-shop won't continue to give a good service, but Mrs. Thoren has been there for 25 years and she's become part of the place.

She and her husband, Frank, and their two boys are leaving the area to become the caretakers of the Fern Tree Gully Inspectorate school camp at Eppalock, near Bendigo.

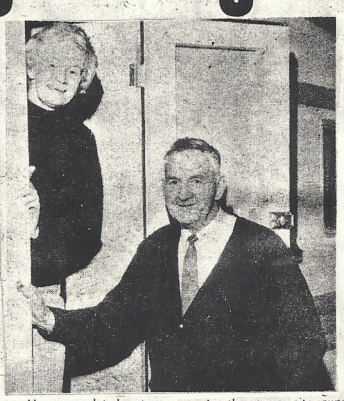
The Thorens have been in the area for 26 years. They moved in after the war when The Basin was bushland and it seems they will again be pioneers.

The Eppalock camp site is on a seven acre bushland plot. It is covered sparsely with trees and has little undergrowth.

Building works are not yet completed and the accommodation for the caretaker family has yet to be started.

The Thorens will be living in two caravans. They will feel out the food supply situation in the area and will have to overcome the teething problems which every project like this encounters.

Twenty seven schools in the Fern Tree Gully Inspectorate have financed the building of the camp and these schools will have use of it throughout the school year.



The completed structure, according to present plans, allows for two dormitories, a kitchen, washing and toilet facilities and a big recreation hall.

Fifty students can be catered for at the camp, and there is also room for two teachers and two mothers.

MATRONLY TOUCH

Mrs. Thoren says the mothers will be asked along to render that matronly touch needed by some children who develop bouts of homesickness.

The camp will only be used by senior primary students from the 27 schools during a school week.

The students will be encouraged to join in hi- and bushcraft adv- tures. They will do some nature study and will also go on a one-day tour of the historical areas of Bendigo.

As the camp site runs down onto the banks of Lake Eppalock there is also plenty of scope for swimming, fishing and perhaps boating.

Mrs. Thoren says she will miss The Basin.

Although it has become something of a suburbia now, the old friends are still there and it is still its own little town.

"There were no streets when we came to the area just after the war. We had to cut out all the tea-tree and there was an apple orchard near our place in Francis Street", she told me.

"When I started at the tuckshop the school had two rooms [illegible]

ON HIS BIKE

"The headmaster of the day used to ride his push-bike to the Progress Hall for the mothers' club meeting.

"This is just one of the many experiences at the school that seems to stick in my mind.

"There is no reason why our venture at the Eppalock camp should not work out.

"Frank is very keen on it. He was a plumber and is a very good handyman. If we can get things running reasonably smoothly before the kids arrive it should work out well.

"There is no place we would prefer to live than The Basin and if we could take it with us everything would be perfect".

The Eppalock Camp is progressing slowly at present due to a lack of funds.

The Inspectorate schools are not getting any financial assistance from the Education Department, and this makes things more difficult.

The students using the camp will have to pay about $15 for a week's accommodation.

The first children to use the school will be from The Basin because they have already been on a camp similar to this concept at Tidal River.

Mrs. Thoren was also "chief cook and bottle-washer" on that trip and she admits to having loved [illegible]

THE BASIN STATE SCHOOL

£13/8/ RAISED BY AUSTRALIAN TEA

The State-wide appeal for funds was celebrated by The Basin State school at the local Progress Hall on Saturday, May 16th.

The appeal, organised by the head teacher, Mr H. Reardon, took the form of an Australian Tea.

The chairman of the school committee, Mr H. Turner, presided and introduced Mr G. Chandler, MLC, who gave an interesting address on the Empire and its aims, and formally declared the Fete open.

During the afternoon the children, who had been trained by the assistant teacher, Miss E. Hore, rendered some pleasing items.

A profit of £13/8/ was made.

News from The Basin.

On Saturday a working bee was held at The Basin state school, the object being to erect a shelter shed. The arrangements were in the hands of the school committee, and all the details had been so carefully thought out and provided for that, though the work began only in the afternoon, yet by 6 o'clock in the evening the building was finished. Mr. P. B. Chandler, an expert builder, was made working manager, and he was ably assisted by the chairman of the committee, Cr. S. Collier, and the correspondent, Mr. H. R. Chandler. The whole affair was an object lesson in what may be done by a number of willing workers when properly organised and wisely directed. During a break in the work refreshments were provided by the ladies of the district, the tables being presided over by Mesdames Collier, senior and junior. The thoughtfulness of the ladies was much appreciated by the workers, and they were tendered hearty thanks. The building is a strong and serviceable one, and will no doubt be a very useful adjunct to the school.

Head Teachers and Principals. The Basin Primary School	
Name	**Year(s)**
James Maddern	10/12/1880-09/02/1881
Alice Maud Hammond	1881-1889
Hector Henderson Treyvaud	1889-1892
Christina E. Brooker	1892-1894
Sarah Williamson	1895
Rhonda E. Hall	1895
Florence Hopkins	1895-1896
Joseph H. Smith	1896
Edith I. A. Bannister	1896
Charles E. Sproston	1896-1897
Mary J. McLachlan	1897
Mary J. J. Young	1897
Elinor Oliver	1897-1899
Paul Shugg	1901-1905
Philip E. Smyth	1905-1907
George P. Hibberd	1907
William Thomas	1908-1912
Martin Clinton	1913
Herbert F. Godden	1913-1918
Elisha Robertson	1919-1920
Henry A. Berry	1920-1925
Henry A. Braddy	1925-1928
John C. Brown	1928

Head Teachers and Principals. The Basin Primary School	
Name	**Year(s)**
Thomas W. Elliot	1928-1939
Joseph M. Roach	1939-1940
Thomas H. Reardon	1940-1944
John Smith	1944-1950
John I. C. Elliott	1950-1951
Henry T. O'Toole	1952
Alexander Morris	1952-1954
Ruben Koetsveld	1954-1961
Alfred M. Hollow	1961 -1962
Graham H. Ball	1962-1963
John W. Willcocks	1963-1964
Reginald J. Jackman	1964-1968
Roy G. White (First principal)	1968-1969
John F. Kerr	1969-1974
Alfred E. Marshman	1974-1977
Neville M. Heffernan	1977-1979
Josephine R. Burman	1979-1980
Ronald G. Fry	1980-1984
Ian Green	1984-1993
Anne Tierney	1993-1999
Linda Cooney	2000-2005
Graeme Russell	2006-2021
David Orlandi	2022-

Principals. Boronia Heights College	
Ken Baldwin	1973-1983
Prue Hewitt	1984-1993
Arthur Nilsson	1993-2000
Gray Ryan	2000

Principals. St. Bernadette's Roman Catholic Primary School	
Sr Frances Henderson	1983 -
Peter Moran	
Bert Bene	1993-2000
Stephen Cope	1999-2016
Peter Vanstan	2017-2018
Peter Stewart	2018 -

Chapter 5 Utilities

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Summary

The first official mail service commenced in 1900 when Patrick Rafferty was granted a mail contract and dropped "*loose mail bags*" at various locations in The Basin. The first Post Office appeared in The Basin in 1916

Reticulated water arrived in The Basin in 1959, but it took many years before most areas were connected.

The first telephone subscriber in The Basin is listed as H. A. L. Simson of "*Doongalla*", connected in 1915.

Reticulated electricity arrived at The Basin in 1939. First to receive supply was Mr. A. Beaumont and Mr. R. Simpson of Glen Elbourne.

The first regular coach trips commenced in 1883 and ran from Ringwood to the State Forest via The Basin.

The first vehicle transport was a hire car service operated by Alf Thompson from Bayswater to The Basin. This commenced in the 1920s.

The first timetabled bus service to The Basin commenced in 1943.

The first widespread circulation of newspapers in The Basin area commenced in the 1880s and included "*The Dandenong Advertiser*", "*The Oakleigh and Ferntree Gully Times*", "*The Box Hill Reporter*", and "*The Dandenong Express*".

Distinguished Resident

Guy Turner

When the late Guy Turner cabled from Hong Kong, instructing his wife Betty to place a deposit on a house in "*The Ravine*", a remarkable association with The Basin began. Guy, a Major during the war was on a convalescent tour when Betty became charmed by our town.

Soon after the Turner's arrival here they took over the Post Office. Guy's real work though, began upon his election to council in 1954 as The Basin's resident councillor. In this capacity he was a force in the bringing of reticulation to The Basin and the drawing up of estimates for the Severance of the Shire. Guy gave untiring service in almost every community effort.

Betty was ever his able backstop and had active associations with the Kindergarten, Health Centre, and Progress Association. Guy Turner passed away in 1961.

Mail

"*Macauley via Ringwood*" was the postal address for the entire The Basin/Bayswater area during the 1880s, Macauley the original name for Bayswater.

The first direct mail service to The Basin began about 1890 when Archibald Chandler, then 15 years old, carried mail from Bayswater on his pony, "*Ginny*" to The Basin Primary School where letters were sorted by Mr. Treyvaud, the schoolmaster. Residents collected their mail at the school which served as a mini Post Office.

From Janet Dobsons diary:

"***Wednesday March 25 1903:*** *I went round by the school to get a tax paper and see Mr Shugg*."

In 1900, when Patrick Rafferty was granted the mail contract between Bayswater and Sassafras via The Basin, a more orthodox service began. "Loose mail bags" (hessian bags) were hung on mail posts at "*Melrose*" (James John Miller), "*Eden*" (Salvation Army), "*Como Nurseries*" (William Chandler) and "*Ferndale*" (James Griffiths). Mail sent and received was left in these bags and collected and deposited by Patrick Rafferty.

In the early 1900s a letter could be posted for two pence per ounce, while only a halfpenny per ounce was the charge for newspapers.

The Basin was gazetted as a "*Receiving Office*" in 1902, but mail was still postmarked at Bayswater. Mail was addressed to The Basin "*via Bayswater*" as the mail bag for The Basin was made up in Bayswater. It was not until about 1960 when The Basin had a separate bag in the GPO. By then the Postmaster Generals Department (PMG) van delivered the bags to each Post Office.

In July 1916, with help from James Griffiths, Mrs Ada Dickson opened a small non-official Post Office at approximately 1288-1290 Mountain Highway near Augusta Road. The Dickson family owned the property and had a house at the rear. The Post Office was a separate small building in the front yard. The building can be seen in the photograph on the front of the land brochure for Eden Park Estate. The map on the brochure for Forest Heights Estate shows the Post Office in the same location. The Post Office remained in this building until about 1945.

Around 1945, a small shop was built on the western corner of Mountain Highway and Forest Road and a room added on the side. Mrs Dickson moved the Post Office into this room and ran it until 1950. Later proprietors of the Milk Bar/Post Office included Turner, Cook, Lears, Cross, Toole and Stevens.

A well known figure from the 1910s to the 1940s was "*Sarge*" Coleman with his covered wagon and horses "*Minnie*" and "*Jimmy*". He transported mail from the Post Office to the Salvation Army Home. He also took the milk cans from the Army Home farm to Bayswater station.

Richard Woods lived at The Basin with his grandparents at The Salvation Army Bayswater Boys Home No. 1 between 1946 and 1956, and went to The Basin State School. He recalls wagging school and hitching a ride with "*Sarge*" on his run from Bayswater Station and Peglers Store back to the No 1 Boys Home.

When Smith's Store was built, the mail bag was placed on and off the four horse Coach running from Bayswater via the Old Bayswater-Sassafras Road to Sassafras. This continued until about 1930 when motor vehicles took over.

For over 30 years, a mail and passenger trip was made from The Basin to Bayswater; first by Alf Thompson's hire cars and later by the bus services. At 7.45 a.m. and 4.45 p.m. the driver would pick up and set down the mail bag and clear the letter boxes at Langdon's store (installed in 1949 next to the public telephone) and opposite The Basin Primary School.

For many years the morning run included a stop at Pegler's Store in Bayswater where bread and papers were picked up and delivered with the mail to 6 or 8 houses in Mountain Highway between Dorset Road and Albert Avenue. The PMG began delivery of mail to The Basin Post Office and this roadside service ceased.

A local delivery service started in 1959. Not all areas had the privilege of home delivery. The steep terrain of The Basin and lack of accessible roads in some areas meant other means of mail service be provided. "*Caller boxes*" were used whereby residents could call into the Post office during business hours and pick up their mail from their box. Private post boxes accessible by key from outside the Post Office serviced the needs of some residents. Residents who lived on inaccessible roads placed their letter boxes at the start of their street.

The Basin Post Office Robberies

Max Toole was running The Basin Post Office in 1978 the day a couple of would be bandits decided it would be a "*pushover*", but it was not their day.

First mistake came when the driver of the getaway car parked along the kerb instead of angle parking. One of the local lads took exception to this and parked his car in front of the offending car thus preventing a quick getaway.

Second mistake was made by crook number two when he accepted Max Tooles invitation to look in the safe himself. He was met on the other side of the counter with a few hefty clouts from Max. Jean Toole heard the commotion and rang the police.

Mistake number three was when this member of the gang tried to escape from Max by going under the counter. Unfortunately, he did not realise it was a one way door. When he got outside, he found the getaway car could not be used. One of the offenders took off up Mountain Highway (where he lost a shoe and was soon caught). The other took off down Olinda Road and disappeared for a time.

He didn't count on the curiosity of cows when he decided to hide behind a log in the middle of the Salvation Army farm cow paddock. When one of the locals noticed the cows were paying more than a passing interest in the log, no doubt by someone who knew the ways of cows, the second offender was caught.

Max received a bravery award for his efforts and a "*Nicest Listener Award*" from radio station 3UZ.

In 1992, another robbery occurred with the machete wielding bandit escaping with a large sum of cash.

Clusters of derelict letter boxes near the start of Mercia Avenue and Bayview Crescent can be well remembered.

In 1962, Max Toole took over the Milk Bar/Post Office, and in 1964 the Post office was moved to the eastern side of The Basin roundabout. Max Toole left in 1979. Later proprietors were Bart Bortolussi (1979-1984) and Neil Whittorn (1984-1990). During Neil Whittorn's period, mail delivery organisation was moved to Boronia.

Sheila and Ron Phelan took over the Post Office in 1990. They completely rebuilt the shop reflecting a bygone era.

Colin Tan took over running the Post Office in November 2015.

Kevin Chen took over running the Post Office in 2020.

In 1965 postcodes were introduced. The Basin was allocated the 3154 postcode. Some areas formerly regarded as The Basin were included in the Boronia postcode.

The Basin Post Office has always been a "*non-official*" post office. The land and building are privately owned, and Australia Post (formally the PMG) pays the owner to run the Post Office business.

Water

The early settlers used the Dandenong Creek and its tributaries for their supply of water. Various attempts were made to dam these streams but, as is described elsewhere, the culprits were smartly dealt with. The Basin's generous rainfall (over 1000 mm per annum) ensured crops would be well watered, and tanks kept full.

The Salvation Army used water from the creeks running through their property to supply water for their crops. Large storage tanks in various locations, pumps, (in 2025, some of these pumps are stored at Ambleside) and extensive irrigation channels ensured a continual supply of water. Old maps show Dobsons creek taking a different course than shown on later maps. Dobsons Creek used to flow into Dandenong Creek downstream from Liverpool Road. It seems the Salvation Army altered its course, presumably to straighten it.

Nevertheless, reticulation in 1959 was a tremendous boon not only to residents but also to market gardeners, orchardists, and nurserymen alike, as regulated watering was then possible. The credit for reticulation belongs to Cr. Guy Turner, helped by many locals in the Progress Association who had been campaigning since the early 1950s. The steep increase in home building and the consequent rise in land values are direct results of reticulation.

Water Storage

The Basin was once investigated as a possible storage site for water for Melbourne. Apparently, the catchment area was suitable but it was revealed there was not enough water potential available from streams which could be tapped.

Tanks

Residents will be aware that four large water tanks are sited in The Basin.

The Basin No. 1 Tank is on Hansen Track in the National Park near the top of "*Old*" Nyora Avenue. It was finished in 1960.

The "*Boronia*" tank located on Mountain Highway The Basin, was finished in 1978 and supplies reticulation to a large area west of the tank.

The Basin No. 2 Reservoir (near the top of Bayview Crescent) was finished in 1981, and provides reticulation to an area below that covered by The Basin High Level Tank. The property on which the tank is built was previously the site of a house built by Tom Stephens, the father of local resident Jim Stephens. This house was burnt down in 1972 in suspicious circumstances. In 2025, remnants of the front fence and exotic trees are still visible at the front of the property.

One tank was finished in 1987, but may have escaped the attention of most people as it is underground and within the National Park Boundaries.

This tank is known as "*The Basin High Level Tank*" and built to improve the water supply to properties in Bayview Crescent, Mercia Avenue, Government Road, Toorak Avenue and Inverness Avenue. Water is also available from this tank for firefighting purposes. The tank is fed from a pumping station located within the grounds of The Basin No. 2 Tank.

Floods

Floods have not been nearly as frequent or as damaging as the fires. Just the same, the flood of 1891 had a devastating effect for several of The Basin residents as described in the Oakleigh & Ferntree Gully Times, 18th July 1891.

"*The Flood"*

"At Ferntree Gully a land slip occurred at the country seat of Sir Matthew Davies bringing down rocks, large trees, bathroom & outhouses, damages about 600 pounds. Cr. Chandler of Little The Basin, lost 3000 Camellia trees, 60 varieties of hyacinths, and other valuable plants, the nursery being completely ruined, estimated loss 200 pounds. Cr. J. T. Dobson's nursery sustained a very heavy loss of peach and other fruit trees, damage 200 pounds."

The same flood caused a landslide at Montrose and smaller slides on The Basin side of the Hill and was also reported in the Lilydale Express of 27th July 1891.

The first house called Fern Glen (built by George Williamson Bruce) on the Doongalla property was partially destroyed by this flood. At the time, it was owned by Sir Matthew Davies. See page 79 for more information.

From Janet Dobsons diary:

"***Saturday February 6 1904:*** *It rained very heavy all night and all day today. About 6 o'clock the irrigation drain burst away and the water came down over the potatoes, bean and peas. It came all round the house through the pumpkins and over the flower garden the front path was like a creek. The Army paddocks were all underwater. I went home to see if it was as bad there. I had to walk through water nearly up to my knees. It is the biggest flood since ninety-one. Jack came down after he came from market, but could do nothing to stop it; it had nearly stopped running by the morning.*"

Severe floods also occurred in 1934 and 1970.

"*Old Joes Creek*" was the main source of water causing many floods downstream from Bayview Crescent after heavy rain. Wright's Store and many local houses were victims of these floods. In the mid 1970s, the council constructed a storm water drainage scheme for Bayview Crescent and Mercia Avenue incorporating underground pipes for Old Joe's creek from Bayview Crescent to Arcadia Avenue. The scheme did not include making of the roads and consequently after heavy rains the storm water drains filled with gravel from the unmade roads. The roads were constructed in the 1980s.

Around 1900, Joseph (Joe) Gadd and his family lived in a humpy on Old Joes Creek above where Wright's Store was later built. Joe undertook drainage work for William Chandler, David Dobson, and did odd jobs for other residents. J Gadd and his children are mentioned in early The Basin State School correspondence. One of his children lived with Bert Chandler's family for a while. Mr Gadd died from an accidental drowning. From Janet Dobsons diary:

"***Tuesday November 11 1902:*** *Gadd came to help Joe with the potatoes they were planting all day.*"

Flood Control

A major development in The Basin was construction of the Liverpool Road Retarding Basin, located on the Dandenong Creek on the northwest side of Liverpool Road. It controls the runoff from 1450 hectares of hilly semi rural catchment and protects extensive residential and industrial development on the downstream flood plain. Longtime residents of Bayswater will remember the floods which made parts of Dorset Road and Canterbury Road impassable in times of heavy rain.

The retarding basin was constructed in 1969/70 by The Dandenong Valley Authority, an organisation which has since been absorbed by Melbourne Water. The design was prepared by the consulting firm of Camp, Scott and Furphy and consists of an "*L*" shaped levee bank following the old course of the Dandenong Creek. A concrete tower and a concrete pressure pipeline under the embankment control the flow of water. A spillway directs water if the storage area fills. The spillway operated for the first time in 1984.

The Retarding Basin has a capacity of 450,000 cubic metres and is designed to reduce the flow of a once in a 50-year flood from 30 cubic metres per second to 10 cubic metres per second. This delays the flow by some three hours to allow the lower catchment to drain before large outflows from the storage occur.

Since completion, the storage has been subjected to several flood events, the data from which has been used to calibrate the outlet works of the storage and so evaluate the performance of the basin under actual and design flood conditions. The calibration technique was developed in response to a need expressed by authorities engaged in flood control. Surveys showed, although many flood detention storages had been constructed, little success had been achieved in measuring discharges through the storage outlet works during the passage of floods.

Techniques developed at the Liverpool Road retarding basin have been satisfactorily applied to another existing storage providing an accurate stage discharge curve over the range calibrated. This is believed to be the first successful effort in this field and paves the way for further progress in the understanding and improvement of the design of outlet works of flood detention storages.

The Retarding Basin is also an attractive and useful recreation area. The 20 hectare site has been developed by The Dandenong Valley Authority/Melbourne Water to provide recreational facilities and also as a conservation area. A shallow lake constructed in the lowest part of the storage is used by many groups including scouts and radio-controlled boat enthusiasts.

The Retarding Basin has significant consevation values and is home to several vulnerable or endangered species including Swamp Scrub and Wet Verge Sedgeland which are relied on by Swamp Skink.

A barren paddock was transformed into a landscaped "*wetland*" complete with lake, and the lake has become home to wildlife including pelicans, swans, Lathams Snipe, Hardhead and the Eastern Great Egret.

Harry Dinsdale's Coach Fire

A memorable fire in 1914 caught Harry Dinsdale's coach above "*Ferndale*" and fears held for the driver's safety increased when the coach was found empty. The two fire crazed horses were caught and shot. Dinsdale was later found unhurt, having jumped from the coach when the horses bolted.

Community Support

A young Airman and his wife who lived in The Basin had a young baby with a heart defect. The only places performing the operation to repair the defect were in England or New Zealand. The community rallied and through the efforts of the local Federal member John Jess, arrangements were made for the RAAF to fly the mother and baby to Sydney. The American Air Force then flew them to New Zealand for the operation. The reverse procedure was used to transport them back to The Basin.

Over the years, the Retarding Basin has had major upgrades including planting of over 12,000 native plants, removal of weeds and new fencing.

In 2022, upgrading included signs providing information about the biodiversity on the site and 300 shrubs planted by students from The Basin Primary School.

Snow

Snow was recorded in The Basin in 1905, 1920s, 1951 and 1984. From Janet Dobsons diary:

"***Monday September 25 1905:*** *There was a very heavy fall of snow here this morning, the heaviest I have ever seen, everything was bending with the weight of it. It was piled on the roofs and fences and trees it was about 4 inches deep it looked beautiful.*"

Harry Legg's diary mentions snow at Doongalla in 1911, 1912 and 1914. However, Doongalla is higher up the mountain than The Basin.

Telephone

The first mention of telephone communication in The Basin was reported in the South Bourke and Mornington Journal.

"***April 4 1900:*** *The Salvation Army has decided to make telephone communication between their properties at Bayswater, and posts to carry the wires have been erected*."

The Salvation Army must also have had connection to an external service as reported in Janet Dobsons diary:

"***Tuesday January 5 1904:*** *Bobbie was very bad all night taking the fits about every hour. He was so ill about 1 o'clock this morning that Emily went over to the Army's and telephoned to Ringwood for the Doctor.*"

Miss Simson of Doongalla had a telephone connection as early as 1910 as reported in Harry Legg's diary when he worked at Doongalla.

"***March 9 1910:*** *W Richards and I with Mr Box repaired telephone wire and cleared obstructing branches of trees.*"

Hazel Dell had a telephone connection as early as 1911 listed as "*Sassafras 16*" in an advertisement which means it must have had a connection to the Sassafras exchange.

In 1912, a telephone exchange opened in Bayswater in a small building in Station Street and was first operated by a Miss Baker. Early telephone connections to properties in The Basin would have originated from this exchange.

A 1915 directory listed H. A. L. (Helen Archbald Luke) Simson of "*Doongalla*" as the first subscriber in The Basin area.

H. Dodd and the Chanders were also early subscribers.

The diary extracts below are taken from the diary of one of the Chandlers and refer to the connection of a telephone to the "*Como*" residence starting in late 1918.

"***14th November:*** *Bert & self drove to Post Office. Bert signed for telephone and paid 2 years rent of 12 pounds.*"

"***19th November:*** *Got letter re. telephone book names. I drove to P.O. to see Guy Baker re. name and address in telephone book.*"

"***26th November****: We started to make new track for phone — 38 new poles.*"

"***17th January:*** *Man fitted instrument in passage and wire on to front of house.*"

Until the 1940s, the only public telephones in The Basin were located at the old Post Office on the western corner of Mountain Highway and Forest Road. There were 2 phone boxes which were moved to the other side of the road when the Post Office was moved in 1964. Other installations were at Langdon's store in 1949, Wright's store and William's store opposite The Basin Primary School. In 2025, the only public telephones are located at Wrights store and opposite The Basin shops near The Basin Progress Hall. In 2025, use of public telephones is free.

Power

The old kerosene lamp in its various forms was the chief source of light in the early days.

The Basin Progress Hall first used kerosene lamps and then introduced "*Gloria Pressure Lamps*" with an air cylinder pumped by hand. From Janet Dobsons Diary:

"***October 271920:*** *We went to look at a Gloria lamp. I want a new lamp and the Gloria is said to burn one half the oil of an ordinary lamp and gives a light as good as an electric light*".

Mr. Harry Chandler of "*Trenwell*" in Liverpool Road, had a water wheel which generated power from the Dandenong Creek. One time, he used the water wheel to charge a battery to power a light used at an early The Basin Progress Association meeting.

Many residents had their own 32 volt power systems driven by diesel or petrol motors. Tom Stephens had one of these supplying his house near the top of Bayview Crescent. In 2025, this is the site of The Basin No. 2 Reservoir. Mr Kable, a resident of the Ravine, also constructed a 32 Volt system in the 1950s.

Reticulated electricity arrived at The Basin in 1939. First to receive supply was Mr. A. Beaumont and Mr. R. Simpson of Glen Elbourne. Gradually the service was

Fighting for Water

In days gone by various illegal attempts were made by land holders to block offshoots of the Dandenong Creek. One land holder dropped a large tree straight down the race but Arch Chandler soon fixed it with a stick of gelignite.

Police were called because of the explosion but much to the pleasure of the constabulary, the section of the stream concerned was in the Lilydale Shire and hence out of their area.

extended to many parts of The Basin, but it was left to Cr. Guy Turner, helped by Mr. F. Perry, to finally get power to "*The Ravine*".

In 1947, the official population of The Basin was 250, but only 62 residences were connected to the reticulated supply.

In areas of The Basin in danger of bushfire, the overhead electricity wires have been upgraded to a special type designed to automatically disconnect should a tree fall on the lines.

Transport

"*I selected a few friends, to a number seven, we mustered at the Star Hotel at 3 pm. and we headed off under the pilotage of 'Patsy' the most popular driver on the road. His exhilarating 'Gee up' was heard as we rattled through Kew past Whitehorse to Box Hill, and over the stringy bark ranges of Nunawading. We spun down Box Hill and across Brushy Creek and abandoned ourselves to the influence of the scenery…*"

So goes an account from an excursionist's guide of 1868.

Early travellers to The Basin had the choice of pack horse, bullock dray or coach but there was no regular form of transport.

In 1883, when the rail service was extended from Hawthorn to Camberwell and later in the year to Lilydale via Ringwood, a coach ran regular trips from Ringwood to the State Forest via The Basin. In 1889, the rail service was extended to Upper Ferntree Gully, but few people lived in the area and there was no station at Boronia. Bayswater was the closest station to The Basin and in 1890 James John Miller ran a private coach to and from Bayswater to encourage summer visitors.

The Basin first had direct transport to Bayswater when Arthur J. Goode established a coach service in 1895 from Bayswater Station (then called Macauley) to Sassafras. He was the proprietor of the "*Sassafras Gully Cash Store and Refreshment Rooms*" in Sassafras. His route was via the Old Coach Road through The Basin (now closed and used as a fire access track). Mr W. E. Clarke of Ferny Creek later bought the business.

James John Miller secured a wine license at his home "*Bayswater House*" about 1880. Later, about 1894, Miller transferred the license to his horse trainer, Michael Cronin who built a wine hall on the corner of Mountain Highway and Scoresby Road, Bayswater around 1897. In 2025, the wine hall building is still standing.

Cronin married Sarah Rafferty in 1895 (also employed by Miller) and started the first coach service from Bayswater to Olinda. Cronin died in 1897 and Mrs Cronin, who later became proprietor of the Bayswater wine hall, carried on the service with the aid of her two brothers, Peter and Patrick Rafferty, and Henry Dodd of Olinda. She later married Henry Dodd.

In 1900, Patrick Rafferty was awarded the mail contract from Bayswater to Sassafras and took passengers at two shillings and six pence for the up trip and two shillings down. Mail was carried thrice weekly to Sassafras at a cost of 8 pound 10 shillings per year. In January 1900, when Patrick Rafferty was contractor, the mail service was extended to Olinda.

In 1902, Henry Dodd took on the service when he married Mrs Cronin. He ran four trips a day to Olinda. The fare from Bayswater to The Basin was one shilling and six pence.

Dodd was an experienced coachman and had 36 horses in the stable in the summer months. He carried three types of passengers up the mountain. 1st class rode all the way, 2nd class rode as far as McClare's hill (see map on page 40), and then walked up the steep hill, while 3rd class passengers got out at McClare's hill and pushed the coach.

Dodd, as a lad of 15 years, served his apprenticeship driving Wilkinson's coaches between Dandenong and Gippsland and was well qualified to negotiate the hazardous climb up the steep McClare's Hill, near Sassafras. This road was first known as Bayswater Road, and later Old Coach Road, the first formed road giving access to the district.

Dodd sold out to George Albert Piergrosse (Bert) in 1917, and he established the "*Bayswater Coach Service*" with as many as 26 horses used from the Christmas to Easter period.

George Albert Pierregrosse was born in Avoca, Victoria, on May 5th 1882. He settled in Bayswater, and in 1913 and married Myrtle Laura May Jones (b 1896) at Ferntree Gully on 19th February 1916. The couple had 3 children. He anglicised his surname from Pierregrosse to Piergrosse after World War I.

This mail, coach, parcel goods, passengers business continued until 1924, when the mail contract to Olinda and Sassafras operated from Ferntree Gully. Mail and passengers continued to be carried to The Basin by coach from Bayswater for several years, but gradually motor vehicles took over.

From 1925 to 1949 Bert Piergrosse drove hire cars and delivered mail to Sassafras and Olinda via The Basin.

Myrtle died on 11th October 1951 and Bert died on 21st August 1967. Both are buried in Ferntree Gully Cemetery.

Six penny Paddock

The Salvation Army was once contracted to clear land east of Army Road. They allowed local people to take away the wood, charging them sixpence per dray load. This led to the area becoming known as the "*six penny paddock*".

"*Army Road*" was created when the Salvation Army created the Orchard Farms Estate on the south east corner of the Mountain Highway and Dorset Road intersection. It ran through the middle of the Estate.

Alf Thompson opened his garage in The Basin on Forest Road opposite Church Street in the early 1920s and began a hire car business from Bayswater in opposition to Bert Piergrosse.

Residents of Boronia began agitating for a railway station in the 1910s. Boronia was previously a siding. In 1920 a station was officially opened. The population of Boronia in 1920 was only 50 ratepayers!

When traffic to Bayswater lessened, Alf Thompson transferred hire car activities to between The Basin and Boronia. At one time, the hire car from Boronia Station was almost like a taxi as it took the route most suited to its passengers.

Alf Thompson also had a hire car business dedicated to the Salvation Army Boys Home. He would ferry people from railway stations to and from the Home. One of his cars had a sign mounted on the roof above the windscreen reading:

"*Thompsons Motors. Boronia-The Basin Army Home Hire Car*".

Vere Page, who operated a garage in Boronia, commenced a hire car business between Boronia and The Basin in the mid 1920s. He competed with Thompson, and many arguments occurred between the two proprietors.

Around 1940, Alf Thompson introduced and drove a small bus which later crashed into a tree near Mount View Road. Alf's children took over driving and Alf (son) drove for a while but later turned to Real Estate. Ernest and Edith Thompson continued to run hire cars as well as a service station located in Forest Road opposite Church Street.

Regular bus services were introduced in 1943 and operated by subsequent owners Harrington, Campbell and Wilson.

Ivan Wilson extended The Basin bus run to include trips to Croydon Market, along Albert Avenue, to Mountain Gate and to Boronia West. Special buses picked up school children. One bus driver chased and beat a train to Bayswater from Boronia so "*The Basinites*" wouldn't be late for work! During this period buses ran to Boronia from The Basin from 6 a.m. to 10.15 p.m. on weekdays including public holidays. On Saturdays, buses met the last train arriving at Boronia at 12.45 a.m. after taking the Boronia picture theatre crowd home. Sundays began with a 7.30 a.m. trip for Mass in Boronia at the Catholic Chapel in Underwood Road (then called McLean Road), then hourly until 9 p.m.

In the 1950s, Sundays were particularly busy transporting people from Boronia station to visit boys at the Salvation Army Homes in The Basin.

Bus drivers of the day were well regarded by the community as this letter to the editor in the Mountain District Free press in 1947 shows:

"*Sir.—May I through your paper express my thanks to the owner and drivers of the Basin, Boronia. Melbourne bus service. They have carried many hundreds of workers daily, always maintaining a cheerful courteous service, through what must at many times been very trying conditions. It is service such at these men have and are (at the time of writing) maintaining, that make it worthwhile living in this district.—A six o'clock passenger. Lower Fern Tree Gully.*"

Wilson's buses were garaged in a depot in Forest Road opposite Conyers Street.

In 1962, then owner Don Nugent of Boronia Buslines, extended the bus run to Eastland and moved the bus depot to Bayswater near what was then Dunlop's factory.

In 1970, Ventura Motors took over and integrated The Basin run into the Glen Waverley route which later passed through The Knox City Shopping Centre. The route has been revised in later times.

News

News in the hills has been received in many ways. Possibly "*bush telegraph*" the most used, but various newspapers have made their way into The Basin homes.

Newspapers

In the 1880s, "*The Dandenong Advertiser*" was widely circulated and was the official organ of the Council

Fatal Crash Memories

June 1 1952, is a date etched in the memory of Bayswater resident Dr Ian Falconer.

That night, a bus carrying teenagers returning from a youth camp at Clevedon was cut in half by a train at the Boronia railway crossing.

Nine people died, with many others suffering serious injuries.

Dr Falconer, one of the local doctors called to the scene to help, recalled the incident last week.

Dr Falconer had only graduated two years before, spending some time in Queensland before opening his practice in the January that year.

"I was at my parents' house in Bayswater when I got a call from the exchange saying a train had hit a bus," he said.

After a quick call to the taxi service and a trip to his surgery for supplies, he arrived at the accident scene.

His first impressions of the night 49 years ago have now become a blur, merging to creating the one image he carries with him forever.

"I have an overall picture of the scene. There wasn't much in the way of street lighting. The train was stationary, and the bus was pretty much in two halves," Dr Falconer said.

"It was dark. Cars had their headlights turned onto the area, so we could see."

"I got straight to work. Somebody took me around to where there were injured people. Some people were dead. They had blankets over the top of them, and I pulled it up over their eyes."

Dr Falconer said time went by quickly as he tried to help as many of the injured as he could.

"It was one of those situations where you just acted. You did what you had to do," he said.

From Knox Leader June 26, 2001

(Berwick). Other papers, including "*The Oakleigh and Ferntree Gully Times*", "*The Box Hill Reporter*", and "*The Dandenong Express*", served the hills for many years.

A local fortnightly paper, "*The Tourist*" was known until 1920, and then there was "*The Mountaineer*". "*The Pilot*" became known in 1923 and also the "*Ferntree Gully News*" printed in Belgrave. In 1946, John Bennett began publishing the "*Free Press*", later taken over by Leader Newspapers. In the 1930s the "*Boronia Gazette*" got under way. In 1949, "*The Dandenong Ranges News*" launched at Boronia followed by the "*Ferntree Gully Times*" later known as "*The Post*".

Mr. Rod Travis from The Basin reported the area's activities to "*The Free Press*". The "*Knox Sherbrooke News*" began operation in 1967 changing its name in 1988 to "*Knox News*".

Mr. Ron Ikin from The Basin edited a column for a while called "*The Knox Knave*" in the Knox Sherbrooke News. From 1969 to 1977 there was a paper known as the "*Knox Gazette*". A paper called the "*Mounteasterly*" operated from 1980 to 1982. Another paper was the "*Knox-Sherbrooke Post*" which commenced operation in March 1989. It was later called the "*Knox Journal*" and published until 1999. Later newspapers included the "*Ferntree Gully Mail*" and "*Knox Leader*".

The early local papers cost money to buy. Later, local papers were obtainable locally for free and some even delivered to your door! Unfortunately, the 2020 pandemic closed many local papers. Some reverted to publishing digitally.

Community News

In 1962, The Basin Progress Association launched a monthly newsletter circulating in The Basin. It reported notes contributed by local organisations. It is unknown when the newsletter stopped.

In 1992, Beverley Yandell had a vision to produce and distribute a community newsletter to all Boronia residents along the same lines as the Bayswater BIO and the Rowville/Lysterfield News. She organised a meeting with councillors from the City of Knox to form a steering committee. In 1993, the steering committee organised a public meeting to form a committee of management.

Tramway past The Basin?

James John Miller, an early settler, was a progressive man and was a joint proposer of a tramway from Bayswater to Olinda running north of The Basin.

In 1888, a report read: "*At present a survey is being made with a view to the construction of a cable tramway from near Macauley Station (Bayswater) to a point adjacent to the Sassafras and Ferny Creeks and it has already been determined that the gradient will not be a difficult one to deal with. The near future will witness the creation of a thriving township reached by this tramway and the erection of hundreds of villa residences*."

The newsletter was to be Boronia centred, but at an early public meeting, Jim and Barbara Stephens suggested The Basin should be included.

In 1994, after seven months of planning, the BBCN was officially registered as an incorporated association and the first paper was produced and titled "T*he Boronia & The Basin Community News*" (BBCN). The first committee of management were President: Ray Wilson, Vice-President: June Harling, Treasurer: Carolyn Oakford, Editor: Rod Chandler, Advertising Manager: Jean Code, Secretary: Andrew Watson, General Committee: Beverley Yandell, Graham Billing, Jan Birkett, Andy Slade, Judith Lesley, Judy Peach, Mandy Cranwell and Pauline Brown.

Jim and Gail Gannan supported planning of the paper and their business, Time and Graphic Communication, did the typesetting.

The BBCN has won two Knox Pride Awards. The Proud Communication Award in 2000 and the Proud Heritage Award in 2002.

The vision of Beverly Yandell has been realised backed by numerous volunteers and advertisers, who in effect pay the publication costs. Over 10,000 copies of the paper are delivered free every month by volunteer walkers.

In May 2012, the BBCN celebrated its 200th issue. Then, there were six people who had been delivering the News since its inception. These were Pauline Brown, Margaret Penford, Judith Lesley, Jenny Moore, Carolyn Harris and Graham Billing.

In 2023, Margaret Penford received a Victoria Day Award for community service. She had been delivering the BBCN since its inception.

Other News Sources

Mobile phones, the internet and social media have dramatically changed the way people obtain news. Information can sometimes be obtained faster from these mediums than other services can report them.

In 2025, there are "*The Basin Community Group*" and "*The Basin Community Noticeboard*" Facebook groups.

Hazards

In 1891, heavy rain caused a land slip at the site of the Fern Glen house. See page 79 for more information.

A major landslide occurred in the mid 1970s near the creek at the rear of the Seventh Day Adventist Youth Camp on The Basin-Olinda Road.

A major earthquake occurred in 1929 and one local woman was so alarmed she ran down the hill to her neighbour exclaiming a giant kangaroo was coming.

A significant land slip occurred in the area in 2025 known as Kalorama. Numerous newspaper reports state on the 12th July 1891:

"*…a huge mass of earth and trees slipped from the*

face of the mountain and dropped several hundreds of yards down the slope".

This land slip occurred in the area in 2025 known as Kalorama Park. The rain also affected Melbourne and surrounding districts.

Bushfires are a major hazard that have affected The Basin and surrounding hills many times and are described in detail elsewhere in this book.

The Pandemic and subsequent lockdowns commencing in 2021 placed severe restrictions on society and affected many businesses and organisations.

Sources of Information

- "*The Basin Centenary Booklet*" by Ron Ikin.
- "*Fire on the Hill, Flowers on the Valley*" by Rick Coxhill.
- Residents at the time of writing and former residents including Jim and Barbara Stephens for general help and information.
- Knox News for information on The Basin Post Office robberies.
- Boronia & The Basin Community News for information on transport and the history of the BBCN.
- Bert Chandler Diary (from Fergus Chandler).
- Harry Legg and Janet Dobsons diary for snow information.
- "*Story of the Dandenongs*" by Helen Coulson.
- "*The History of US Motors*" by Iain Drummond.

The Basin's brave bandit basher!

The Basin postmaster, Mr Max Toole, pictured, has received an award for bravery following his single-handed battle with a bandit last December.

The bandit entered the small post office about 1pm on Thursday, December 8, carrying a crudely sawn-off shotgun and hoping to take away some cash.

After Max had finished with him, he left penniless and squealing.

All he got for his efforts was a sore head — courtesy of Max.

Max chased and hit the bandit with the same shotgun he had been threatened with.

"He was quite pathetic", Max said after the incident.

"My wife and I were having lunch in the back room when I heard a man enter the post office, so I went out.

"The fellow was wearing a balaclava and pointing the shotgun at me.

"My first thoughts were 'You've got to be joking, mate!' He looked so stupid with this silly balaclava on with his nose poking out, I nearly laughed in his face.

"He demanded money, so I have him was what in the drawer under the counter — about $60.

"He looked bewildered as if to say that was not much, and wanted to know what was in the safe.

"I said there wasn't much in it, only some coins and said he could have a look if he liked".

The bandit crawled over the counter to see for himself.

As he turned to try and get out again, Max grabbed his gun, whacked him over the head, then chased him out of the post office.

But Max got his own back outside.

The bandit had a mate waiting for him in a car nearby.

The mate came rushing to his friend's aid, and Max was kicked in the groin and sent sprawling into telephone boxes nearby.

But Max recovered.

He will be presented with his award by the State Governor, Sir Henry Winneke, later this year.

STOP PRESS

BASIN BUS CHASES THIEVES

WITH passengers clinging grimly on, The Basin bus raced down the Mountain Highway in pursuit of thieves on Tuesday night.

Driver Lloyd Caughey and passenger Wally Lindsay spotted two youths wheeling away a motor bike from outside Travis' Store, The Basin.

They recognised the bike as the property of an assistant at the store, Pat. Usher.

Swinging his bus round the narrow road, Mr. Caughey set off in hot pursuit.

He apprehended the youths in The Basin township. They were wearing stolen overcoats.

The youths were returned to the Salvation Army Home, after they had been interviewed by police and Army officials. They had escaped in the afternoon.

Ferntree Gully.

The Salvation Army has decided to make telephone communication between their properties at Bayswater, and posts to carry the wires have been erected.

A case of snakebite occurred here on Friday. One of the workmen employed on the Gembrook and Ferntree Gully line was bitten on the arm by a snake, and immediately afterwards serious symptoms set in. He was dosed with brandy, and conveyed to Melbourne as soon as possible by train.

Bayswater Livery Stables,

One Minute From the Bayswater Railway Station.

H. DODD,

Royal Mail Contractor and Coach Proprietor.

During running of Railway Summer Time-Table Coaches will meet all Trains arriving at Bayswater Railway Station from Melbourne, conveying Passengers to The Basin, Hazel Dell, Sassafras, and Olinda every Day (Sundays included), and Return to Meet all Trains.

Dodds' Combined Rail and Coach Tickets available at Princes Bridge Station for Forest Road, Sassafras, and Olinda, Via Bayswater.

Parties driven to all Beauty Spots of the Dandenong Ranges, viz., Mount Observatory, Hanging Rock, Lyre-Bird Gully, Olinda Falls, Nethania Springs, &c., &c., by arrangement.

First-class Livery Stables.

Horses and Vehicles always on Hire. Charges Moderate. Picnic and Wedding Parties Receive Every Attention.

All Communications Addressed to ...

H. DODD, Proprietor.

Chapter 6 Religious Institutions

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Summary

The Basin Presbyterian Church was founded in 1931. In 1935, a church building opened on the high corner of Church Street and Forest Road. In 1964, the church activities moved to Boronia and the land and building sold to the Scouting Association.

St. Mary's Church of England in The Basin was founded in 1933 and services initially held in The Glideaway. In 1939, a church building opened on the corner of Wicks Road and Mountain Highway. In 1948, the building moved to a new site in Mountain Highway. In the late 1980s the church suffered a decline in numbers, and in 1991 the land and building were sold to Melbourne Vinayagar Hindu Sangam.

The Basin Methodist Church was built in 1903 in Liverpool Road on land beside The Basin Primary School. Before then, services were held for 2 years in the first Basin State School in Doongalla Road. In 1958, the building was moved to Boronia Road, Boronia where it became the Sunday School Hall of the Boronia Methodist Church.

Building a Hindu Temple in The Basin was one of the most controversial issues confronting the local community. Numerous Council permit applications and reapplications, a petition, Town Planning Appeals, Tribunal Appeals, and many long articles in the local press stalled the building until 1994. The building was finally officially opened on land once the St. Mary's Church of England site.

The Salvation Army Basin Centre is the longest established institution in The Basin. Established in 1897 and in 2025 is still in operation. Although the role of the Centre has changed over the years, it provided support to implement philosophies of the Salvation Army.

The Basin YWCA Friendly Circle formed in 1980 and utilised The Basin Progress Hall as its base. Unfortunately, the group closed in 1999.

Distinguished Resident

Roy Ritchie

Roy and his family arrived in The Basin in 1957. He was involved with the Badminton Club, President of The Basin Progress Association for 12 years, served on many Association Committees and a charter member of the Boronia Rotary Club for 12 years. He was a trustee for the Elderly Citizens Club, Wick Reserve and Batterham Reserve.

Roy operated a milk bar and butcher's shop on the corner of Forest Road and Conyers Street.

Roy's greatest contribution to The Basin was undoubtedly his involvement with the Fire Brigade for over 30 years, particularly his 19 years as secretary. Whenever the fire siren sounded, Roy would immediately close his shop and be first at the station. In 1980, he was awarded The Queens Long Service & Good Conduct Medal for service to the Victorian Fire Services.

Roy passed away in 2011 at the age of 90.

The Basin Presbyterian Church

An early resident, Mrs. Pickett, felt the need for some form of divine worship and arranged for services to be held in The Basin Progress Hall in late 1930. On the 7th June 1931 The Basin Presbyterian Church was founded. Among early members were the Gretton family, Mrs. Mary Stephens, Mrs Serena. Henderson, Mrs. Gaunt, Mrs. Caughey and Rev. and Mrs. Roxburgh. Miss Cornwall began the Sunday School. In early years, the church was in Boronia and Lysterfield charge. Services continued to be held in The Basin Progress Hall, the preacher Mr. McNaughton.

On 15th January 1935, a block of land (lot 19 in the Chandlers Hill Estate) on the uphill corner of Church Street and Forest Road was purchased from Richard Bartlett Smith (The Basin storekeeper) for 90 pounds as shown in instrument number 1570280. Working bees cleared the land for a building. Money was scarce, and Ladies Guild members scrubbed floors to swell the funds. In early 1935, the Loan Fund Council granted a loan. Plans were drawn by the son of the interim moderator Rev. J. K. Robertson. Building commenced soon after loan approval. On 9th March 1935, the church opened with a ceremony conducted by the Rev. R. W. Macaulay (see photo on page 148). It came as a surprise when the Mission Committee presented the church with an organ. In 1941, the lining and outside oiling of the building was finished under Rev. Archer Harris.

The first missioner in the church was Mr. H. M. Bell who spent several years in the New Hebrides. Other members well remembered from the 1940s were Mr. Heath, Mrs. Newstead, Mr. Houston and Mrs. Walker.

On 10th September 1947, the church purchased the adjoining block of land (lot 20) for future use as shown in instrument number 2100029. It was purchased from Richard Bartlett Smith (The Basin former storekeeper) for 100 pounds.

In 1953, Messrs. E. Hill and D. Allen were appointed as elders and this meant the church was directly represented on the Session.

Over the years, organists included Miss Roxburgh, Miss Gray, Miss McKenzie, Mr. Heath, Mr. Cavill, Mr. Henley and Mrs. Spottiswood. In the 1950s, the church was under the Blackburn Session with the Rev. F. P. Strickland as the interim moderator. Activities included a Ladies Guild, Sunday School, P.G.A., girls' choir, prayer meetings, Bible study, and a weekly Social evening.

In 1964, with the Rev. W. Bligh conducting services, population trends warranted moving the church to St. David's in Boronia.

On 4th October 1967, lot 19 and the building was sold to the Scout Association as a base for the 5th Knox Scout group for $5,600 as shown in instrument number C901425. Lot 20 was later sold for use as a private

The Basin Presbyterian Church on the corner of Church Street and Forest Road c1954.
Helen Johnson, Glenys Greenwell, Dick Heyliguis, Alan Henley, Linton Hersfield.
In 1964, this building was sold to The Basin Scouts and in 1972 it was destroyed by fire.
Photo courtesy Knox Historical Society

residence.

After the Presbyterian church moved, several former followers began meeting in The Basin Progress Hall as Baptists, forming a Fellowship which means a congregation without a minister. Over a few years, they built a following including a Sunday School and Youth Club with lay teachers coming from other churches. However, interest declined over the next few years and the Fellowship closed.

St. Mary's Church of England

On 6th July 1933, members from St. Paul's Boronia canvassed The Basin to ascertain if there were enough Church of England ladies to form a Guild. Consequently, the first meeting of The Basin Guild was held on 18th July 1933. During August of the same year a petition, signed by over thirty people, was submitted to the Diocese of Melbourne requesting Church of England services be conducted in The Basin.

The first service was in Mr. Cane's hall (The Glideaway), The Basin, on 9th November 1933 with about thirty people present. Services were held fortnightly, on Thursday evenings, as the Vicar was not available on Sundays. He preached at St. Bartholomews, Ferntree Gully and Upper Ferntree Gully, and St. Pauls, Boronia which made up the parish then.

The Basin Guild canvased the need for land and a dedicated church building. As shown in instrument number 1643621, on 5th April 1937, Emily Wicks and Annie Harris (nee Wicks) donated a block of land on the corner of Old Forest Road (now Wicks Road) and Mountain Highway, on which to build a church. The land was officially donated to The Church of England Trusts Corporation for the Diocese of Melbourne.

After years of work by the Guild, the Church of St. Mary's was built on this site by a builder from Glen Waverley at a cost of 195 pounds. On Sunday 2nd December 1939, the Church was dedicated by Archbishop Head, and Rev. C. P. Brown of Ferntree Gully was the first vicar (see photo on page 149). It was reported that the congregation overflowed on the memorable occasion.

On 1st July June 1946, land on Mountain Highway, close to The Basin roundabout (later the site of Hindu Temple), was purchased for 70 pounds as shown in instrument 2013037. The land was lots 4 and 5 in the

Original St Mary's Church of England in Wicks Road at the opening service in 1939.
Two clergy on RH side are Archbishop Head and Rev. C. P. Brown. Man with clergy is James Williams.
Photo courtesy Knox Historical Society

1925 Forest Heights Estate subdivision. On the 16th February 1948, the original building was moved in sections to the Mountain Highway site, by a horse and wagon.

In 1955, two blocks of land next to the Church on the west side were purchased to allow space for the erection of a proposed Church Hall.

During 1959, the old Church site, at the corner of Wicks Road and Mountain Highway was sold.

On 22nd August 1963, the Vestry approved the erection of a brick veneer hall by letting subcontracts. On Sunday, 26th April 1964, the Archdeacon of Kew, The Venerable J. Harvey-Brown, M. A., dedicated the hall which was filled to capacity. A tireless worker for the erection of the new hall was Mr. S. Bedford.

A boost to the Church's finances occurred in 1971 when it received $8,000 from a former parishioner, Mrs Metcalfe. The money, left by Mrs Metcalfe in her will, was to be used solely for improvements at the Church.

During the 1970s the Church experienced a growth in numbers and to accommodate this the Church was extended in October 1975 including a meeting hall. A loan was taken out to part finance the extension. The loan was paid out in October 1978.

The years between 1970 and the middle 1980s were the "*Golden years of St. Mary's*". There was a strong community spirit with a caring church family led by Vicar Geoffrey Turner who was with St. Mary's for 12 years. Strong pastoral care was a feature led by vestry and Congregational members. Care groups operated who supported sick church members or members who were disabled in other ways. Social gatherings were a feature of church life including family barbecues, presentation days, picnics and films. The Sunday School and bible classes thrived with numbers reaching 90. At one stage there were seven Sunday School teachers. All maintenance of the church and grounds carried out by willing church members.

In 1975, the Church was extended and clad with imitation bricks.

During the late 1980s there was a fall in numbers. Because of this, and to rationalise and centralise resources, the Parish decided to close St. Mary's Church in 1989. The Diocese had the property on the market for a couple of years when in 1991 it was sold to Melbourne Vinayagar Hindu Sangam who later erected a Temple.

The Basin Methodist Church

The first Methodist Church services held in The Basin were in the first Basin School in Doongalla Road. In 1899 and 1900, when the school was temporarily closed due to lack of numbers, the Church used the building. Rev. Harrison conducted these services.

The Basin Methodist Church was built in 1903 on Liverpool Road, on land adjoining The Basin Primary School.

After establishment of the Methodist Church, various church functions were organised. Interchurch dinners were popular and magic lantern slides shown at the dinners.

From Janet Dobsons Diary dated 1903.

Thursday, May 7th: *There is a meeting up at the school tonight about getting a Church.*

Thursday, May 28th*: Mr. Green, Mr. Yeadon and Mr. Chandler called this afternoon. They were collecting money for a Church. There is a meeting at the school tonight to settle on a building site.*

Monday, August 31st*: The contractors started building the church last Wednesday.*

Tuesday, September 15th*: There was a Ladies meeting up at the school this afternoon to arrange about a tea meeting for the opening of the new Church.*

Tuesday, October 6th*: Practice of the hymns up at the school in the evening for the opening of the new Church next Sunday.*

Sunday, October 11th: *The new Church was opened this morning. Mr. Judkins preached both morning and evening. He was good, every seat in the Church was as full as it would hold, and some stood in the Porch. It was just the same in the evening.*

Tuesday, October 13th*: The tea meeting held at the new Church was a great success, there were about three hundred people there. They made 15 pounds with the tea and collection. The Sunday collections made it up to 20 pounds.*

The Reporter (Box Hill), Friday 23 October 1903 reported on the opening and the tea. In attendance at the tea were Cr. S. Collier, Major Bray (Salvation Army), Mr Yeadon, and Mr W. Chandler. Mr J. Griffiths made a generous donation to church funds. See photo on page 151)

The Church continued in The Basin until 1958 when the building was shifted to Boronia Road, Boronia where it became the Sunday School Hall of the Boronia Methodist Church. The Education Department purchased the land left vacant by the removal of the Church and amalgamated it with the existing school land.

In 1967, the Sunday School Hall was relocated to Pine Crescent Boronia, and in 2025, is owned by the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Hindu Temple

Building a Hindu Temple in The Basin was one of the most controversial issues confronting the local community. The Temple was the subject of numerous Council permit applications and reapplications, a petition, Town Planning Appeals, Tribunal Appeals and many long articles in the local press. The result of all these processes was a Hindu Temple and conditions of use considered a reasonable compromise for the Hindu and local communities.

The Melbourne Vinayagar Hindu Sangam was

formed in September 1989 by a breakaway group of Tamil Hindus of Vinayagar denomination. They were frustrated at the slow progress in the development of a Ganesha temple by Hindu Society of Victoria. The Melbourne Vinayagar Hindu Sangam was founded. A pro-tem committee was formed with trustees, members, volunteers, and with donated funds.

The Sangam's aim was to locate a suitable site in Eastern Melbourne, erect a temple to provide a place of worship and create a centre of attraction for cultural and religious activities. The Temple would be dedicated to Lord Ganesha, also called Vinayagar, the elephant headed god worshipped by all Hindus around the world. Incorporated in the ceiling of the Temple would be a dome (Sikhama/Vimanam) representing the shape of a mountain. Hindus generally believe the seat of divinity is in the mountains and thus the Temple structure is likened to a mountain.

When pro-tem committee member Shan Pillai and his wife went to India to source a deity blessed by the Kanchi Shankaracharya Swamigal, they could not find one. They paid a visit to the Shankaracharya Swamigal regardless and were pleasantly surprised when he offered them a deity. It was the first of many miracles they encountered. The deity was named Vakrathunda Vinayagar and brought back to Melbourne, and lived in the home of trustee S. Somasundaram until the temple was built. The deity was taken to a community hall every month for worship.

In on 20th April 1990, the Sangam purchased the land and buildings in Mountain Highway, once the site of St. Mary's Church of England which had closed.

In July 1990, the Sangam applied to Knox Council for development of the site. The development proposal envisaged demolition of the existing buildings (a church and meeting hall), construction of an elaborate and ornate temple, two storey building and outside toilets, and provision of car spaces. It was proposed the Temple be used for two-hour sessions each morning and evening with at most 15 persons present. On four occasions each year there would be special worship days when up to 120 persons could attend. There would be no funerals, marriages or baptisms at the Temple. Extensive advertising of the proposal attracted 6 objections.

Methodist Church built in 1903 on land beside The Basin Primary School grounds in Liverpool Road. Circa 1940. Behind Church on left can be seen tennis courts (demolished in 1960). Behind Church on right is the School built in 1925 (not in view). The Church was moved to Boronia in 1958.
Photo courtesy Knox Historical Society

Knox Council officers prepared a report recommending the application be refused on grounds of overdevelopment of the site, detriment to the local environment and adverse effects to the site and surrounding residents. The Sangam became aware their proposal was not favoured by Council and requested deferral of their application to allow a "*scaled down*" proposal to be drafted. Council deferred consideration of the application at the September meeting to allow the Sangam to discuss the report and objections.

In a revised application, the Sangam envisaged removing the two-storey building and enlarging the temple but reducing its ornateness. Advertising of this revised plan attracted objections from two of the original objectors, 17 new objections and a petition signed by over 500 people. As a result of these latest objections, the Sangam again changed the Temple design to address some objections.

Knox Council officers recommended approval for the latest design, subject to six special conditions.

On 3rd October 1990, Council considered the application. Cr. Dare proposed the recommendation be adopted. Amendments to the permit conditions were put, forward by Cr. Lupton, but these were lost. The recommendation was finally carried 9/1.

Several residents lodged two appeals with the Town Planning Appeals Tribunal against the decision to grant a permit. The grounds of one appeal were based on overdevelopment of the site, insufficient car parking, proposal is out of character with the area and effect on adjoining residential land. The second appeal grounds were based on hours of use.

Both appeals were held on 27th February 1991. In its lengthy determination issued on 22nd April, the Tribunal did not consider the proposed development would be an overdevelopment of the site. On the issue of car parking, the Sangam tendered evidence they had made arrangements with both St. Bernadettes and The Basin Primary Schools for additional car spaces to be made available on four annual days of special religious observance. With this arrangement, the Tribunal considered there were enough car spaces allowed. The Tribunal did not consider the proposal was out of character with the area, or there would be adverse effect on adjoining residences but suggested some changes to the permit conditions to soften the impact of the proposal on these issues. On the hours of use, the Tribunal agreed the original permit wording be amended. The Tribunal therefore upheld the decision by Council to grant a permit subject to several changes to the permit conditions:

Following the Tribunals decision, Council issued a new planning permit on 30 May 1991 with the relevant conditions listed below. Conditions 17, 18 and 19 were either amended or added from the original Council conditions at the direction of the Town Planning Appeals Tribunal.

14. No external sound amplification equipment used for the purposes of announcements, broadcasts or similar.

16. Parking of church members' cars restricted to the parking areas to be provided and no vehicle under the control of such persons shall park in nearby streets.

17. The building must not be used as a place of worship between 9.00 p.m. and 7.00 a.m. on any day.

18. Except for the four annual days of special religious observance, the daily hours of Congregational services must be between 7.00 a.m. and 9.00 a.m. and 6.00 a.m. and 8.00 p.m. on any day unless with the prior written approval of the Responsible Authority.

19. A 2-metre acoustic fence to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority be constructed at the applicant's expense along the west boundary of the site.

The Sangam held a special groundbreaking ceremony on 14th September 1991 and construction of the Temple officially began. The foundation stone for the Temple was laid in 1991. The first brick was blessed by Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Swamigal, flown from Kancheepuram to Melbourne, and laid in November 1991. A team of 6 specialists were imported from India on six month visas to build the Temple.

The original church was demolished to clear the land for the building of the Temple, but the meeting hall was not demolished (the original permit conditions were the meeting hall was to be demolished to allow for the proposed car spaces).

In February 1992, inspections by Council revealed the meeting hall was used for residential purposes for the Temple builders, but this ceased in March.

Whilst the Temple was constructed, the land and residence at 2 Conyers Street at the rear of the Temple site was purchased by members of the Hindu Community. The intention was to use the house at 2 Conyers Street as a residence for the priest in charge of the Temple.

Between the Temple site and No 2 Conyers St., was an unmade right-of-way running behind other residential properties and has entrances from Forest Road and Conyers Street. Council resolved in December 1991 to close the right-of-way behind the residential properties and sell the land to adjoining landowners. Thus, the land at 2 Conyers Street and the Temple site would be connected and for all practical purposes under control of the one body.

In September 1992, the Sangam applied to Council with a proposal to keep the meeting hall, relocate the car park and use the residence at 2 Conyers Street for a Manse (residence for a priest). It proposed the meeting hall be used for activities such as committee meetings, small gatherings and religious education. A car park would be provided at the rear of 2 Conyers Street, and ingress/egress to the car park would be on either side of

Lt. Col. Jas. Bray

The "Bray Memorial Home for Pensioners" in A'Beckett St central Melbourne., Melbourne is named after the first superintendent of the Salvation Army Boys Home in The Basin, Lt. Col. Jas. Bray. An authority in his time on crime and juvenile delinquency, he served with distinction for seven years at The Basin.

the meeting hall from Mountain Highway. If the right-of-way from the rear of 2 Conyers Street into Forest Road was properly constructed, the Sangam proposed this be used as the car park egress instead of Mountain Highway.

Whilst Council was considering the Sangams latest proposal, the Temple was finished, the first Traditional Hindu temple in Victoria. On the weekend of 10 & 11 October 1992 a consecration ceremony for the Temple took place attracting large numbers of devotees from Victoria and interstate. Among the dignitaries who attended the opening were Knox Mayor, Cr. Colin Tidball and the Federal Minister for Primary Industries and Energy, Mr. Crean, who represented Prime Minister Keating. Many members of the local community also attended.

Advertising of the Sangams latest proposal attracted 8 objections. Knox Council officers prepared a report recommending the application be approved subject to 26 conditions. In particular, that Forest Road be the egress from the car park.

Council considered this recommendation in December 1992. Cr. Dempster recommended the application be refused on the following grounds:

1. The proposed uses are not appropriate to the location and incompatible with surrounding development.
2. The proposed uses would result in an undesirable intrusion into an established residential area.
3. The proposed uses are not in keeping with the character of the area and adversely affect the amenity of the area.

Cr. Dempster argued allowing the old meeting hall to stay would breach the original agreement with the Hindu community for the building to be demolished for onsite car parking. He also took note of numerous residents complaints about car parking since the Temple had opened. The Hindu community had not abided with its agreement to not park on road reserves and nearby streets. Cr. Dempsters recommendation the application be refused was carried 8/3.

The Sangam lodged an appeal with Town Planning Appeals Tribunal against the Council refusal to grant a permit. This appeal was heard on 16th and 29th March 1993. Several local residents appeared supporting the Council's decision and provided video and written evidence of the Sangams inability to abide by the original Council permit conditions on hours of use and car parking.

The Tribunal handed down its decision on 23rd May 1993 determining the appeal by the Sangam be disallowed and no permit for its latest proposal be issued. The Tribunal found problems in considering the application when the proposed development was spread over three separately owned parcels of land. Car parking was inadequate and poorly located and the proposed development was an overdevelopment of the site.

By early 1994, the Sangam had adhered to all requirements of the original permit conditions. The old meeting hall had been demolished, car spaces provided, and the site landscaped. In this year the Temple was officially opened.

In March 1999, the temple and an adjoining house was set fire under suspicious circumstances. Nobody was injured, and damage was not extensive.

The second consecration was done on 17th June 2007 when a Raja gopuram was built partly in granite and extensive renovations including shrines for Durga and Murugan were completed.

In 2019 and 2020, extensive renovations and extensions were made to the complex. They were designed by Australian temple architect (Stapathy) Purushothaman Jayaraman (Puru). Puru drew inspiration from the UNESCO-listed Chola temples and sourced the granite from a single quarry in Tamil Nadu, India. South Indian Hindu temples are reconsecrated once every 13 years and this granite transformation has been completed successfully despite the global pandemic.

The main shrine for Lord Ganesha is built from 17 layers of granite, all carved by hand. The roof of the Moolasthanam (the shrine where the main deity resides) is constructed in a conical shape which amplifies the sound of the chanting so it can be heard around the temple. The roof is capped off by a 6 tonne dome made from a single stone, similar to the UNESCO-listed Brihadeeswarar Temple in Tanjore, Tamil Nadu. Hand carved Ganeshas, elephants, peacocks, lions and lotuses adorn the walls, corners, and panels of each shrine.

Granite is stone having all five elements of nature; air, earth, water, fire, and space in optimal proportions. Hindus have always constructed temples using granite. This age defying stone, is strong, scratch proof, believed to absorb the divine vibrations, and daily chanting in a temple. The temple is designed to precise mathematical calculations on paper to ensure when each stone is laid, it is done in such a way so the weight transfer takes place to the sides of the structure. The drawings and designs were sent to the Indian Institute of Technology in Chennai and the calculations were verified and validated by UNESCO-approved civil engineers. They were then rechecked by qualified Australian civil engineers and appropriately certified.

Traditional and modern sculpting tools were used to carve every stone. The figurine is initially drawn on paper, then transferred onto the stone by way of

markings. The stone is hollowed out using sculpting tools such as a chisel and hammer as well as modern stone cutting and grinding machines. Depending on the sculptors' imagination, intricacy and complexity of each design as well as the desired outcome, this process can take from a few days to months. At the end, exceptionally fine cement and water are used to hold all the pieces together which make the final form look continuous and flawless.

In India, where the carving and sculpting was done, the project spanned three locations and involved more than 1,200 granite stones weighing from 200 kg to 6 tonnes. Close to 100 artisans were involved in the work in India. The carved stones were packed in expensive silver oak wood to avoid pests and shipped to Melbourne. Once in Melbourne, specifically skilled stone masons were brought from India to assemble each stone to produce this magnificent temple.

The project took almost two years, from selecting the temple architect to the final completion. This was done by the 15-member Management Committee of the Melbourne Vinayagar Hindu Sangam (MVHS) which runs the Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar Temple. Specifically, highly-skilled project consultants, architects and engineers such as Babu Akula (Project Director), Sritharan Sathasivam (Chairman, Building Committee), Markandu Sivakumar (Project Engineer) and Sivagnanam Pillai (Operations Manager) generously volunteered their time to bring this historic project together. Jeeva Balasingam (Site Manager) and Vibhav Nawathe (Project Co-ordinator) are to commended for their tireless efforts. The entire project, from fundraising to managing the various aspects of the running of the temple, is done by the Management Committee headed by the executive committee; Balaa Kandiah (President), Shans Pillai (Secretary) and Sivanathan Thamboo (Treasurer)

Sri Vakrathunda Vinayagar Temple is the first temple, and, the only temple, taking the Thaer (Chariot) out in the streets of Melbourne. They have appeared on the streets of The Basin on several occasions.

Salvation Army Church in The Basin

The church has had 3 venues in the 25 years of operation.

The Basin Salvation Army

The longest established institution in The Basin community is the Salvation Army (SA) who first purchased 219 acres of land here in 1897.

The leader of the SA then, General William Booth, and his wife Catherine, were dedicated to boys social reform. He had a vision the therapeutic value of farming could help rehabilitate young offenders and avoid sending them to jail.

After a request by the Government of the day for religious denominations to open homes to replace reformatories, the SA opened institutions in NSW, Heidelberg and Pakenham and later in The Basin. The latter, the largest successful institution in Australia modelled around farming.

The institutions provided help and guidance to many youths who committed offences which brought them into the hands of the police, and for younger boys with troubled backgrounds.

The SA became part of the social network in The Basin. Residents interacted with Army leaders and "*Army boys*" were employed by residents assisting with farming duties. The SA held entertainment sessions for residents. From Janet Dobsons diary:

"***Friday January 2 1903:*** *Mother, Jack, Annie, Emily, Jean and Louie and her little girl went over to the Army last night to see the Cinematograph and limelight views they said it was very good.*"

"*Monday February 10 1908:* *The Army had a Cinematograph display up at the farm last Tuesday night, they sent round invitations to all the people of the district. I went and took the children, it was very good.*"

Janet Dobson reported in her diary numerous instances of Army boys stealing fruit but also assisting on the farm.

SA publications, the "*War Cry*" and "*Victory*", provided much information about the SA presence in The Basin.

Land and Buildings

On 8th May 1897, the SA purchased 2 parcels of land and consolidated the titles:

1. Part of Crown allotment A and all of Crown allotment 72A, consisting of 163 acres, from David Dobson for 6,508 pounds five shillings as shown in instrument number 382057.
2. Crown allotment 53, consisting of 56 acres, from John Christopher Conrad Schild, of Footscray, for 282 pounds six shillings and three pence as shown in instrument number 382058. Crown allotment 53 was adjacent to Crown allotment A on the west. A government road (later Sheffield Road), ran between Crown allotments A and 53.

Development of the above 2 Crown allotments was the start of the SA presence in The Basin and they subsequently sold, purchased or leased several properties in and around The Basin area. A newspaper report in 1901 stated the SA owned 220 acres of land and 800 acres of leasehold land. By 1910, they owned over 800 acres of land.

Newspapers in May 1913 reported a large sale of SA land about one mile from the Bayswater station on "*the Main Mountain Road to the popular Sassafras and Olinda districts*". The land was subdivided in forty-one 5 and 10 acre blocks and promoted as the "*Orchard Farms Estate*". The estate covered the area on the south east

corner of the Mountain Highway and Dorset Road intersection. It was a sub-division of Crown allotment 65 in the Parish of Scoresby. Army Road ran through the middle of the Estate.

The SA referred to their original and main establishments in The Basin as "*Eden*" or "*Bayswater the Beautiful*".

The boys living at Eden were chiefly wards of the State. In the early days, they were classified into one of three categories according to age and past records, and then drafted into one of the three homes as described later. In later years, the classification system changed. Although the various homes were on different sites, they were managed centrally.

The homes had various names as detailed later, but best known as the No 1, 2 and 3 Homes.

In 2025, only one property remains and is utilised for social reform.

No 1 Home (1897-1987)

This Home was variously called the "*No 1*", "*Senior*", "*Big Boys Home*" and "*The Salvation Army Farm*". It was built on land purchased from David Dobson and John Schild in 1897. The land had been part farmed by previous owners and the SA considerably expanded the farming facilities.

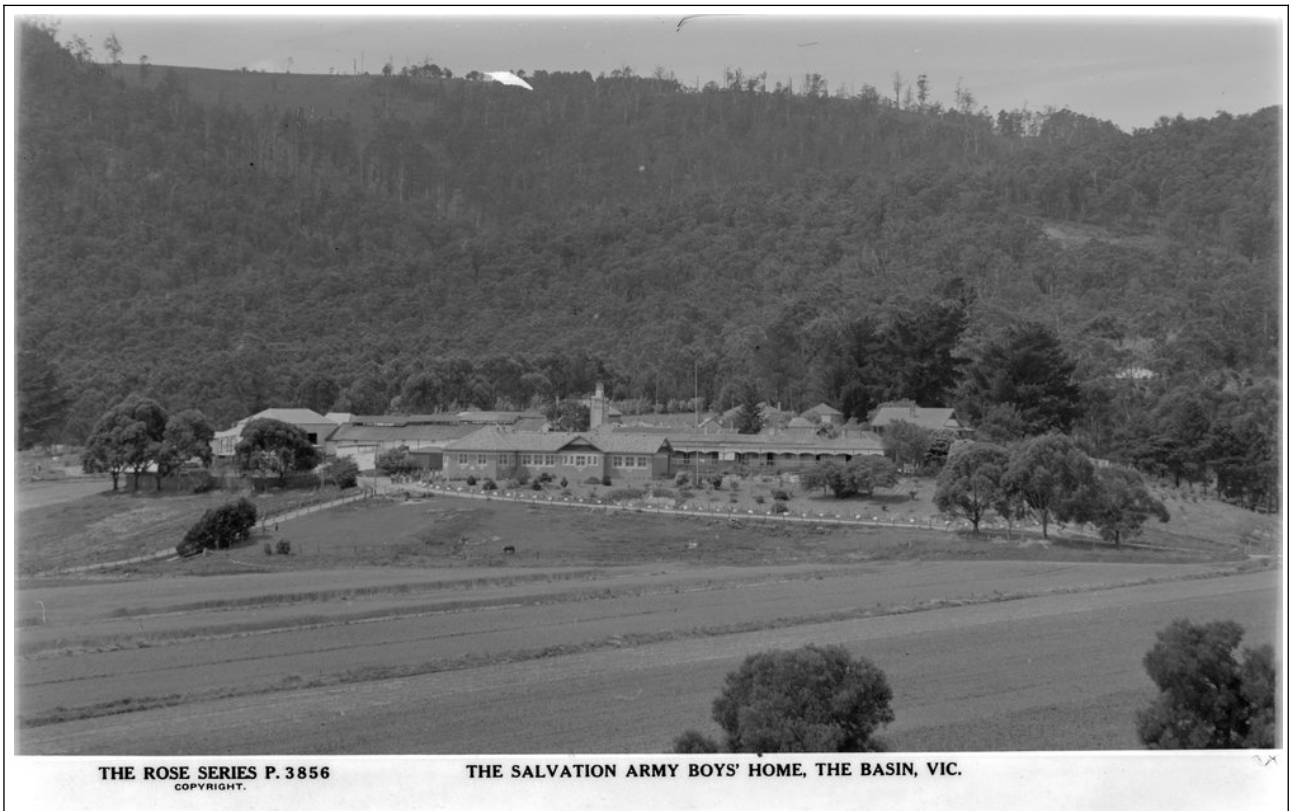
A Boys Home was erected on land near corner of Sheffield Road and The Basin-Olinda Road (the entrance). On the front gate was the sign "*The Garden of Eden*". It was commonly referred to as just "*Eden*". See photo on page 155.

Teams of SA officers from other parts of Melbourne designed and built the farm. The "*War Cry*" and "*Victory*" SA magazines devoted extensive coverage to this massive exercise.

The farm had large water storages and was extensively irrigated by large pumps. Water was also pumped to storage tanks at other locations. Perennial creeks passing either side of the property ensured water all year round.

They grew oats, maize, peas, potatoes, fruits, and berries. There were cows, pigs and poultry. A bakery and drapery made the Homes nearly selfsufficient. They also supplied milk to The Basin residents and the suburbs via Bayswater Station. For more than 30 years, a wagon delivered milk driven by a man known as "*Old Sarge*", a familiar sight in The Basin.

The son of William and Catherine Booth, Herbert Henry Howard Booth, was the Salvation Army commander of the Australasian Territories from 1896 to 1901. He oversaw the development of the facilities at The Basin. In 1898, the "*War Cry*" reported on a visit by



Salvation Army Home No 1 on The Basin-Olinda Road circa 1920.
Photo courtesy Knox Historical Society.

Commandant Booth, his wife and other dignitaries, to "*Bayswater the beautiful*" to tour the facility.

The No 1 Home was for boys over 14 and those considered the hardest to manage and consequently requiring the greatest amount of supervision. The boys were taught the practical aspects of farming.

The original Home buildings were of wooden structure. They were rebuilt in brick in 1928 with major extensions in 1946.

With the major extension, all other facilities were upgraded, including a modern dairy with milking machines and mechanisation of farm management, but the orchards were phased out. Boys had their own rooms and facilities including recreation and visitors rooms, canteen, and later, a TV room.

In 1960, the home was renamed the Youth Training Centre and accredited by the Social Welfare Department.

A swimming pool opened in 1965. The retaining wall beside the pool was built by trainees at the centre.

In 1969, Government classifications changed, and the home administered by Corrective Services. Soon after this, the Government phased out all childrens' institutions in favour of foster care and the home became known as a Youth Training Centre.

A new two-story building added in 1975 formed an additional wing to the existing main building.

The farm and associated workshops provided valuable work experience for thousands of boys who passed through its gates. The demand for these boys by Victorian farmers after they left the Home was high, indicating the success of the SA farm program.

On 30 June 1987, the "*Bayswater*" Youth Training Centre was closed by a shift in Government policies regarding institutional care.

Towards the end of 1988, the idea of utilising the workshops and the farm for further training developed.

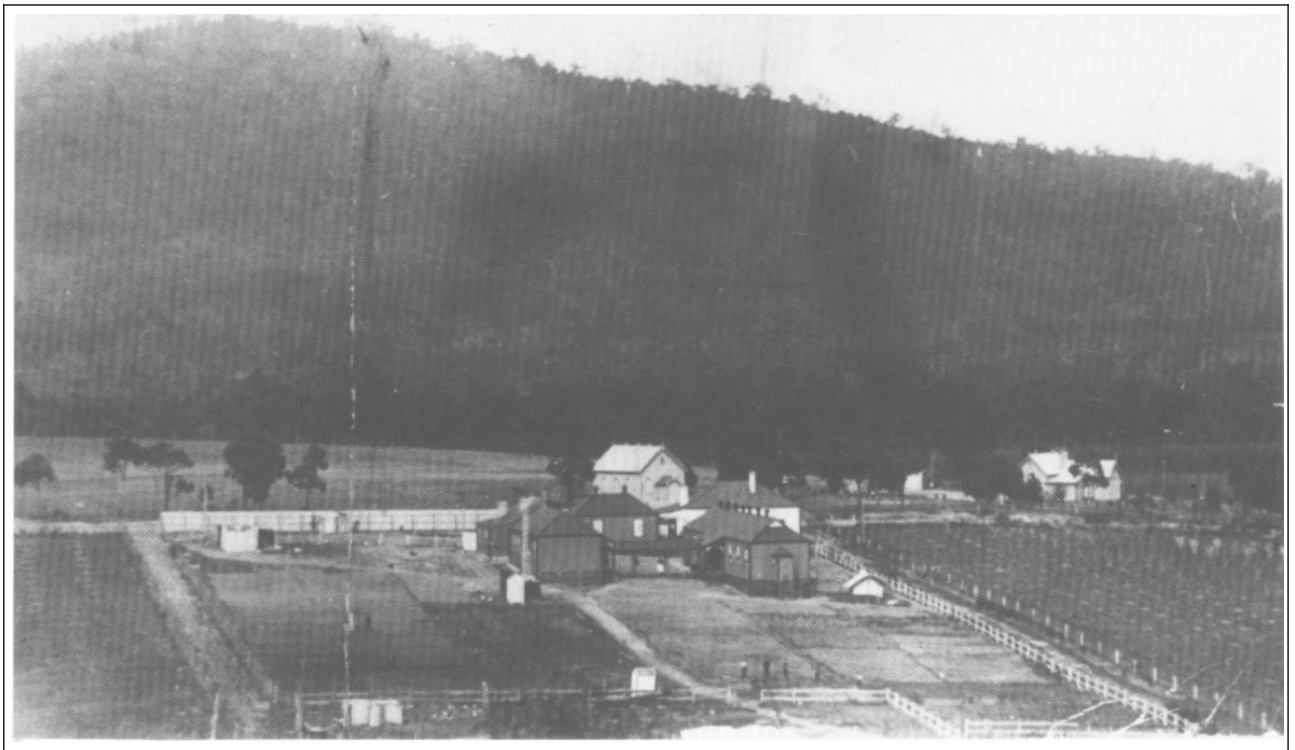
By January 1989, "*SkillShare*" became a reality. Commencing with Computer/Office Skills, Metalwork and Woodwork, participants were given every encouragement to gain entry to the work force including grooming, personal development and job search training.

From February 1989 through to December 1990, the Croydon Baptist Church leased a large room in which to operate an independent Christian School. Approximately 22 students attended daily.

January 1990 brought some changes, and the consolidation of the "*SkillShare*" program when Farm Skills became an approved course and the "*office skills*" became more intensive. Woodwork was discontinued as it did not suit the local labour market needs of the time.

In February 1990, The Basin Playgroup used another large room and playground for their activities.

A further initiative — JOBTRAIN Forklift — brought additional funding enabling training, not only in



Salvation Army Home No 2 on Liverpool Road c1914. Photo taken from Sugarloaf Hill. Along Liverpool Road is a high fence in front of the buildings. The Methodist Church is on the other side of the road in the middle. The "old" The Basin Primary School is on the right fronting Mountain Highway.
Photo courtesy Knox Historical Society.

Forklift, but Computer/Stores and a Red Cross Certificated First Aid course.

Early 1991 brought some variations on theme with the addition of a JOBCLUB and further JOBTRAIN courses.

A fire at the Boronia Church of Christ (early 1991) left the church's Companion Club for primary school girls without a home and the Club met for 12 months at the Farm.

In 1992, the Centre introduced voluntary programs to physically and spiritually rehabilitate alcohol and drug users. The existing dairy, piggery and stud farms were used in combination with other therapeutic programs. The Holstein Friesian dairy stud developed into a quality program and was called the "*New Hope*" stud.

The turn of the century brought a new name to the farm "*The Basin Rehabilitation Centre*" and a change in focus. The alcohol and drug rehabilitation programs still operated, but farming and other practical therapies scaled back. On the farm, cattle and horses were agisted.

The alcohol and drug rehabilitation program later became known as "*The Bridge*" program and in 2025 is still operating.

No 2 Home (1899-1983)

This Home was variously called the "*No. 2*", "*Junior*" and "*Intermediate*" Boys Home.

This home accommodated younger boys suffering from troubled backgrounds. The home included a school staffed by accredited Salvation Army officers. The boys were taught the theoretical aspects of farming in preparation for the possible later move to the No 1 home.

The No 2 Home commenced in James John Miller's property on Crown allotment 64 when the SA leased the homestead and surrounding land from about 1899 to 1906 as "*House for little boys*". The lease was from the London Chartered Bank of Australia. In 1899, the bank foreclosed on James John Miller and took possession of Crown allotment 64. John Yeadon purchased the property from the bank on 23rd May 1907 for 1,150 pounds as shown in instrument number 548787.

On 14th May 1903, the SA purchased part of Crown allotment 72 (opposite The Basin Primary School), and all of Crown allotment 63A (part, in 2025, the Dandenong Creek, Liverpool Road Retarding Basin) for 2,000 pounds as shown in instrument number 471760. The purchase was from Mary Ann Bruce, as proprietor for John Bruce, a total of 108 acres.

In 1906, the SA purchased more of Crown allotment 72 from John Yeadon, a total of 59 acres as shown in instrument number 525793. This land fronted Mountain Highway and included, what in 2025, is The Basin Primary School, Mountain Gateway Estate and the Water Tank land. The sale did not include a small section of land on the corner of Liverpool Road and Mountain Highway (where the "old" The Basin State School was located).

See page 31 for more information on the above 2 purchases.

Major McLeod of the SA took residence in John Yeadon's house. The "*War Cry*" reported in 1906:

"*...the manager now resides on this newly acquired property between the farm [on The Basin-Olinda Road] and the No 2 home [on Liverpool Road].*

The farm mentioned above was the No 1 Home, and the No 2 Home was James John Miller's old property on Liverpool Road.

Yeadon's house out buildings were destroyed by fire in 1907. From Janet Dobsons diary:

"***Tuesday April 30 1907:*** *There was a big fire up at Major McLeod's (that is Yeadon's old place) all the barn full of hay and stables, fowls houses and store room were burned, they managed to save the horses but the fowls were burnt some of the old Army boys are suspected of setting it on fire as they had threatened to burn the haystacks and the fire started in the hay.*"

The SA may have been aware that John Yeadon intended to purchase James John Miller's property (later called Melrose by John Yeadon) which they were using as the No 2 Home, and in 1906 purchased more of Crown allotment 72 from John Yeadon on which to build a new No 2 Home.

It is unknown exactly where the new No 2 Home was built, but the information detailed below indicates it most likely fronted Mountain Highway, near where in 2025 the Water Tanks are located.

- Early resident Bert Chandler noted "*The Salvation Army built in Yeadon's land, the building being destroyed by fire"*.
- In 1910, Newspapers and the "*War Cry*" reported fire destroying a large SA wooden building known as the "*No. 2 branch*".
- Early resident L. Maguire notes mention "*a Salvation Army fire about 1911, destroying the home midway between the 2 present homes*".
- Frank Parr, an early The Basin resident who I interviewed in 1992, related to me that he worked for the SA in the 1930s clearing land fronting Mountain Highway. He recalled uncovering and removing water pipes and bricks, presumably left after a fire.
- The "*War Cry*" reported the original No 2 Home was built relatively close to the No 1 Home.

In 1913, newspapers, the "*War Cry*" and "*Victory*" reported a large fire destroying the No 2 Home. This Home was brick and built after fire destroyed the first wooden No 2 Home in 1910. As reported in the "*War Cry*":

"...and in twenty minutes, the wooden structures of the Officers cottages and the boys' old dormitories etc., as well as the new brick building, not two years old, were consumed..."

A new No 2 wooden Home was built on Liverpool

Road. See photo on page 156 In 1958, the Home was rebuilt in brick, the architect was Alfred Richard Baxter Cox of "*Wychwood*", The Basin.

The Victorian Education Department built a small school for the Home and provided it with specialised teachers.

Three cottage homes were built on the No 2 site to cater for small groups of youths. The last one finished in 1972 was called "*Nayla*" cottage, meaning "*Circle of the Hills*".

A heated swimming pool was installed in 1965. It was extensively used by The Basin Primary School until tighter regulations in the 1990s forced the School to use other pools.

In 1969, Government classifications changed, and the Home came under Family Welfare.

Soon after this, the Government phased out all childrens' institutions in favour of foster care. The Home was closed in 1981 and became a Convention Centre, renamed The Salvation Army Mountain Valley Convention Centre.

The cottage homes closed in 1983. Ironically, when the last cottage home closed, the remaining child was a small girl, the only girl resident in the entire history of all the Homes.

The Home closed as a Boy's Home but began hosting activities such as music groups, religious assemblies, adventure courses and recreational events. The centre hosted the Police Ropes course, a program to rehabilitate young offenders.

These activities were struck a blow when, in 1992, the centre closed.

In 2011, a thrift shop opened. In 2025, the shop is still operating with some community support services offered on the site.

No 3 Home (1931-1946)

This Home was variously known as the "*Neglected Boys Home*", "*Preventative Home for Boys*", *Little Boys Home*", and "*Small Boys Home*".

The boys were accommodated in a Home at the base of Sugarloaf Hill (behind the No. 2 home). The Home was a Government building transferred from Coode Island. The Home can be seen on some early photographs.

The Home was for post school-age boys who were sentenced by the court, but who were usually not as well-endowed either mentally or physically as the boys at the No. 1 Home. Half of the boys' working day was given to normal school education and the remainder to technical pursuits.

The No. 3 Home closed in 1946 when the new No. 1 Home was completed, and the boys transferred to the No. 1 Home.

Special School

The Basin Boys Home Special School was built early to cater for the education of boys from the SA Homes. The school was located on land beside The Basin Primary School across the road from the No 2 Home in Liverpool Road.

A fire in early 1972 destroyed almost half of the buildings, and they eventually became vacant. The Basin Primary School started using the remaining buildings in the early 1980s. The buildings and land were later amalgamated with The Basin Primary School.

Other Sites Used

In 1901, the SA leased what they called "*Colliers' Estate*" which consisted of 100 acres of land and a house near the No 2 Home. It was proposed to make this the No 3 Home, but it never eventuated.

A financial report in 1910 stated the SA had 213 acres of freehold land, 130 under cultivation, and about 700 acres leased for grazing.

Bayswater Day

The annual "*Bayswater Day*" commenced in the 1950s and was an open day when the community could tour the facilities and view the work of the centre.

The SA also exhibited the centre's work in various exhibitions. An example was the Australian Industries Fair in 1958 at the Melbourne Exhibition Buildings where the SA exhibited furniture made at the No 1 Home suitable for kindergarten and primary school use.

Martin Luther Homes

Located at 67 Mount View Road, The Basin, the idea and vision that Martin Luther Homes were founded on date back to 1945. It was during a Gemeindeabend, a "*community evening*", when members of the German-Lutheran Church first mentioned the idea to create a safe haven for the elderly. It was Anna Kopmann, member of the Trinity Lutheran Church, who donated 100 pounds to kick start an ambitious project to build a retirement village for members of the community.

The war years and the 1950s were a challenging time for many ethnic Germans in Australia. The community had to rehabilitate itself in the eyes of many Australians during the post-war era. The community had

Nightmare in Eden

Kathleen Fleming worked in the kitchen at No 1 Salvation Army Home in the 1940s. A resident, Francis Reed, sometimes worked with her and became infatuated. When he left the institution, she agreed to correspond with him to be friendly and because of his health. After a day at the beach with him in 1944, she returned to the home by herself. Sometime later, she heard his voice ordering her to stand still and he shot her in the chest and finger.

Reed was convicted of unlawfully wounding Kathleen. After he learnt she was engaged to some else, he intended to kill her and then himself. Given the circumstances, it could have turned out much worse.

to find their new place in a changed society, after spending years hiding their cultural heritage, language, or even being traumatised from years of internment in camps around Australia, often for a second time in merely 30 years.

More than a decade went by until the retirement village idea surfaced again, this time in the Jugendverein, the youth group of the German-Lutheran Church. Attempts were made to find an ideal parcel of land and to raise the much needed funds. However, it took another decade until 18th April 1967, when a working group gathered for the first time to make the 20-year old dream a reality. The two men who shaped Martin Luther Homes were Pastor Ernst Steyler and Walter Rössler.

Land in The Basin was purchased in 1967 for $17,500. Back then it was called the "*Chandler Property*" with only an old hut and shed located on the property. The Martin Luther Homes Association was founded and a building committee established. Building works began in 1969 and the first units built. These buildings became a functioning retirement village for senior members of the German-Lutheran community in Melbourne.

By the early 1970s, the first 2-storey units, built in a typical Southern German style, welcomed their first residents. Over the following years, more than 40 independent living units were built and many beautiful gardens established that residents still enjoy today.

The heart of the village is the Lutheran chapel sitting in the centre of the property. It was officially opened and dedicated in March 1972. The chapel welcomes everyone. Services in English and German are held on a regular basis and on any important Christian holiday. The chapel building has been extended over the years and the adjacent community hall has also been extended and modernised. The chapel and hall not only serve a religious purpose, but are the heart of cultural life such as concerts, movie afternoons, birthday celebrations, and education sessions.

In March 1991, a milestone was reached, when a hostel was officially opened, providing 27 licensed aged care beds. By 1997, the number of beds had increased to more than 50.

In 2018, Martin Luther Homes won the Victorian Aged Care Provider of the Year award for a bold and modern approach to aged care called the Care Apartment. It is a form of accommodation allowing couples to continue living together and remain as independent as they choose, while having access and support of professional 24/7 in-home nursing care.

In mid-2019, an extension was opened with more than 30 state-of-the-art aged care beds. Called the Myrtle wing, it stretches alongside Arcadia Avenue. The official opening also coincided with the Homes 50th anniversary.

In 2021, the Homes won the Victorian Aged Care Provider of the Year award for a second time.

A highlight that attracts many visitors, are the cake bazaars that showcase all the German and Austrian "*coffee & cake culture*" has to offer.

From their inception, the Homes have been registered as a charitable organisation.

The Basin YWCA Friendly Circle

The Basin YWCA Friendly Circle was formed on the 11th March 1980 and used The Basin Progress Hall as their meeting place.

The foundation members were Brenda Jackson, Nance Fraser, Lorraine Burrows, Brenda Nudd, Iris Smith, Enid Franks, Ivy Lynch, Val Tokell and Joyce Yeamon. The object of the group as stated by the constitution was "*To unite women and girls through faith in Jesus Christ in worldwide fellowship*". Also, to give ladies over 35 years a chance to meet and make new friends and to help the needy in the area.

From a small beginning, meeting twice a month, by 1994 they had over fifty members attending meetings. By the success of the club, friendly circles were formed in Mooroolbark and Wantirna.

Sadly, the group closed in 1999.

Aquarian Spiritual Church

Reverend Mandi Stone opened the Aquarian Spiritual Church on the 2nd November 1986 at The Basin Progress Hall. The church was registered as an incorporated association in 1992.

In 1995, the church moved to Berwick and since then renamed and relocated several times. In 2025, the church is known as The One Light Foundation.

The Basin Aquarian Spiritual Church incorporated association was deregistered in 2002.

Sources of Information

- "*The Basin Centenary Booklet*" by Ron Ikin.
- "*Fire on the Hill, Flowers on the Valley*" by Rick Coxhill.
- "*War Cry*". Salvation Army. Various copies.
- "*The Victory*". Salvation Army. Various copies.
- "*The History of the Salvation Army at The Basin*" by Kate Stephen.
- The Salvation Army museum and archive in Bourke Street Melbourne.
- Boronia and The Basin Community News, Knox Council and VCAT documents for information about the Hindu Temple
- Bert Chandler and L. Maguire notes for information about the Salvation Army buildings destroyed by fire and their position.
- Interview with Frank Parr for information on SA land.
- Trove Newspapers.
- "*Soup, Soap & Salvation*" book by Lieut. Colonel John Kirkwood (Salvation Army) for information on

Salvation Army Homes in The Basin.
- Landata website for titles and transfers.

Residents object to plan for Hindu temple

By LERISSE SMITH

RESIDENTS from The Basin are joining forces to oppose a Hindu temple proposal for Mountain Highway.

One of them, Mr Paul Carroll, said they were strongly opposed to the proposed temple building.

The Hindu Trustees (Melbourne Vinayagar Hindu Sangam) plan to purchase the property at 1292-1294 Mountain Highway to develop it for worship and ancillary purposes.

The main temple building would be single storey of steel and masonry construction (with a floor area of 395 square metres) and include a central shrine room and prayer hall. The second building would be a two-storey brick veneer construction, with the upper storey used as a caretaker's flat for the priest and his family.

Mr Carroll, whose property abuts the proposed temple, said he was not against the applicant's religious beliefs, just the building.

"The nine-metre dome would stick out like a sore thumb, and I'm against this type of thing being established in The Basin," he said.

"The design of this temple is ornate and out of character with the surrounding area."

Mr Carroll said loss of privacy affecting adjacent residential properties and the temple operating on a daily basis were also a concern.

The temple proposal to Knox Council includes it being open for daily worship from 7 am to 9 am, and 5 pm to 7 pm, and the main weekly service on Friday evenings between 6 pm and 8 pm.

There would be special Hindu worship days on four occasions during the year when the temple would be used.

A council report by Knox town planner Adrian Atkins, tabled in September, said most of the trees along the back boundary of the property would have to be removed.

Knox Council will consider the application at its next meeting on Tuesday, October 30.

REFORMATORY BOYS ESCAPE.

Two inmates of the Bayswater Reformatory, Joe Cawthorne and Leslie Stewart, escaped from the home on Tuesday.

NEW CHURCH HALL

THE BASIN, Sunday.—The new Church of England hall at The Basin was dedicated by Archbishop Head yesterday afternoon.

The petition to dedicate the building was read at the church door by Mr. W. H. Castell, of Boronia. Archbishop Head then entered the building and carried out the dedication service. He was assisted by the vicar of the parish (Rev. C. P. Brown) and the Rev. E. Warner, of Kallista.

Two memorials were also dedicated. Mrs. G. J. Jackson, of Surrey Hills, presented a Communion set in memory of her parents, the late Thomas and Mary Riley. An altar book rest was given by Miss Riley, of Shropshire, England, in memory of her mother.

The church, which has been named St. Mary's, is situated on an excellent site on the Mountain Highway. The land was the gift of Miss O. Wicks.

After the service Archbishop Head was entertained at afternoon tea in The Basin Progress Hall. On behalf of district residents he presented a clock to Mr. F. W. Manders, who is leaving The Basin to live in Melbourne.

BAYSWATER REFORMATORY.

BLOCK OF BUILDINGS BURNT.

FERNTREE GULLY, Wednesday.—Shortly before midnight on Tuesday an alarm of fire was given at the reformatory branch of the Salvation Army's farm establishment at Bayswater, and, as practically no fire-fighting appliances were kept on the premises, nothing could be done to stay the progress of the fire. The result was the complete destruction of the buildings, which were of wood, extending for a length of nearly 200ft.

The No. 2 home was in charge of "Captain" King and six officers, and there were 25 boys in the home at the time of the fire. All fortunately escaped injury, but they had to tramp nearly a mile in their nightclothes to the "Eden." The night was cold, with a heavy mist.

The damage is estimated at £1,000, as not only the dormitory, but the diningroom and playroom adjoining, were demolished. The cause of the fire is unknown.

Though the Salvation Army has the right to take a large volume of water from the Dandenong Creek for irrigation purposes, and there is a heavy and continuous flow of water on the "Eden" property, which could easily be carried to No. 2 home, no provision for water supply to the latter place has been made.

HIS THIRD ESCAPE.

GORDON, Monday.—William Eyers, a boy of about 13 years of age, who escaped from the Bayswater Reformatory in February last, was arrested by Mounted-constable Anderson, of Gordon, at Bolwarrah yesterday, and lodged in the local lock-up pending instructions. This is the third time Eyers has escaped from a reformatory, always making for home.

BAYSWATER BOYS' HOME

Additional donations received by the Salvation Army toward the Bayswater Reformatory Appeal include: Anon, £52 10; Carlton and United Breweries Ltd, £50; City of Hawthorn, £25; James Thwaites, Herbert Adams Pty, £20 each; R. S. Demaine, £10 10; E. Harvey, £10; Birkowitz and Son, Greer and Ashburner, £10 each; Squadron-Leader A. C. Gray, Mrs Dunn, J. Marks and Son Pty Ltd, Mrs W. B. Huntsman, £5/5 each, Pirrie Bros, S. F. Hammond, Phoenix Mfg Co, ZYX, £5 each; small amounts, £19 16 2. Total, £12,384 3 9.

Chapter 7 Businesses and Industries

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Summary

The first general store in The Basin was built in 1924 and known as “Smith’s Store”. The owner, R. B. Smith, had a large influence on the early development of The Basin.

Other influential store owners were Bill Wright (Wright’s Store) and Roy Ritchie who owned and operated several shops in The Basin. Apart from running stores, both proprietors helped the community with their involvement in local voluntary organisations.

The Basin has hosted three petrol stations over the years. In 2025, only one remains on the corner of Liverpool Road and Mountain Highway.

Three milk suppliers have operated in The Basin over the years and in 2025, only the Salvation Army remains but it does not supply milk commercially.

The most influential small business in The Basin was undoubtedly Como Nurseries which had operated for nearly 80 years when it closed in 1988.

Many small industries have operated in The Basin. The most successful was Lowline Industries which closed in 2014.

Distinguished Resident

Bill Wright

This former proprietor of the general store on Forest Road came here in 1949 and was a driving force behind many community efforts. And drive he could. Secretaries and committees alike were amazed and exhausted by Bill’s tremendous enthusiasm and will to work. As The Basin Progress Association President for a total of eight years, he saw the hall almost completely overhauled, mainly due to finance derived from monthly cabarets he arranged.

Bill was 1st Lieutenant of the fire brigade for 11 years, and devoted a great deal of time during bushfires. In V.F.A. football, Bill umpired 108 games including a final series. He recalled the Grand Final he umpired in 1949 saw the end of the throw pass. Nicknamed “Wrighty”, you could never talk about A.F.L. or he would have converted you to the Saints in no time.

He was J.P. for 32 years, a member of the Eastern Districts Football Tribunal, a member of the Wicks Reserve Committee and President of The Basin Centenary Committee. In 1967 he won the “Knox Citizen of The Year Award”

He was, suffice to say, a man who contributed much more than most to our township. In 1972, Bill sold his store and moved to Boronia. Bill passed away in 2005 at the age of 91.

Shops and Stores

Smith's Store

The first shop in The Basin was built in 1924 by Richard Bartlett Smith. He was born in 1883 in Murtoa, Victoria. He worked as a draper and fruiterer in various locations. He married Jean Campbell Hudson on 13th April 1914. They had no children.

They moved to The Basin about 1922 and first operated a small store from a room in their residence situated about halfway between The Basin Primary school and the first The Basin Post Office along Mountain Highway. They sold sweets and grocery items.

On 31st January 1923, Jean Smith purchased lots 1 and 2 in the Chandlers Hill Estate for 100 pounds as shown in instrument number 1118930. She also purchased lots 3 and 4 on the same day as shown in instrument number 1118931. The lots were on the corner of Basin-Olinda Road and Mountain Highway. On this site they built a store known as "*Smith's Store*". Mr Smith was affectionately known as "*Smithy*" or "*Mr. Smith*".

As a child attending The Basin Primary School, Emily Stephen could recall occasionally spending a halfpenny at Smith's store on her way home from school. Emily was the daughter of Brigadier J. R. Stephen, manager of the Salvation Army Home No. 1 from 1914 to 1932. Myra Collier (a descendant of Samuel Collier) served in the store then. She rode her horse to the store where it spent the day in a paddock behind the store which later became tennis courts. She attended The Basin Primary School from 1915 to 1921.

Jean Campbell Smith died on 9th October 1925.

In 1926, Mr. Smith purchased a grain store belonging to Bob & Bert Cox located near the corner of Toorak and Warrigal Roads (see photograph on page 166). He had it hauled to The Basin by a team of nine horses (see photograph on page 167) and placed behind the store. This became his barn.

Barn dances became a fashion in the 1920s and what better spot could be found than Smith's Barn? Many dances were held there provided entertainment and raised finances for building The Basin Progress Hall.

R. B. Smith purchased lots 19, 20, and 32 on the Chandlers Hill Estate in 1931. Lot 19 was on the corner of Church Street and Forest Road. He sold this land to The Basin Presbyterian Church in 1934. The Church later sold it the Scouts. Lot 32 was behind lot 19 with a frontage to View Street. Mr. Smith also sold lot 20 to The Basin Presbyterian Church in 1947.

Mr. Smith was a leading figure in district activities and was instrumental in the formation of The Basin Tennis Club (see page 227). He built two tennis courts at the rear of his property where competition tennis was played for many years. He was the unofficial Mayor of The Basin.

In 1938, Mr. Smith leased the store to Harold and Edith Poulter who held it until 1951 when Bert Horsfield purchased it from Mr Smith. See photo on page 184 of the store in 1945. In 1955, Keith and Mary Youl leased it (see page 178). Later owners were Davey and Spong.

Mr. Smith married Edna Amy Talbot in 1939 and

Grain store near the corner of Toorak and Warrigal Road owned by Bob & Bert Cox. Circa 1926. Photo shows store in normal operation. The store was purchased and used as a barn by R. B. Smith.
Photos courtesy Jeanette Ericson.

they operated stores in several locations.

Richard Bartlett Smith died on 23rd April 1949.

The store and barn were demolished when the new shopping centre was built in 1963. The tennis courts were built over in a later property development by Wally and Midge Beesley.

The Basin had a "*Milk Bar*" beside the Post Office until 2018 when it closed. Around the same time, The Milk Bar in Alchester Village also closed.

Youls' Store

In 1955, Keith and Mary Youl took on a five-year lease on The Basin Store (formerly Smith's Store) from the owner Mr Horsfield (see "*A Glimpse of History at The Basin Store*" on page 178). He promised to improve the dilapidated store. After the lease ran out and the promised improvements never eventuated, the Youls' purchased land in Forest Road opposite the in 2025 Fire Brigade station and built a new store there.

They ran the new store for about 7 years but could see the demise of corner stores, so they sold the business to Kevin Hevey. He later applied for a liquor license but was refused because of the store's proximity to the Infant Welfare Centre and kindergarten. Kevin later discovered if he moved his business to the new shopping centre he could get a liquor license, which he did. In 2025, the store is still there.

Kevin Hevey also moved the newsagency out of his shop and started the newsagency in The Basin in a separate shop. The newsagency closed around 2014.

After Kevin Hevey moved his shop, Youls' Store had various tenants before becoming "*The Moonshiners*" restaurant in the early 1970s and later the "*Calendula*" restaurant and later still the "*Peacock Den*".

Keith and Mary Youl were involved with The Basin Badminton Club for many years.

Lolly Lady

In the 1930s, a small shop operated from a house at No. 16 The Basin-Olinda Road, run by Mrs Vic. Webber, affectionately known as the "*Lolly Lady*".

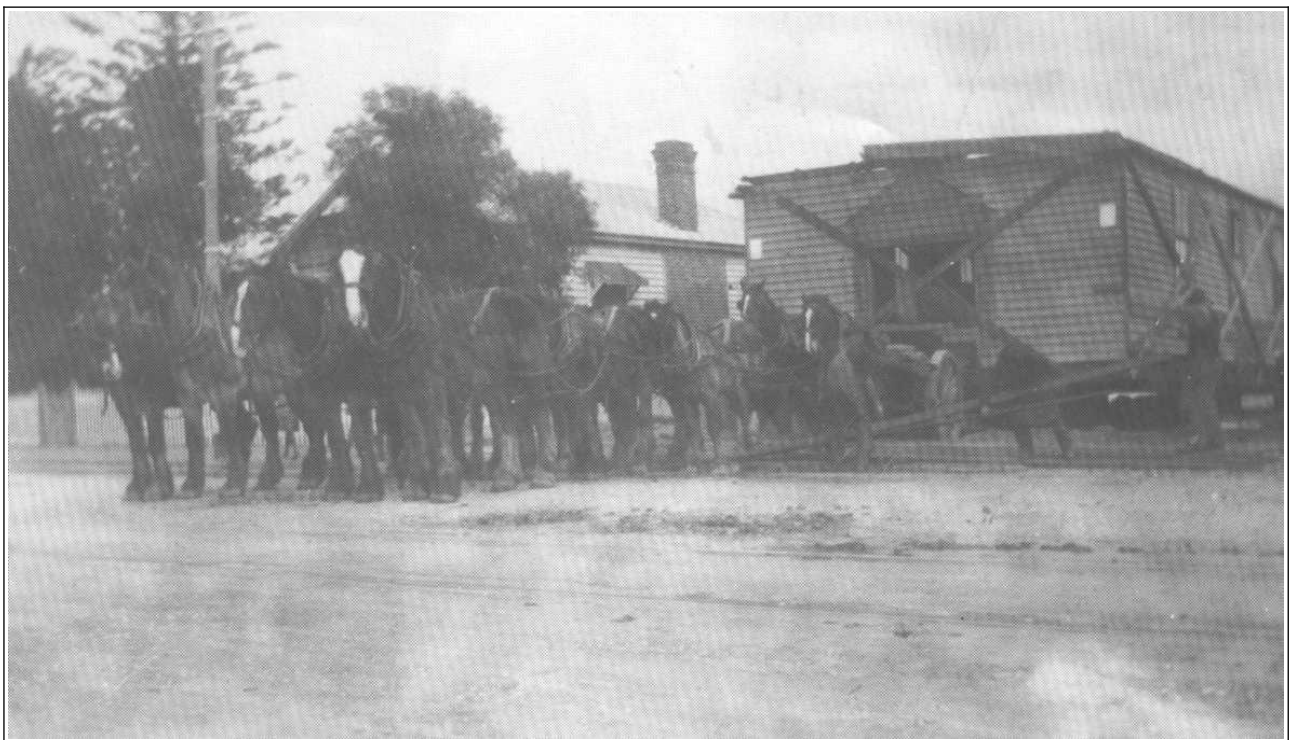
She apparently well looked after the interests of visiting scouts and local children. The original house was built on the edge of the land with a serving window.

Midge and Wally Beesley purchased the house in 1954 and discovered the front room once served as a small store and on an end wall there was a series of cupboards storing packets of tea, flour, sugar, tinned items and the lollies.

Canes Store

On The Triangle, at the corner of Mountain Highway and Church Street, a small grocer and lolly shop was built by Claude Cane and opened around 1925. Local boys and girls met there and drank soft drinks.

The shop was on Lot 7 in the Chandlers Hill Estate



A grain store was purchased for use as a barn by R. B. Smith and carted to The Basin by a team of horses. Circa 1926. Photo shows the building ready for hauling by a team of nine horses.
Photo courtesy Jeanette Ericson.

purchased by Claude Criddenden Cane of 30 Omar Street Caulfield, Painter, on 24th August 1923 as shown in instrument number 1123819.

Attractive signs featuring a Kookaburra, Koala and Lyrebird were on the walls of the shop (see photo on page 168). Written on the wall above the Kookaburra at the front of the shop was the rhyme:

"On this wall
The wise I see
This shop right here
At the back of me"

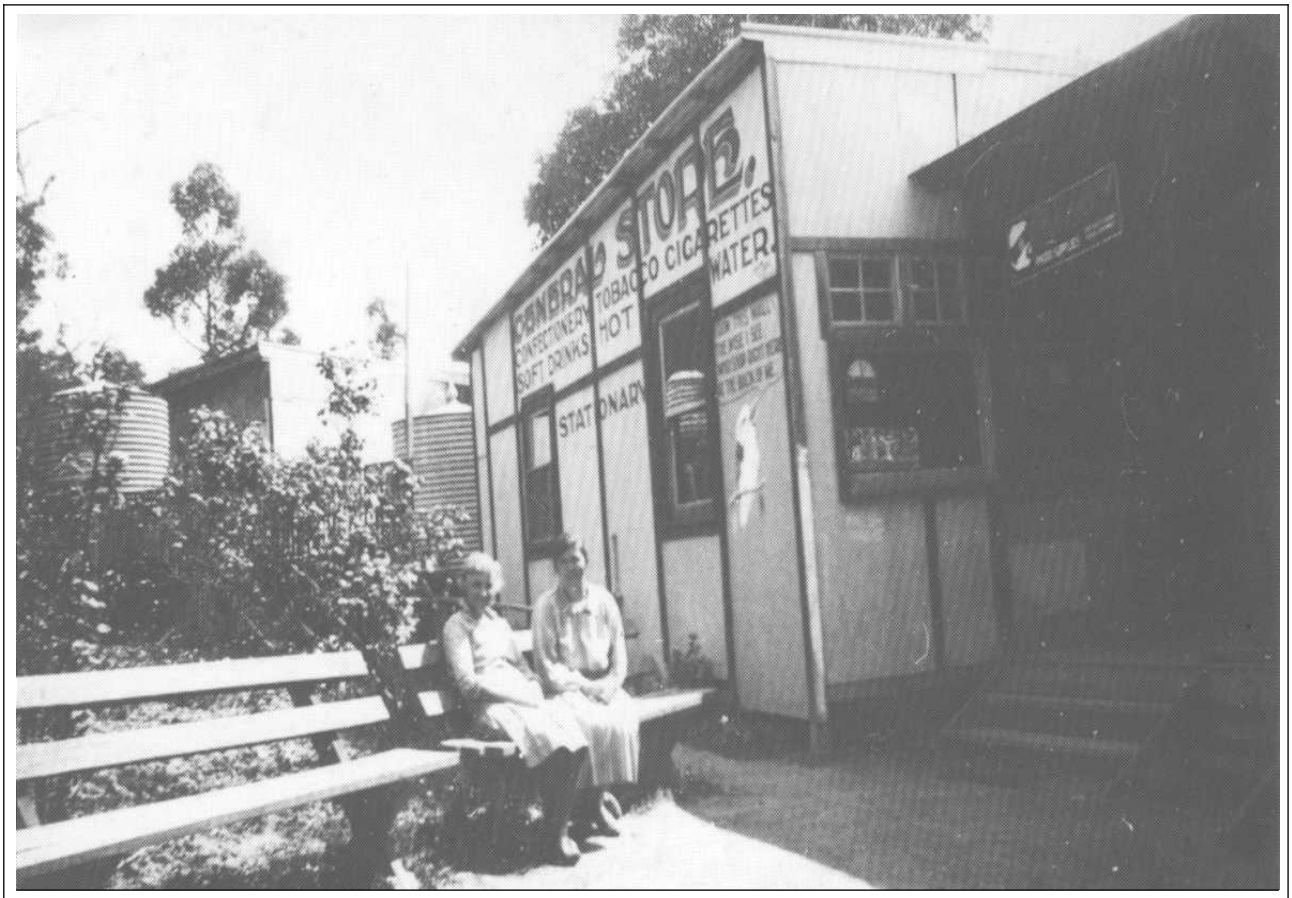
Around 1929, a verandah of the shop was closed in, and the building extended to form a hall beside the shop. The hall was constructed with horizontal timbers and on one side it was open in the way many verandahs were built with rollup canvas blinds. On hot nights, when the blinds were raised to let in any breeze, moths and mosquitoes also appeared. In 1933, the first Church of England service was held there.

In 1930, the shop and hall were leased to Mrs Mary Ann Gretton and run by her son Bert.

Charles and Mary Ann Gretton bought a holiday house in The Basin at 32 Conyers Street in 1924. In the late 1920s, they moved to The Basin permanently. In 1930, at the height of the depression, Charles had work, but his son Bert did not. Mrs Gretton decided to lease the shop and let her son run it.

When they took over the shop and hall lease, the hall had an inside mini golf course, with hills and bunkers. The Grettons removed the mini golf course as there were many other potential uses for the hall. Mrs Gretton instigated many activities in the hall to provide entertainment for local people and the unemployed. These included euchre parties, socials, and on special occasions, a "*Spider Web Night*", where strings were tied to a central ring from the ceiling, woven in and out of other strings before attaching to the wall with a prize of chocolate awaiting its owner.

Mrs Gretton also introduced regular dances in the hall, and it became known as "*The Glideaway*". In the days when dancers wore soft leather soled dancing shoes, an impeccably polished floor was essential. The method of polishing the floor was simple but arduous. Candle shavings were spread across the floor and a hessian bag was put under a wooden box weighted with bricks. With a rope around the box, Bert dragged the box



Front of Canes Store on the corner of Mountain Highway and Church Street. Circa 1930. Mrs. Mary Ann Gretton and Mrs. Seville sitting on seat. Note inscription on wall above kookaburra (see page 168).
Photo courtesy Ernie Gretton.

over and over the floor until it shone like glass.

From its spot at the corner of Church Street and Mountain Highway the strains of the orchestra could be heard echoing across The Ravine until early hours. Just the same, these dances were much rivalled by those held in the Bayswater Hall. This hall, opened in 1892, was the scene of many well known functions.

In 1934, Mrs Gretton left the shop and the Bennet family ran it for about 5 years, but business declined, and they left.

On 7th April 1949, Alan Francis Rowe of 28 Dawson Avenue Elwood, Tailor, purchased the property as shown in instrument number 2207006.

Harry Leslie Clapham of Majestic Mansions Fitzroy Street St Kilda, Gentlemen, purchased the property on 15th March 1951 as shown in instrument number 2388963.

Gwennth Kingsbury Tromp of 10 Severn Street North Balwyn, Married Woman, purchased the property on 1954 as shown in instrument number 2655794.

Harold Vincent Bennet, Gardener, and Ruby Maud Bennet, Married Woman, both of One in Twenty Road The Basin, purchased the property on 11th February 1958 as shown in instrument number A686010.

A guitar and mandolin manufacturer operated in The Glideaway Hall for a while, and from 1942 to 1963, the building was a base for the manufacture of clothing and swimsuits (see page 182).

Around 1969, for a few years, "*Terry Wilde's Boxing Academy*" used the hall.

On 13th March 1973, Knox Council purchased the land for $10,400 as shown in instrument number E735139. The purchase included the remnants of Canes store, and Glideaway Hall. Over time, all were demolished as part of Council's plan to turn the Triangle into a passive park.

Gretton's Shop

A block of land on the corner of Forest Road and Conyers Street opposite the Triangle, was once owned by Mrs Mary Ann Gretton. When her lease on "*Canes Store*" ran out in 1934, her son Bert built a one room shop on the property and operated it for a year or two. The property was then bought by Mrs Gretton's son Frank. He sold it to Mr. W. J. Wallis (who later donated it and the adjacent block to the Council for a kindergarten).

Junction Store

Close to Wright's Store on the corner of Forest Road and Old Forest Road was the "*Junction Store*" run by the Fielder family and later the McNeilly family (mother and daughter). It operated from the early 1930s to the 1940s.

The term "*Junction*" was attached to the Junction Store and the Junction Dairy. Then, (new) Forest Road had just been created (in the Forest Heights Estate) from

Langdon's Store on Mountain Highway near Claremont Avenue. Circa 1940.
Photo courtesy Mrs. Langdon.

the corner of Old Forest Road to The Basin main centre, so the corner of Old Forest Road and (new) Forest Road became a significant "*Junction*" of roads.

For a while, the original "*Junction Store*" sign was still visible at the top of the building, but repainting has since hidden it.

In 2025, the original Junction Store building was still intact as a private house.

Langdon's Store

Langdon's Store on the 1 in 20 Road, just up from Clevedon, was built by George Langdon in 1938 (see photo on page 169).

Around 1930, his parents purchased six blocks of land in the Schneider Estate subdivision and built a weekend shack on one block fronting Claremont Ave. They visited for weekends and holidays travelling to Bayswater and then by coach or walking.

In the 1930s, most houses in the area were only holiday homes and "*weekenders*", and people would ask his mother for small stores. The requests became so frequent she opened a small store from her verandah. When her son married in 1938, she gave him the land higher up from her house and suggested he build a store there, which he did in 1942. He later added rooms at the rear.

In the mid 1940s a telephone booth was installed beside the store and in 1949 a postbox was installed.

In 1954, Mr Langdon sold the store, and it was taken over Mr. and Mrs. Usher for about one year and then later by Rod Travis and his wife. Rod was a journalist for the Sun and Herald Newspapers before moving to The Basin.

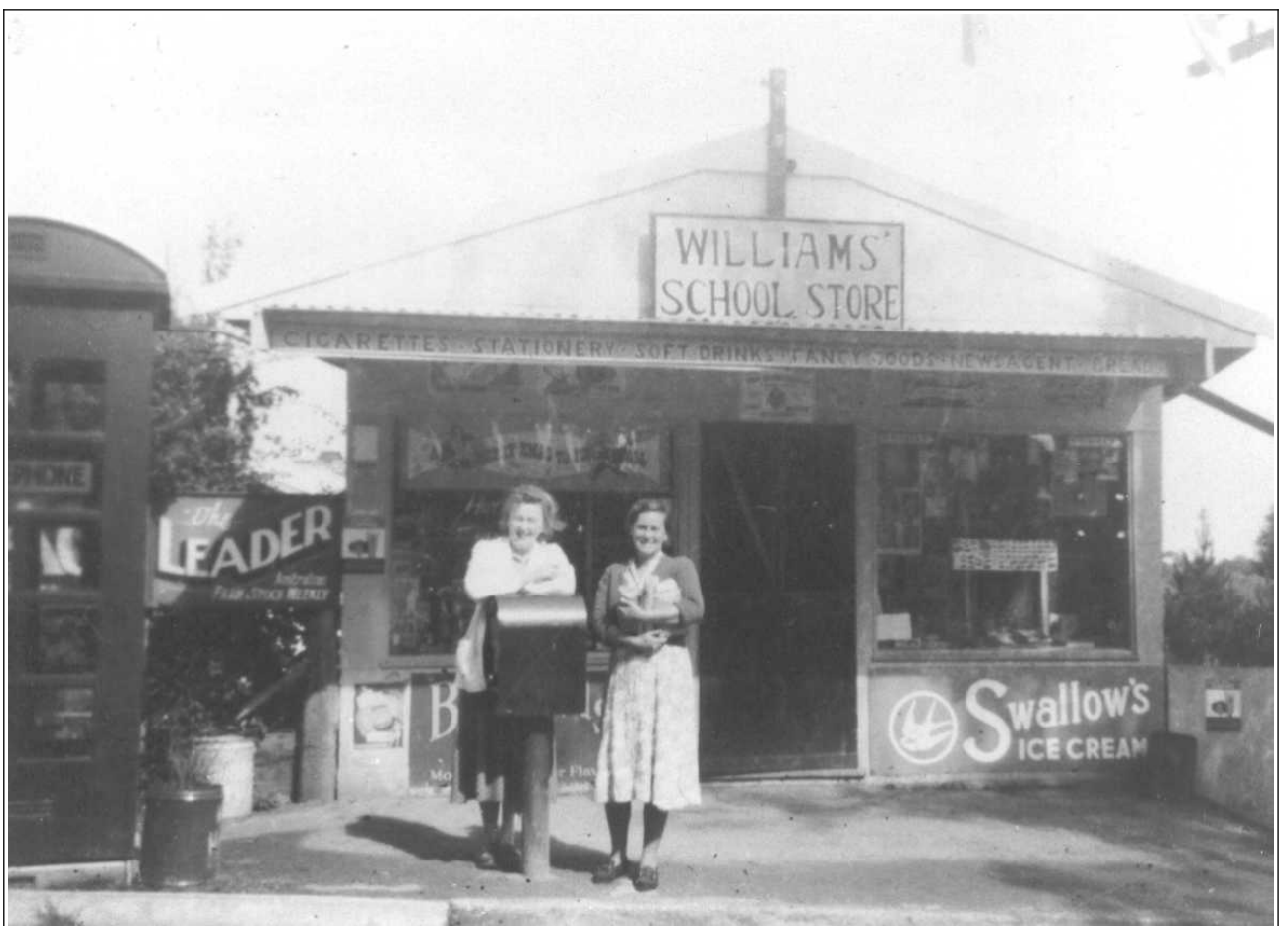
The store closed in 1965 when Rod retired.

The store may have been used for a while as an antiques store. A picture of the building from the 1960s has a sign "*1901 SLEEPY HOLLOW*" and below that "*AGE FURNITURE AND OTHER SURPRISES"*

In 2025, the building is still intact, but has been renovated.

Williams' School Store

Opposite the Basin Primary School in Mountain Highway, at the original school crossing, there was a



The School Store located opposite The Basin Primary School in Mountain Highway. Circa 1950. Alice Williams leaning on Post Box, Beatrice Henderson beside her.
Photo courtesy Eddie Williams.

store operating from 1949 to the late 1960s (see photograph on page 170) called the "*School Store*".

Built and first run by Edmund (Eddie) and Alice Williams, it competed with stores in The Basin supplying lunches for The Basin Primary School and the needs of local residents.

Edmund's father James, owned three grocery stores in Footscray. He bought a block in Augusta Road in the 1920s and over time built a house there. Two of his children, Edmund and Ethelwynne attended The Basin Primary School.

Eddie and Alice sold out to the Davis family in 1952 who operated it finto the 1960s. It later closed and was demolished.

The phone box beside the store remained for several years after the store closed, but was later moved closer to the new school crossing location and later still removed.

Wright's Store

The original store on the corner of Forest Road and Wright Street was built in 1926 on lot 14 in the Schneider's Estate.

Instrument number 1247876 shows that on 31st December 1925, Albert James Gandini of 1 Majore Street Hawthorn, Carpenter, purchased adjacent lots 13 and 14 in plan of subdivision 6712 from Herbert Edward Gerlach, of Splatt Street, Swan Hill, Farmer. He built a store on lot 14 on the corner. It was first known as "*The Centre Store*".

Tables, chairs and a miniature golf course (on lot 13 west of the store) were available for use by customers. On Sundays, the store sold pies and drinks to tourists.

Instrument number 1530455 shows that on 22nd August 1933, Albert James Gandini formerly of 1 Majore Street Hawthorn, Carpenter, sold adjacent lots 13 and 14 in plan of subdivision 6712, to Amy Maud Davey of 41 Clapham Street Northcote, Married Woman, for 55 pounds.

Amy and her husband Malcolm ran the store for about 6 years. Signs "*DAVEYS GENERAL STORE*" and "*Swallows Ice Cream*" can be seen on an early photograph of the store. Malcolm built a house on lot 13 and may have built another house beside that.

John and Ruby Weidner managed the store from about 1939 and over the war years when it was known as Weidner's Store. They made and sold ice cream from the shop.

Amy Davey sold lot 13 in 1946.

Amy Davey sold the store (on lot 14) to Donald Alexander Walker of Forest Road The Basin, Grocer, and

Wright's Store on the corner of Forest Road and Wright Street. Circa 1960.
Photo courtesy Bill Wright.

James Cochrane Walker of 85 Westbury Street St. Kilda, Salesman, on 14th February 1947 for 750 pounds as shown in instrument number 2056451. Donald and James were brothers and the store became known as "*Walker's Store*".

Walkers sold to Philip John Richard Venten of Forest Road The Basin, Storekeeper, for 2,560 pounds on 13th October 1949 as shown in instrument number 2249486.

Venten sold to William Joseph Wright and Blanche (Blon) Edna Wright both of Forest Road The Basin, Storekeepers, on 22nd July 1953 for 2,900 pounds as shown in instrument number 2574351. The store became known as "*Wright's Store*" (see photo on page 171). Wright street was named after the Wrights.

Wright's store sold a wide range of supplies, including kerosene, briquettes, newspapers, groceries, stamps, wheat and bran. The public phone box near the store was the only one in the area.

Wright's Store was open seven days a week. On a Saturday, after the football had finished and the pubs had closed, residents often waited at the store for delivery of "*The Sporting Globe*" (The Sporting Globe was a small newspaper produced late on a Saturday containing all the sporting results of the day. It was produced quickly on pink paper and rushed to stores. It ceased production in the late 1990s). Heated discussions between rival footy supporters sometimes occurred and many a time blows were exchanged.

People called in at the store for a chat and a gossip. It was a social outing to come to the store. The store had a long verandah with seats where people would sit and talk.

In the early 1950s, there was no reticulated electricity, but the buses ran seven days a week and late at night. Buses stopped at the store and people would come down at night with their hurricane lamps to see visitors off on the bus.

The Wright's raised seven children whilst running the store. Bill Wright was involved in many local activities including the Progress Association, Fire Brigade, Football Club, The Basin Centenary Celebrations (for which he won an award) and he was a Justice of the Peace. Bill's numerous voluntary involvements makes him one of the towns "*Distinguished Residents*". His profile is detailed on page 165.

In 1970, Bill and Blon had plans of upgrading the store. It involved leaving the old style front section of the store in its original state and rebuilding the rear to a more modern state. Blon was not keen on the idea as it meant at least another 8 years in the store. Also, preliminary discussions with the local Council on the idea were not fruitful. They decided to sell the store in 1974 to Peter and Despina (Betty) Papageorgiou, who demolished the old store and built a new store which in 2025 is the same building.

Bill and Blon retired to live in Boronia. Blon passed away in 1991. Bill passed away in 2005.

In the early 1980s, the area in front of the store was sealed with a parking area and median strip.

In 1999, new owners took over and remodelled, creating a takeaway food section. They retained the old store name, calling the takeaway section "*Wright's Fish and Chips*".

In 2008, the owners leased the shop and in 2021 the leasees purchased the property.

The store on the site has had a number of owners and been rebuilt once. However, it will always been known as "*Wright's Store*".

Granger's Butchers

In 1956 a butcher shop and dwelling was built by a Frank Thoren on the corner of Forest Road and Conyers Street. The shop was set up and operated as a butcher by Ron Granger and his father for about one year. Roy Ritchie took over this shop in 1957.

Ritchie's Shop

Roy Ritchie took over Granger's Butchers when he moved to The Basin with his family in 1957.

In the early 1960s he divided the shop into two shops and continued running the butcher in one. The other shop had various tenants until 1971 when he opened a milk bar in it. With the help of Mrs Radford he operated both shops until 1978 when he decided to close the butcher shop after an operation made it difficult for him to continue.

He continued to operate the milk bar with the help of Mrs Radford until early 1987 when it closed. Various tenants have since occupied each shop.

Roy was involved in many voluntary organisations in The Basin making him one of the towns "*Distinguished Residents*". His profile is detailed on page 147.

Clarke's Butchers

A butcher shop run by Mr. Herbert (Bert) Clarke and his daughter operated from about 1928 to 1934 on lot 9 The Triangle a little up from The Basin Progress Hall on Mountain Highway.

Florence May Clarke purchased lot 9 in the Chandlers Hill Estate on 21st January 1926 for 25 pounds as shown in instrument number 1246613.

They built a house with a shop in front of the home. Bert home delivered meat and sometimes carved it up on the spot on his chopping block in the back of his vehicle. He buried many bones in the backyard as discovered by subsequent owners.

Bert was one of the first to reach the Kyeema airline crash that took place on 25 October 1938 on the western slopes of Mount Dandenong.

Before opening his shop, Bert was employed felling trees in Doongalla, digging the "*1 in 20"* road (Mountain

Highway) and at the sawmill in The Ravine.

Bert was active in local affairs including The Fire Brigade, Tennis Club, Football Club and Progress Association. He was Captain of The Basin Bush Fire Brigade from 1927 to 1932 and is shown in the photo on page 189.

Bert closed his butcher shop due to ill health and they sold the property in 1948.

Another butcher opened sometime later across the road and a house was built on and used as a residence. In this house, Bill Borthwick lived for a time. He later became an M.P.

Another resident of this house was a Mrs. Theresa Woodyatt. She was lost in the hills for a couple of days around 1948. Search parties were organised, and she was found in the gully behind where the water tank in Bayview Crescent is located. She was carried down the hill to Walker's (Wright's) store where she was bathed and fed.

Howe's Greengrocers

In the 1950s a shop was built in Forest Road, roughly opposite where the Scout Hall is located in 2025. This shop was first operated as "*Howe's Greengrocers*" by Mr. Howe.

In 1962, the business, then a milk bar, was taken over by Mrs Radford. In 1970, it was sold back to Mr Howe who continued to operate it for a year or two before closing. It then became the Forest Lodge Restaurant which closed in 1997.

Main Shopping Centre

In 1963, The Basin's shopping facilities were greatly increased when a group of 13 shops was built, organised by Pages Real Estate. The tenants changed over the years, but include a chemist, butcher, grocer, hardware, second hand shop, fish and chips, draper, bakery, greengrocer, milk bar, hairdresser, newsagency, doctor's surgery and several cafés catering for locals and tourists.

The first fish and chips shop in The Basin was opened by Albert Foggitt in this centre.

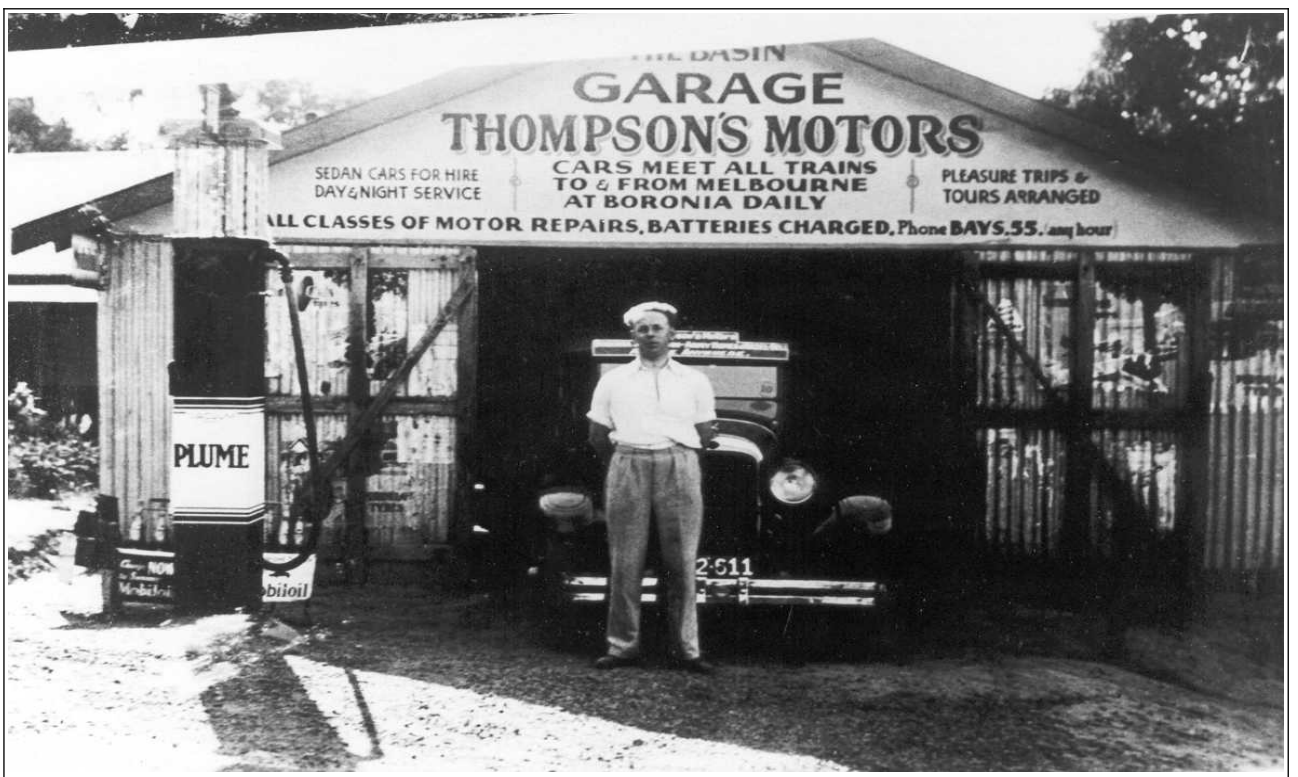
The Basin Central

The Basin Central opened in 1985 in Forest Road opposite Church Street on the site once a petrol station operated by Thompson. The complex consists of four shops which have been occupied with various tenants over the years.

Chemist Shop

George Leake has the distinction of the longest serving shop proprietor in The Basin, having operated the chemist shop from 1963 to 1999, a total of 36 years.

George retired in 1999 and closed the chemist shop. The Basin Progress Association organised a function for George where members of The Basin community paid



Thompson's garage on Forest Road opposite Church Street, Circa 1930's. Dick Thompson in photo.
Photo courtesy Mrs Dick Thompson

their respects to George for his service over the years. Over 100 people attended the function where George was presented with awards from The Basin Progress Association and The Basin Rotary.

Other Shops and Businesses

The Badgers had a fish and chip shop in 1967 for about 3 years. Taken over by the Thulke who introduced pinball machines, a pool table and a juke box. A saddlery store in the mid 1980s. Pizza shop late 1980s. Video store 1980s. The Basin gun shop which moved to Boronia. Bike shop in the late 2010s which moved to another location. The Basin Bakery owned by the Hartleys in the late 1980s/early 1990s. Various hairdressers.

Prior to the service station built on the western corner of The Basin roundabout, a small shop was built around 1945 with a room added on the side which was used as a Post Office. In 1964, the shop closed and the Post Office was moved to the other side of the road.

Petrol Stations

Thompson

The Thompson family ran a horse cab service between Boronia and The Basin in the 1910s. The base for this operation was their property on Mountain Highway near where St. Bernadettes School is located in 2025. This service was mainly operated by Mr Thompson Senior (Alf). Due to poor returns, he changed to Bayswater station but was in competition with Bert Piergrosse and was driven out.

Returning to Boronia, he was in competition with Vere Page who later concentrated on land sales.

In the 1920s he built a small shop on land opposite Church Street on Forest Road. Initially, the shop was a Real Estate Agency and later a shoe repair business run by Mr Hall.

In the early 1930s, he built a garage on the site (see photo on page 173) and called it The Basin garage. The garage had a dirt floor, Later, an extension was built on the RH side with a wooden floor. The garage was also a

Victor Hornby in his milk cart with Hornby's Dairy in the background. Circa 1940. The dairy was in Forest Road almost opposite Carnation Avenue.
Photo courtesy Russell Hornby.

depot for hire cars. Known as A.P. Thompson Hire Cars, the service was first advertised in 1931. The service only operated on weekends and holidays. It serviced the Salvation Army and guest houses. It included Ferndale, Hazel Dell, Clevedon, and the Seventh DayAdventist camp. The fare was one shilling single, or one shilling and six pence return. Alf also operated a mail run from The Basin to Bayswater. The Thompson family siblings, Alf, Dick, Edith and Ernie, ran various aspects of the business.

In the 1953, the garage was sold to Frank Cook and his son Maurice.

Cook's Garage

In 1961-62 Frank Cook built a service station on the corner of Miller's Road and Mountain Highway and closed The Basin station he purchased from the Thompsons. They later sold the business to the Parr family.

In 1997, this station was demolished and a modern new service station erected with car wash etc.

Benson

Around the early 1950s, in Mountain Highway, next to the "*Glideaway*" in front of Clarke's (the butcher) home, once stood a Neptune service station owned by Benson. It is thought this station was open for about five years.

Vanderlee

In 1965, a new service station was built on the western corner of Mountain Highway and Forest Road where a small milk bar and Post Office once operated. It was rented by the Cook family who had customers at both service stations. The mechanics and the Cooks working wherever needed. Fritz Vanderlee took over the business. Later owners included Hart and Riley.

In 2009, the station stopped selling fuel and concentrated on mechanical repairs and tyres. It was known as Hillview Motors run by Ian Hedrich.

In 2016, Ian moved his repair business to another location. In 2025, the site is vacant.

Dairies

Hornby's Dairy

Hornby's Dairy, run by Victor Hornby, operated between about 1926/27 and 1936/37 at 310 Forest Road almost opposite Carnarvon Avenue.

Smith's Store located on the corner of Mountain Highway and The Basin-Olinda Road. Circa 1940.
Note Sennitts Ice Cream sign, W Class tram seat near front door and petrol bowser.
Photo courtesy Neville Sanders.

He was a notable yachtsman before coming to the district. His yacht "*Nauroi*" won several events around Port Phillip Bay in the 1922-1924 period. Victor purchased 2 or 3 blocks of land along Forest Road and built a holiday house there. He saw an opening for a dairy and moved here fulltime.

The Dairy had a garage and a small grazing area. The garage had "*Junction Dairy*" painted on the doors. At first, he grazed and milked his own 2 cows supplemented with milk from the Salvation Army. He also sourced milk from Colliers in Colchester Road.

The dairy was also known as the "*Basin Dairy*" (painted on the milk cart). See photo on page 174).

Victor undertook milk rounds on his cart and his son, Russell (born 1928), undertook a milk round with a lidded pail before school.

The dairy ceased operating when local shops began selling milk around 1937.

Day's Dairy

Les Day is one local business man whom few people were up early enough to see. Les was the "*milko*" in The Basin for about 40 years, from the days when every household had their milk delivered to the front gate.

After his discharge from the Air Force in 1945, he began delivering to The Basin by horsedrawn cart, when Brown's Dairy of Boronia had three delivery men. By 1975, there were 16 carts crisscrossing the foothills. In that year, Brown's sold out to Model Dairies and home deliveries were discontinued. Delivery contractors were hired to deliver to shops, cafés and commercial premises.

For many years, Les delivered milk from The Basin to Tremont, Monbulk and Belgrave, with two trucks working from midnight to early morning.

Salvation Army

The Salvation Army Home in The Basin supplied milk at various times to local dairies and further afield. The Home had from time to time grazed dairy cows and had their own milking machines.

For many years around the 1920s, the wagon delivering milk from the Salvation Army was driven by a man known as "*Old Sarge*", a familiar sight in The Basin.

Other Milk Sources

Mrs Ada Dickson, who ran the Post Office in The Basin in the 1920s, sold milk from a large can (delivered by "*old Sarge*") but customers had to bring their own billy.

The milk bar that was located in the 1950s where the disused garage is located in 2024, sold milk from a refrigerated urn under the counter. Customers would bring own billy.

Restaurants

Moonshiners

The Moonshiners opened in the early 1970s in the shop once know as Youls' Store on Forest Road opposite the Fire Station. The restaurant provided entertainment and by the mid 1970s was well patronised, particularly on a Wednesday evening when folk singing was introduced. The Basin Fire Brigade meetings on Wednesday nights were privileged to have the background music.

The Moonshiners closed in 1998.

Forest Lodge

The Forest Lodge restaurant opened in the shop once known as Howe's greengrocer on Forest Road opposite the Fire Station. It closed in the mid 1990s.

Calendula

Situated in the old Moonshiners building in Forest Road, Calendula opened in 2001 operated by Kate Hall and Jamie Liebe. It closed in the late 2000s.

Peacock Den

The Peacock Den took over the Calendula premises in the early 2010's. The restaurants concept was to create a unique wine and dining experience. The bar follows the theme of colours and the majestic sophisticated nature of the Peacock.

Oak Tree Tavern

Started in 2000 by Mal Leather in a converted shop in The Basin Central.

In 2005, the business was purchased by Jane Flanigan.

In 2008, the business was purchased by Barry Valentine.

Acorn on Forest

In 2001, Mal and Aileen Leather opened the Acorn on Forest in the building once occupied by Forest Lodge formerly Howe's greengrocer.

Based on a British pub theme, it provided meals and special entertainment events throughout the year.

In 2015, the business was sold to good friends Suzanne and Ross Mackintosh.

In November 2016, the business was sold to Tony Eastward. Tony renovated the bar, upgraded the decking area and introduced themed dinner nights. The name changed to The Acorn Bar and Restaurant.

Further renovations occurred during the 2020 pandemic, and the business reopened in November 2020 only to close again for a while.

In March 2022, a vintage W-class tram was purchased and installed at the rear of the restaurant. It was to be renovated and used as an outdoor dining area. However, negotiations with Council were unsucessful and the tram was removed in 2023.

Small Businesses

Walker's Estate Agency

Mrs. Helen Walker operated a Real Estate Agency from around 1950 to 1965 on the high side of Mountain Highway, just up from Wicks Road.

The agency was in a small building at the front of a house.

Les and Elsie Greenwell

Les and Elsie Greenwell moved to The Basin in 1935 during the depression years with all their possessions in a few suitcases. On the day Les and Elsie got married they caught a train to Boronia and then Thompson Hire Car Service to their land in The Basin on the corner of Forest Road and Harrison Street. They had purchased the land from a deceased estate for one hundred and ninety pounds. Over time, they purchased blocks around the property and created a small farmlet where they grew flowers and vegetables. Sprouts became one of the main vegetables they grew. He won a prize at the Boronia show in 1977 with a pumpkin weighing 38 kg and 1.7 m diameter.

A hard worker all his life, Les worked at various times as a bricklayer's labourer, road clearing and building. He worked with surveyors and contractors creating roads in the "*New Mystic Lake Estate*".

Les was also the local scrap metal dealer. On the opposite side of Forest Road, on the Stuart Street corner, he operated a wood merchant yard from around 1950 to 1960. The wood was cut in the forest with axes, carted home, stacked to dry and cut using a circular saw. He distributed firewood with his faithful old horse "*Bob*" by cart. He later pensioned off his horse and purchased a truck.

From around 1960 to 1971 he specialised in making sprout cases and had a case making factory on his land. Many of The Basin youngsters earned pocket money working in the case making factory.

Les and Elsie were active in local affairs. Les was involved with The Boronia Football Club in the 1950s, a member of The Basin Tennis Club, Badminton Club and in the late 1940s, secretary of the Wicks Reserve Committee.

Elsie was involved in the establishment and running of The Basin Infant Welfare Centre and the committee of The Basin Elderly Citizens Club. There is an enscribed plaque attached to a seat outside the Elderly Citizens Club building to commerate her involvement with the club.

Industries

For a community to hold its settlers and to gradually grow, a source of employment is necessary. The farms, nurseries and orchards kept many families together but various other ways of turning a coin have been found.

Flower and Fruit Growers

In the early years, The Basin was a prodigious producer of many flowers and fruits.

Boronia was introduced to the district well before World War One and William Chandler is credited with propagating the first Boronia in The Basin district. Others of the Chandler family including John and Don Maguire, Alfred Chandler and John Chandler grew Boronia. Wally Goodwin grew Boronia on his property on the corner of Millers road and Mountain Highway but later changed to growing apples. Production was at its peak in the district in the 1920s and 30s. There was a setback in 1932 when a rust disease decimated most of the Boronia in the area.

The variety of boronia principally grown was Boronia Megistigma (sweet smelling brown boronia). It was not a striking flower, but had a beautiful scent making it popular. It was marketed as a cut flower and sent state wide and interstate.

Daffodils and Liliums were grown by Michael Spry on his property in The Basin. In 1964, he was awarded the Australian Daffodil Championship and was once president of the Australian Lilium society.

Daffodils were also grown by Don Maguire on a property in Old Coach Road.

Different fruits were grown on the Dobson property in Liverpool Road and apples on the land around Gravenstein Crescent before it was subdivided. The subdivided street names are apple varieties.

Lemons were grown in the 1930s by the Beaumont's on their property on the slopes near Ferndale. The Crawfords also managed lemon orchards on a property off Old Coach Road from about the 1950s to the 1980s.

In the 1950s, there was a small lemon orchard off Augusta Road run by Leslie Dickson, son of Ada Dickson. Ada ran the first post office in The Basin from her house. A Mr Garner took over the orchard and lived in a humpy on site. He apparently could not keep up any payments and walked off the property.

Como Nurseries

William Chandler selected property in The Basin in 1873, after consultation with his friend Baron Von Mueller. Previously, he worked with his father William in his nursery and market garden in Glenferrie Road, Malvern, established in the 1850s. William Chandler's selected property was bounded by The Basin-Olinda road, Sheffield road and Doongalla road. William and later generations grew vegetables, fruit and flowers on The Basin property and is credited with propagating the first boronia in the district.

William and his wife Kate had eleven children, most of whom worked on the property until they married, when they were given land, mostly in The Basin/Kilsyth

areas. William died in 1911 and the property was inherited by brothers Wref and Bert who conducted a partnership. Bert purchased Wref's share in 1919. It was around this time the concept of a specialised nursery was conceived and began development. This nursery became know as "*Como Nurseries*" after the name given to the Chandlers second house, built in the 1870s.

Bert and Jessie had three sons, Fergus, Geoff and John. Not long after Jessie's death in 1931, the two elder sons found it necessary to leave Como. John, after finishing school at Burnley Horticultural College, worked continuously at Como. He was only away for the three years he spent in the A.I.F. during the Second World War. In 1948, after helping his two older sons in business and to obtain part of the original Como property, Bert formed a partnership with John as Bert Chandler & Son.

The association of Bert and John was always a close one from the mid-thirties. They both had a deep love of the property, their vocation, and enjoyed working together improving Como Nurseries, collecting new plants and propagating less common trees and shrubs which they shared with friends and sold to the public.

By the time of Bert's death in 1970, Como Nurseries was a well known and respected nursery. John inherited the property from his father's estate and soon after formed a company called "*Bert Chandler & Son Pty. Ltd., Como Nurseries*" with his wife Margaret and family. The family were all given shares in the new company.

In 1976, a six acre display garden was created at the "*Mail Bag Corner*" paddock at the corner of Basin-Olinda and Sheffield Roads and named by the family the "*Bert Chandler Gardens*". The garden contained a large collection of less common trees and shrubs which were collected over the years. The plants were all named and listed in a plant catalogue printed every two years so the public could find plants in which they were interested. The gardens were open every day except Christmas and Good Friday and knowledgeable staff were always on hand or available as the retail sales were conducted from the garden.

Como Nurseries was requested by the newly formed Ornamental Plant Collections Association Inc., to have the Prunus Serrulata collection and also applied for the Magnolia collection. The Association also requested that the Bert Chandler Gardens be used as the venue for the official launching of the Ornamental Plant Collections Association. Inc., the headquarters in the Royal Botanical Gardens, Melbourne.

A Glimpse of History at The Basin Store

"We had looked at, at least nine country stores but when we walked into the The Basin Corner Store, we knew immediately it was the one we wanted. There was a wholesome country store aura about the place, from the large blocks of cheese to the barrels of wheat," said Mary Youl, and her husband Keith agreed.

It was 1955 when they leased it from the owner, Mr Horsfield.

"The shop was nearly falling down," Keith added, "but we could see the potential of the people and the area. We were promised all sorts of improvements and maintenance but they never happened. Our lease was for five years so I suppose the owner thought it was a waste of money. Anyway, with no experience, a large mortgage and three small children, Bruce, seven, Nerida five and Glenda three, we took on the challenge. It was a wonderful experience for us and the children and we never regretted it."

"The store was a weatherboard building," Mary explained. "With a verandah around the front with seats and a hitching rail. Attached to the shop at the back were two bedrooms and a living room. We only had one power point in the residence and were always blowing the fuse by overloading, but we were lucky to have power. It only went a short way up the hill. Consequently, we had a marvellous trade in kerosene for the first year or two until the power supply was extended."

According to Mary, she and Keith endeavoured to supply the local community with all their needs.

"If people wanted it we got it. Keith used to go down every Saturday morning to the baker in Boronia and bring back trays of freshly baked sticky buns. There would be a queue waiting for them."

They had a newsagency, bank and dry cleaning agencies. They sold stock food, knitting wool, children's clothing, haberdashery, hardware, a huge range of groceries and delicatessen products, and had a petrol bowser out the front. Gumboots were a great seller and most of the stock for the shop came up by train.

"Keith would pick up things from the station in our bottle green Austin A40, and of course he had to go down to get the papers off the train. There was always a social gathering outside the shop on the verandah waiting for the last edition of the Herald and the Sporting Globe on Saturday nights." Mary said. "We had a gentleman's agreement with the people across the road in the milk bar and didn't stock things they sold."

Mary obviously has a kind heart because the store stocked comics well read but never sold, and when she ran out of broken biscuits to sell to the children she would break some of the good ones up so as not to disappoint anyone.

On weekdays, the store opened at 6 am and closed at 9 pm, with an hour off for lunch between 12 o'clock and 1 pm. Saturday, they closed at midday but opened in the evening for the papers. Sunday was supposed to be a holiday but urgent requests were seldom refused.

Keith did deliveries to Ferndale, Boronia, down the Ravine and up to Doongalla.

Thinking back, Keith said, "Sometimes I thought the little A40 would never get back out of The Ravine. It was a terrible climb. Especially in winter on the unmade muddy roads."

The Basin in the 1950s and 1960s was the first home for many new arrivals from overseas.

"Wonderful people." Mary said. "We had our language problems but always seemed to sort out what was wanted. Everyone was so honest too. We had no fences and no security. Our lock for the front door of the store was a chair or a ladder propped against it on the inside. When we left the business in the 60's we were not owed one penny."

"When we first took over the business, we realised we were the interlopers and had to be accepted by the locals so we let them show us how things were run. We handled practically no cash and what we did came mainly from passing trade. Every family had a book into which we wrote their purchases, and then on pay day or endowment day, all the accounts were settled. It was a good arrangement suiting everyone."

The gardens were used for weddings and becoming popular with plant lovers both local, interstate and overseas. Walking tracks were formed up along the creek with its fern gully and up the hill through natural bush where maidenhair fern has grown for over 100 years.

Several outstanding plants came out of Como Nurseries over the years. Two of note are firstly, Pieris Japonica Bert Chandler. This plant originated in a tray of seedlings grown by Bert, as a tiny thing less than 1 cm tall. It had a pale leaf which went yellow, and most people would pull it out as a freak or sick. Bert saved it. Immediately after the Second World War, the first stock was propagated by layering and Bert named it Pieris Japonica Chandleri.

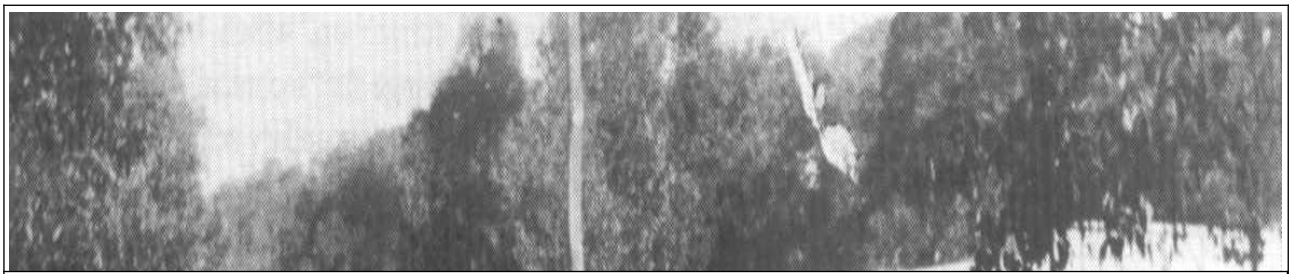
When it was finally produced in quantity, a plant was sent to Hilliers Nurseries, Winchester, England. Mr. Hillier wrote back and asked if the name could be changed to Pieris Japonica Bert Chandler to comply with the new International nomenclature laws forming around the world. Another nurseryman, Mr. Cyril Isaacs requested permission from Bert to nominate it for a Gold Medal from the Federation of Australian Nurseryman. This was awarded in 1964. This plant is grown and catalogued in many countries around the world.

The second outstanding plant to the history is a Magnolia imported from England in 1956. This plant takes 18 years to flower and was not found true to its name. It was a garden hybrid regarded as unusual then. The Magnolia grows into a beautiful upright plant with magnificent mauve pink flowers 25-30 cm in diameter. After consultation with an International authority on Magnolias, it was named "*Magnolia Como*".

John and Archibald Chandler also developed special Boronia seedling types accepted by the Australian Cultivator Registrar. These were the Red Megastigma Boronia.

One of the most pleasing features of the Chandlers over the years was the close association and friendship with their staff.

In 1988, it became apparent Como Nurseries could not continue with all family members involved, and sadly it was agreed the only solution was for Como Nurseries to be sold. John made the announcement to the staff on 5th September 1988. A local lad who started with the Chandlers in 1978 directly from school, Mark Hall, was appointed new manager.



Jim Stephens. A Worker at Locksley Textiles

In about 1959-60 I was employed by Mr Harrison to work as a storeman at his textile factory in Mountain Highway, The Basin. Having recently got a contract with a large woollen mill involving handling great quantities of baled wool and tons of spun threads, as well as completed cloth, he needed a new storeman. My wage was 15 pounds a week ($30).

At this time the company took the name of Locksley Textiles where previously it had been known locally only as Harrison's Mill. The factory building was expanding and although the spinning area was open to the winds it gradually became weatherproof.

The storeroom was my concern and the store keeping duties were varied and interesting, but when things were quiet I often worked on the winders and in other areas.

Wool came in huge bales. It was put through the machines and spun into thread and sometimes sent away as thread and sometimes woven into fabric.

For some time the Harrison's did the basic weaving of blanket material and then sent elsewhere for completion of the blankets. We also produced finer Jersey material made from much thinner thread. Half this thread was spun normally and the other half spun in reverse. In weaving, each second thread was reverse spun.

We used a variety of wool, some pure wool, some included reused wool and some had artificial fibres. For a long time we also wove and cut into long, two foot wide strips, an absorbent cotton material which, when returned to the Melbourne manufacturing company, was cut and hemmed into dishcloths.

The looms held up to 200 or 300 feet of cloth in a run, with a shipment consisting of up to thirty lengths of cloth.

In my second year of employment at Harrison's, my wages were increased to 16 pounds a week. There were times when an evening shift was necessary, but not regularly. Much of the spinning was done at night.

During the twenty years of Locksley's operation, employment must have been provided for a great many local people. There were probably about twenty people employed by Harrison's in the two years of my employment. Some whom I recall were Mr and Mrs Harrison in the office, weavers Alice Galloway, (?) Galloway, Mrs Kable, Mrs Rothwell and Mrs Chick. Winders Mrs Thoren, Mrs Galloway, (?) Beale and spinners Pierre (?), Mr Foggett and his daughter. Loom turner/mechanic Bill Girvan, Warper Robert Harrison (later killed on the Boronia railway crossing soon after duplication of the line) and tea lady Mrs Bates (Mrs Harrison's mother).

Unfortunately, when the 1961 credit squeeze began, things become tough for Locksley and the textile industry in general.

Over several months many things were trialled to keep the business going. We tried making special wool for carpets but because the carpet company was unable to pay regularly, this project was abandoned. Another trial job was making wool hanks for use in lubricating railway trucks. The hank was designed to have one end in a bath of oil while the other end rested on the axle and thus kept it oiled.

During this time, many members of staff had to be laid off and I was among the last to go when the business was forced to close.

After 117 years, Como Nurseries no longer belonged to the Chandler family. John Chandler moved out of the area.

In the early 1990s, the remaining Chandler property was subdivided. Two 1 acre blocks were created on the corner of The Basin-Olinda road and Sheffield road. A 15 acre block incorporating the Bert Chandler Gardens was sold in 1996 to George and Pat Hetrel. Over the next two years they built a home overlooking a man-made lake. A large shed was built to house a large historical car collection and motor memorabilia.

In consultation with John Chandler, they rejuvenated the Bert Chandler Gardens originally created by John in 1976. A miniature train track ran through the gardens and over trestle bridges crossing the creeks passing through the property.

They opened the gardens to the public in 1998 and closed in 2019. In that time, over $700,000 had been raised for the State Emergency Service (SES), St John Ambulance and The Basin CFA.

Locksley Textiles

Bob and Jean Harrison bought 10 acres of land in Mountain Highway, The Basin in about 1937 or 1938. Bob was a sales rep for Noel P Hunt & Co, textile machinery agents. When WW II started, he was rejected for military service, and put in charge of machinery parts procurement to keep the textile industry going in Australia, South Africa and New Zealand for the war effort. It was impossible to get new parts from Britain as they were likely to end up at the bottom of the ocean thanks to German U boats. Bob had an inventory of all machinery parts, new and secondhand, held by all textile mills in Australia and New Zealand. He could issue orders for their compulsory acquisition for the war effort, and ship them to wherever, keeping vital machinery running.

In 1947, Bob and Jean decided to start a textile mill at The Basin. As there had been no industry in The Basin or Bayswater this was the first real "*industry*" in the area. As building materials were still in short supply because of the war, he purchased an old barn at Cranbourne, had it dismantled, transported to The Basin and erected.

As reported in The Mountain District Free Press in September 1950:

"*Locksley Textiles submitted plans of a modern factory at Mountain Highway, the Basin. It will be a modern factory and an acquisition to the district. The plans were approved.*"

Six Crabtree (basic pick and pick) weaving looms and a warp mill and creel were purchased from a mill in Sale. The first contracts were for the supply of army blankets for the military as they were in short supply. All blankets sent overseas with troops were never brought back. Many thousands were produced. Blankets for the domestic market were also produced for the well known brands "*Laconia*" and "*Invicta*".

The business grew fairly quickly and a new factory was built around the old barn. Modern looms able to create complex fashion fabrics were purchased. Bob's wife Jean worked in the mill as a weaver. The eldest son Robert (jnr.) joined the mill when he left school in 1955 aged 15.

As the demand for blankets fell, the old pick and pick looms were used for weaving of cotton cleaning cloths. Two carding machines and a pair of spinning mules were added, allowing for the conversion of raw wool to yarn.

By 1956 Locksley Textiles employed 100 people and worked 24 hours a day and Bob took on a partner to facilitate further expansion. Promised performance from the partner in securing new contracts fell short of expectation. In 1959 Bob sold his remaining share in the business to a colleague of his partner.

At Christmas 1960, Bob and Jean decided on a "*tree change*" to a small farmlet at Glenburn, moving in March 1961. In April 1961 son Robert was killed on Boronia railway level crossing. Ironically, mother Jean had been hit by a train on the same crossing in 1952.

A credit squeeze in 1961 saw Locksley Textiles go to the wall. Bob and Jean were never paid for the final share of the business sold. Expecting this to pay for their little farm and their retirement, they returned to Melbourne and rejoined the workforce once again in the textile industry.

Bob and Jean finally retired in 1979 aged 75 and 61 respectively, moving back to the farm at Glenburn which had become a weekender for many years. Jean passed away in March 1986 aged 69, Bob died on October 1995 aged 91. See page 180 for Jim Stephens recollections of working at Locksley Textiles.

Lowline Industries

Les Lowe, the founder of Lowline Industries, started his business in 1946 as Lowline Canopies. He first built plywood canopies in his parents' backyard in Croydon eventually building a factory on the site. He then manufactured plywood, fibreglass and aluminium canopies, sun visors, tow-bars, bull bars and roof racks.

In the late 1950s he branched out into selling caravans which were becoming popular. In 1962, Les purchased an existing caravan yard in Ringwood and started LowLine Caravans, Sales and Hire. Canvas work was a speciality at this site. Sales did not suit Les, so he concentrated on hiring caravans.

In 1974, he purchased a 10 acre site in The Basin that was once Locksley Textiles. He sold 6 acres, keeping the 4 acres which included the original Locksley Textiles factory, and moved his Lowline Canopies business to this site.

In the 1980s, he moved Lowline Caravans to The Basin site and merged the two businesses to become

Lowline Industries.

Les Lowe passed away on the 10th November 1998 at the age of 75. His son Dennis then took over the business and his daughter Jayne worked in the office.

Up to 2014, Lowline Industries produced high quality canopies, roof racks and hire caravans, pop tops and camper trailers. They had the largest hire fleet in the Metropolitan area.

In 2014, the business closed, and the land was subdivided for housing.

Dunlops and FibreMakers

In 1952, Dunlop's Aviation Division opened in Bayswater. British Nylon Spinners (first known as Fibremakers) opened in November 1958, and provided employment for the rapidly increasing population of The Basin.

Logging and Sawmills

Scars are still evident on some properties around The Basin Olinda Road and Old Coach road when logging cleared most of this area in the 1860s.

A sawmill in The Ravine operated between 1919 and 1923. In the 1990s, the mill site had mill scars and traces of sawdust. Nearby, were the original houses of the paymaster and mill workers. The mill was a good source of Blackwood Timber. Timber in and out of the mill was carted along the "*Mill Track*" running from Claremont Avenue around the back of Clevedon onto The Basin-Olinda Road.

In 1992, Doris Langdon (Mrs Fountain) recalled playing in the heaps of sawdust as a child about 1924/1925 but the mill was no longer there. From Janet Dobsons diary:

*"**Friday November 7 1919:** There was quite a big bushfire over in Mackenzies today, it started at the place where they are building the Mill to saw timber, the mill hands were beating it out.*"

*"**Thursday 13th November 1919:** The big engine went up to the sawmill today, drawn by 6 horses. I am afraid a saw mill will spoil the look of the mountain.*"

*"**Monday February 23 1920:** At dinner time a big bushfire started up in Ferndale and came down towards uncle's orchard."*

"They went over and all Mr Griffiths men and Uncle Arthur, Mr Agar and several others burnt a break along the Mill track. They carted the mill wood through Jack's paddock."

"They had to work hard to keep it from Mr Grumont's house. It got very close to Meadways house, there were over a dozen men beating it back."

"It got into Maguire's cut scrub and it looked something grand at night, we could see our shadows, it was the light from the fire."

After Doongalla was destroyed by bushfire in 1932, 279 hectares of the property was sold to four Smith brothers in 1935 for 2,000 pounds. They built a saw mill initially sited behind the ruined house and over the years logged much of the unburnt mountain ash and messmate which remained on the property.

About 30 metres up from the bus terminal in Mountain Highway there was once a log loading bay used when the slopes of One Tree Hill were last logged in the 1930s. Traces of the bullock track on which the logs were drawn could still be found in the 1990s.

The name "*One Tree Hill*" is shown on the 1868 map of the Dandenongs created by John Hardy. It is also referenced in one of his field books.

Quarries

Mountain Highway

Along Mountain Highway opposite Beresford Drive, there was once a quarry on James John Millers land first established by John Yeadon and later purchased by The Shire of Ferntree Gully. In the 1930s and 1940s there was a large hole in the roadside bank. When the Melrose Estate was created, the quarry was filled in and is invisible except the roadside fence has a peculiar bend around the site.

Rosney's Land

Rosney's land ran north from the original Cobblestone Road to Sassafras just opposite James Griffith's land. The Cobblestone Road required maintenance and there was a small quarry on the corner of Ferndale Road and The Basin-Olinda Road. A few dugout sections in the bank were once visible.

The Basin Primary School

There was once a small quarry near the edge of The Basin Primary School grounds on Liverpool Road. John Yeadon opened the quarry when he purchased part of Crown allotment 72 from John Bruce in 1904. Remnants of this were once visible between the staff car park and the road. In the 1930s, there were holes and loose rocks visible which have since been covered. From Janet Dobsons diary:

"***Thursday October 9 1919:** The council is having the road over the old quarry near the school formed and metalled. It has never been done before*."

Depression Workers

During the 1930s, depression days work was long and hard. One nursery worker was paid one shilling and three pence for picking 20,000 daffodils.

Some locals became sustenance workers working for the Government. The stone wall on Mountain Highway was built by these men, as were many local roads including Old Forest Road.

In 1935, The Basin Progress Association, with the Ferntree Gully Council, instigated a scheme to use

sustenance workers in an extensive tree planting program. This was reported in The Argus, 22nd June 1935.

The sustenance scheme was established for the relief of individuals able and willing to work but unable to find employment. The scheme was managed by the Employment Council of Victoria (from 1932) and relief committees were created throughout Victoria.

Sustenance payments were eight shillings and six pence (equivalent to about $40 in 2025) per week for man and wife with an additional one shilling and six pence per week for each additional child up to a maximum of 20 shillings 6 pence per week. Also, each approved individual was provided with an identification card which enabled him to gain groceries, meat, bread and milk for a four-week period through nominated shopkeepers selected by the individual. Sustenance also included the provision of babies' food, clothing and footwear for school children, firewood and rental assistance.

Only unemployed applicants who resided in Victoria for three or more months before application, and did not refuse any opportunities for employment, were eligible to apply.

To receive sustenance, male applicants were required to perform work for the municipality.

Gold

No official record of large amounts of gold has been discovered in The Basin area. However, traces of gold were found in some local streams and shafts sunk into some nearby mountains.

A miner named Gaunt sank some shafts on the northern side of Schneider's Hill but did not locate any gold veins. It is thought he dug the shafts after some traces of gold were discovered in Old Joes Creek which sources in the area.

A nugget of gold was once discovered by a Miss Hayes between Hazel Dell and Sassafras. Miss Hayes lived at Hazel Dell around 1890 with her parents who ran Hazel Dell as a guest house. She was walking up a track after a rain and noticed the nugget on the track. Hazel Dell was located on a well-used pack horse track to the top of the Dandenongs, and most likely this nugget fell from the pack of a miner using the track as no other gold has been found in this area.

Specks of gold have been found in Dobsons Creek which sources behind Hazel Dell and runs alongside the Basin-Olinda road, across the Salvation Army flats and into the Dandenong Creek. The creek was sluiced, but no gold was discovered.

Other Small Industries

Musical Instrument Manufacturer

A guitar and mandolin manufacturer once operated in Church Street in the building known as "*The Glideaway*" and turned out about 50-60 instruments a month.

Fellina Swim Suits and Row Clothing

From around 1942 to 1958, the Fellina Swim Suit Co. and Row clothing factory operated in The Glideaway building and employed up to 10 people making clothing and swimsuits. In 1958, they relocated to the CBD.

Employees at the Row Clothing factory c1950 included Nell Percy, Laurie Austin, Lil Millar, Russell Hornby, Reg Lucas, Ruby Bennett, Mrs Bert Adams, Gladys Jackson, Mrs Maher, Joan Bennet, Mrs K. Jackson, Audrey Jackson.

Prudence Jane

In 1958, a clothing company called "*Prudence Jane*" rented the "*Glideaway*" after the Fellina Swim Suit Co. and Row clothing factory left. Prudence Jane was owned by Dick and Joan Townley who had previously operated the business from their home in Montrose. They introduced and popularised the bikini into Australia. Benches, sewing machines and the like, were moved in and more staff sought. This gave employment to several local women, many of whom went on to become professional designers or dressmakers.

In 1958 the "*Glideaway*" building was owned by Harold and Ruby Bennett, so it was not surprising their daughters Shirley and Lynette started with "*Prudence Jane."* Shirley cut and stitched glamorous outfits for some TV stars, including Pilita and Helen Reddy. Typically, they were figure hugging designs, often with a frilly fishtail below. At the new, enlarged premises, business continued to flourish and a new range of children's wear was made and marketed through the exclusive "*Banbury Cross*" shop at 47 Collins Street, Melbourne.

Sabrina, a well known English actress and model in the 1950s, once modelled bikinis in The Glideaway. It was early January 1959, and the sleepy hollow of The Basin shimmered in the summer heat, when Ted Harris, aged 13 and on school holidays, glimpsed a vivid pink Vauxhall (with leopard skin patterned upholstery and golden S's on the door) coming along Mountain Highway. As it drew closer, followed by several other cars, someone shouted, "*Hey, it's Sabrina",* and within a minute or so drew a crowd.

They were right, the pink Vauxhall, with Vauxhall mechanic Kenneth Thomas driving, pulled up outside the "*Prudence Jane*" factory at the old dance hall. Pandemonium erupted in the little village as word spread and reached a young motor engineer, George Russell. He grabbed a couple of his mates, and they set off in a tray truck, others running along and jumping aboard as word spread: "*Sabrina's at Prudence Jane!!*" Others climbed trees near the property to glipse a view of Sabrina.

Prudence Jane boomed until 1963 when a credit

The Last Straw

Roy Ritchie, who operated a milk bar and butcher shop on the corner of Conyers Street and Forest Road for many years, was well known to local residents.

Unfortunately, Roy had a run of bad luck in his shop. The residence behind the shop was burgled a number of times, he had a brick thrown through the shop window and a car ran into the shop. The last straw was when he was robbed at knife point and decided to close the store.

squeeze forced the business to close.

Farriers

Leslie Dickson, the son of Ada Dickson, who ran the first post office in The Basin, ran a farrier business next to the post office in the 1920s. His clients included the Chandlers, many other locals, and Falconers storekeepers in Bayswater.

The Basin Backyard

In 1995, Michael and Meredith Johnson purchased a renovators delight in Old Forest Road The Basin. After renovation, they transformed the quarter acre block into a wildlife/edible garden which grew to around 60 varieties of edible plants. They began a Facebook page to help others transform their properties, giving simple tips on how to go about this.

Michael requested a beehive for his 50th birthday, and this first hive hobby became 2, then 4, then 200 hives. At the ages of 61, this hobby became a full time job for Michael and Meredith.

They began selling honey to residents of The Basin from their home and consumers became aware of the benefits of local honey. However, the business outgrew their home, so they moved the operation to a factory/shop outlet in Rushdale Street Knoxfield where they do all the processing and jarring.

Their hives are strategically placed around Victoria with about 100 in The Dandenongs including The Basin. Passion for the environment led to them using glass jars for their honey so the jars could be recycled or refilled with more local pure raw honey.

Their philosophy is to use bee related products in as many ways as possible. What started out as a simple jar of honey, is now a range of 30 different products that contain their honey and beeswax by-products. They love talking all things bees to school groups, kindergartens and at farmers markets. Michael loves sharing his experience with new beekeepers with one on one mentoring.

Sources of Information

- "*The Basin Centenary Booklet*" by Ron Ikin.
- "*Fire on the Hill, Flowers on the Valley*" by Rick Coxhill.
- "*A Fragrant Story*" a booklet by Don Maguire about growing of Boronia in the district.
- Residents at the time of writing and former residents for information and photographs. In particular, John Chandler for information on Como Nurseries. Jim and Barbara Stephens for general information, Emily Stephen for information on Smith's store and the Lolly Lady, Jeanette Ericson for information and photographs of Smith's barn, Eddie Williams for information on the School Store, Kate Lowe for information on Lowline Industries. Bill Wright for information on Wright's Store. Graeme Clarke for information on Clarke's butchers.
- "*Story of the Dandenongs*" by Helen Coulsen for information on quarries in The Basin.
- The Boronia and The Basin Community newsletter for information on The Glideaway, Locksley Textiles and Youls' Store.
- Newspaper clipping for information on Locksley Textiles.
- Newspaper clippings for information on Wright's Store.
- John Fleming for information on "*Prudence Jane*" from an article in The Australian Photographic Collector's Society.
- Michael and Meredith Johnson for information on The Basin Backyard.

LETTER BOX AT BASIN

A new letter box has been installed next to the telephone booth outside Langdon's Store at The Basin.

The box which is cleared at 3.45 p.m. each day is proving of great advantage to residents and visitors.

ROY RITCHIE
Your Family Butcher
FOREST ROAD, THE BASIN
YOUR SATISFACTION IS MY GAIN
Phone Boronia 21211

HEVEYS
MOUNTAIN HIGHWAY
THE BASIN
NEWSAGENTS
Phone Boronia 21063
FOUR SQUARE
FOOD STORE
FULLY LICENSED
Phone Boronia 21207

24 HOUR TOWN SERVICE
THE BASIN GARAGE
PROP. F. W. COOK & SON
of
Mountain Highway and Millers Road
THE BASIN
Panel Beating - - Spray Painting
Mechanical Repairs
Boronia 2-1102 (A. H. 21074, 21594)

BRUCE BYERS
is the place to MEAT
Phone Boronia 21639
YOUR FAMILY QUALITY BUTCHER
Mountain Highway
THE BASIN

Smith's Store located on the corner of Mountain Highway and The Basin-Olinda Road. Circa 1945 when owned by the Poulter family. Note tennis court for hire sign and petrol bowser.
Photo courtesy Mrs. Poulter.

Chapter 8 The Basin Fire Brigade

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Summary

The Basin Bush Fire Brigade was formed in 1927 with Jack Hern Clarke as Captain. The Basin Rural Fire Brigade was constituted in 1949 with John Chandler as Captain. The Basin Urban Fire Brigade was formed in 1984 with Alan Small as captain and is known as The Basin Fire Brigade.

The most serious bushfires in The Basin area occurred in 1939, 1962, 1968, 1980 and 1997.

The 1962 bushfires had the most serious effects in The Basin area. If not for the efforts of Captain Don Maguire, The Basin could have been wiped out. Don Maguire was the most well known Captain of The Basin Fire Brigade, serving for 22 years. He also served on various other related bodies.

The Basin was the source of many bushfires to ravage the Dandenongs. In particular, the 1962, 1968 and 1997 fires all started in The Basin on days of high temperature and strong northerly winds.

The Brigade has had five "*fire stations*" up to 2025. The first was a small shed behind The Basin Progress Hall used to store equipment and used for over 30 years. The second was the first "*real*" station built by voluntary labour and finished in 1953. The third replaced the previous one and was finished in 1967 to coincide with The Basin centenary. The fourth was temporary and used for about a year whilst the fifth one was built and finished in 1976.

Over the years, there have been many warning devices used. The first was a bell, donated by T. M. Burke, hanging near the shed behind The Basin Progress Hall. The first siren was installed on a windmill stand beside the station finished in 1953.

The Brigade has an active Ladies Auxiliary, Junior Fire Brigade and is a member of the Knox Brigades Group.

Regular events are the annual Carols by Candlelight and Christmas Eve Santa trips.

Distinguished Resident

Don Maguire

In January 1962 The Basin, and indeed the whole Dandenongs area was threatened by bush fires. During four memorable days, the safety of The Basin was in the hands of The Basin Fire Brigade Captain Don Maguire. To Don's credit The Basin came through relatively unscathed. But it did not happen by good luck as Don had fire fighting experience dating back to 1935.

In those days he learnt a great deal from the then captain, his uncle Bert Chandler, especially in the practice of "*back burning*". Don was captain of The Basin Fire Brigade from 1955 to 1977 and later became President. He was Chairman of the Ferntree Gully National Park Committee from 1965 to 1977 which were torrid times for Don. He acted as Group Officer of the Knox Fire Brigades Group from 1975 to 1987. He is a life member of the CFA His involvement with the CFA spanned a total of 57 years and he experienced the big Dandenongs fires of 1939, 1962, 1968 and 1983.

Even with his involvement in the CFA, Don found time to excel in other fields. At cricket he scored 229, once a club and district record, while batting for Church of Christ, and won the district batting averages twice. At football, he represented Boronia and at tennis played in high level competition. His work at Batterham Reserve is known to most and together with all this he ran a successful nursery, specialising in Boronia and daffodils. He was an active member of Legacy and was on the Board of Glengollan Retirement Village.

Don's services to the community were recognised in 1974 when he was awarded The Queens Long Service & Good Conduct Medal and in 1977 when he was awarded a British Empire medal (B.E.M.) for services to the Victorian Fire Services.

Don Percival Maguire passed away on 25th August, 1994 at the age of 73.

Before Organised Fire Brigades

Forest, bush and grass fires have been a part of the Australian scene from the beginning of time. Our flora has developed as part of the overall environmental story where indigenous trees and shrubs adapted to regular and irregular burning by both cool and hot fires. Without the heat so created, the seed would not have gained access to the soil to re-establish the forest balance.

It is unnecessary to go far to find confirmation of these facts. Sherbrooke Forest, a magnificent area so close to Melbourne is not the Sherbrooke early settlers first sighted. The original forest was cut down entirely for use as timber for the growing Melbourne and by the late 1890s the area was almost completely cut out. A similar thing happened on the foothills of The Dandenongs on the western slopes, where the Eucalypts, although not so useful for building timber, were used extensively for firewood, fencing, shedding etc.

Fires which occurred in 1891, 1908, 1914, 1919 and 1926, re-established Sherbrooke to a marvellous forest and these fires and others, re-established the foothill slopes as well.

Aborigines used fire in all parts of Australia, and still use controlled burns to clear areas and replenish new growth so kangaroos, wallabies, and other animals which made up their staple diet, would have food and be more accessible.

A priceless piece of early bushfire fire experience in The Basin comes from the pages of Mrs Janet Dobsons diary (summer 1904-05 and also 15 years later, in 1920) It also highlights the concern and brave resolution with which our pioneer settlers faced this ever present threat.

"***31 December 1904****: Very bad bushfire all over One Tree Hill, another up side of the Observatory* ***[now Burke's Lookout]****, all around Kerrs', Barnes and Mrs Davis nearly burnt out. Joe went over to help, they are burning a break between Baldwin's and Kerrs. Weather fearfully hot.*"

"***1 January 1905:*** *Fires still racing.*"

"***2 January 1905:*** *It rained some nice showers today."*

"***10 January 1905:*** *Weather very hot. There is a big fire all around J. Maguire's, A. E. Chandlers and E. Hansen's and another up near Mr Farlands.*"

"***11 January 1905:*** *The heat almost unbearable. The fires are raging all day. The wind is blowing quite a gale. There is a big fire all around Hazel Dell and right to the top of the mount.*"

Members of The Basin Bush Fire Brigade in 1936 with Bert Chandler's Morris Truck.
Standing on Truck*: Bert Clarke, J. Williams, W. Williams.*
Standing: *A. Jennings, Jack. Manders, Joe Jackson, Unknown, Gretton, D. Smith, Unknown, George Bravery.*
Squatting: *Jack Linton, George Langdon, Lloyd Caughey.*
Photo courtesy Knox Historical Society

"***13 January 1905:*** *Joe went up to Dodds after dinner. The bushfire was all around the house. All their hay got burnt. Joe stopped to help them. It was nearly five when he got home. The fire travelled down to S. R. Matthews in the evening. There were about 20 men up there keeping the fire from the house. Some stayed all night, some of the sheds were burnt down. It is a dreadful fire, it is coming down toward Mr Jacksons now. Weather is very hot.*"

*"**14 January 1905:** The bushfire was all around Mr Jacksons today. The Army boys were over helping him keep it back from the house and the barn. The fire was all around the house at Hazel Dell. They were nearly burnt out. All the Chandlers were up helping them. They had two of their bridges burnt and their fern gully was all burnt out. The fire went from there up to Dickensons. The same went over the mountains and burnt down Mrs Leak's and a Mr Fitzgeralds' house. It is still very hot*."

*"**16 January 1905:** There was a cool change Saturday night (14th January) and on Sunday morning we had some welcome rain. It rained for two or three hours*."

"***11 February 1905:*** *It has been dreadfully hot all day with a hot north wind blowing very hard and there are some dreadful bushfires about. There was a very big one at Mitcham this afternoon. It burnt down seven houses.*"

"***19 February 1920:*** *There is a large bushfire over near Dickson's and right up around 'Switzerland'."* ***[This was old name for the area of Government Road & Toorak Avenue]*** *Some of the houses have been in danger and the neighbours beat it back. The two boys went over, so did Harry Chandler, Jack Wicks, and Mr Agar, Staff Captain Stevens (Salvation Army), and several others. If it is hot tomorrow it will spread up round the Mill. It looks very red tonight."*

"***20 February 1920:*** *The fire is still spreading up in Mr McKenzie's property. It looks very beautiful this evening, up the side of the mountain.*"

"***23 February 1920:*** *Today has been dreadfully hot. At dinner time, a big bushfire started up in Ferndale and came down toward Uncles' (Jack Wicks) orchard. They went over and all Mr Griffiths men and Uncle Arthur (Harris) and Mr Agar and several others burnt a break along the Mill track. They carted all the mill wood out through Jack Wicks' paddock. They had to work very hard to keep it from Mr Grumonts house. The boys did not get home until 10.30 pm. There was another big fire over in Goodwins paddock. It started from a burning stump left from last week's fire. It got very close to Mr Medways house. There were more than a dozen men keeping it back. It got into Maguire's cut scrub and it looked something grand at night. We could see our shadows, it was so light.*"

With the coming of European settlement, the face of many parts of Australia changed forever. The early settlers, with no knowledge of the volatile nature of our indigenous flora, must have faced terrifying conditions, when armed only with the experience of the Northern Hemisphere. They tried their first burnoffs to make room for agriculture.

In January 1851, one of the most widespread and devastating fires hit Victoria and was known as "*Black Thursday*". One can only imagine how much this fire set back the state, just seventeen years old. Records of this catastrophe are sketchy, but loss of stock and property in isolated areas was high and loss of human life a certainty.

Around this time, the discovery of gold brought great changes, particularly to central Victoria. A few years later, volunteer fire brigades formed in many of the developing country towns. Ballarat Brigade held its centenary in 1983 and Bendigo, Eaglehawk, Castlemaine and Geelong City all had their beginning about the same time. Closer to home, Lilydale had a Fire Brigade about 1890, but it was difficult to establish a starting point.

The Basin was a farming community with several large family groups, going back as far as the 1870s The Dobsons, Colliers, Chandlers, Kerrs, Popes no doubt banded together to support each other in times of crisis, be it flood, fire, or accident. The loss of produce due to fire was real and could have a bad effect on the community, who took most of their agricultural produce direct to the Victoria Market.

Bad fires in The Basin area around the turn of the century prompted locals to organise themselves into an organised Fire Brigade, but facts are sketchy about the 1910s and 1920s. The Great War of 1914-1918 had a devastating effect on every small community in the land, depleting the areas of the fit young men who would normally have been available to volunteer for fire fighting activities.

In early part of the 20th century the only transport available were horsedrawn vehicles and the odd bicycle, together with volunteers on horseback. Communication was practically nil, with the "*cooee*" used effectively over short distances, and a man on horseback for greater distances. The only firefighting tools available were rakes, hoes shovels, heavy metal buckets, hemp in bags and green branches broken off suitable gum trees to act as beaters. However, it is incredible how quickly the early pioneers learned to use back burning and other passive methods to achieve their objectives, and their knowledge of fire behaviour in different weather situations was remarkable.

The Basin Bush Fire Brigade

Early Days

During the first few weeks of 1926, a series of disastrous bushfires claimed over fifty lives in Victoria and laid

waste to over 900,000 acres of prime forest in Gippsland.

No loss of life was recorded in the Dandenong Ranges, but a fire raging from Monbulk to South Belgrave exacted a toll in livestock, property, and bush land. This event and the move to form Fire Brigades in surrounding areas of The Dandenongs, pushed the move toward an organised brigade in The Basin. This was formalised by The Basin Bush Fire Brigade formed in 1927 as a member of The Bush Fire Brigades Association of Victoria. The Captain was Herb Clark (see photo on page 189). His two sons, Graham and Wayne, served with the Brigade in the 1950s and 1960s. Jack Manders later became Captain.

The equipment available to the Brigade was basic but included buckets, knapsacks, and beaters. When The Basin Progress Hall was finished in 1931, the equipment was stored in a small shed beside the hall and this became the first "*unofficial*" fire station. It was used for over 30 years.

With the lack of equipment, firefighting was a hit-and-miss affair. Two trucks eventually become available, an old International truck belonging to Ferndale and Bert Chandler's Morris Commercial truck. The latter served as a Brigade vehicle from 1928 until 1945. Harry Chandler's Morris Commercial truck also gave support over these years.

Doongalla Bushfire 1932

In 1932, the Brigade was involved with a fire lasting several days. The classic stately home of Doongalla was burnt to the ground on January 19th 1932. The owners' grandchildren at the time, T. M. Burke and others, were led to shelter under the bridge on the creek until the fire danger had passed.

See the Doongalla section in Chapter 3 for interviews with Fergus Chandler, Frank Grumont and Wally Goodwin regarding the Doongalla fire.

1935-36 was a change in leadership with Bert Chandler as Captain, George Langdon as his Lieutenant and George also took on Secretary and Treasurer positions and held these posts until 1945. The 1930s were bad years for fires, mainly because an arsonist was active in the area. This continued until an arrest was made in 1938, and a local person was charged and convicted.

Black Friday (13th January 1939)

Summer of 1938-39 saw much of Victoria drought stricken, particularly the eastern, heavily timbered parts. Uncontrolled fires were burning all through the state and during the week before Black Friday, The Basin Fire Brigade was kept busy fighting fires along its eastern boundaries and many houses saved. Unfortunately, many homes were lost, but there was no loss of life.

Much of the subdivided land around The Basin had small substandard timber homes on them. These were known as "*Weekenders*", where suburban people spent the weekends "*getting away from it all*". These were, of course, an embarrassment to the Brigade in any major fire, with no water reticulation and possibly only a half empty 500 gallon tank to call on for emergency use.

On Black Friday a hot north wind blew at a steady 60 kph with a temperature of over 40 Deg and low humidity. Fires erupted all over Victoria. These conditions continued for 3 days, and the smoke over much of eastern Victorian reduced visibility to a few hundred yards. Some younger The Basin Brigade members went to Warrandyte to help fight the Black Friday fires.

Judge Stretton's Black Friday report to the Victorian Government still makes fascinating reading. Black Friday must go down in history as Victoria's worst fire day of the 20th century. Not only from loss of life (71 persons) and buildings, but devastation and destruction of the magnificent Mountain Ash, Messmate forests and the loss to the milling industry.

Only 9 months after Black Friday, World War II erupted, and many of the young men volunteered in another way, to join one of the three services. The Basin area fared badly with some fifteen to twenty regular Fire Brigade members leaving the district in the next 18 months. Some of these did not return.

1939-1949

1939 to 1945 saw Captain Bert Chandler with a gallant bunch of oldies taking over a heavy responsibility. In July 1942, Boronia formed a volunteer Brigade, and The Basin had to call on Boronia and Ferntree Gully during those critical times. The Brigade personnel were expected to oversee security and act as air raid wardens should the need arise, as many felt a Japanese invasion of Australia was certain.

1944 was again a drought year, with devastating grass and bushfires over the State, particularly the western district. The Basin had its share of the action, together with its sister Brigades.

Because of the magnitude and loss caused by the 1944 fires, the Victorian Government finally decided to

Lady Knox

Lady Knox was well known for her community work and support for the Fire Brigade.

Her son, John Knox, relates an interesting story about his mother in a letter he wrote to The Basin Fire Brigade in 1988:

"…. I go back to about 1926 to a terrible fire which started in The Basin and came up the side of Mt. Dandenong along the 1 in 20. My mother and I in her Austin 7, the first in Victoria, had driven down from the top with tea, drinks etc. to be confronted by the fire with no space to turn the vehicle around. Six very large men picked me, my mother and the red car up and turned it round! My mother wore a red hat and I can still see it. I was four years old at the time. This is my first memory of my mother. There was, I believe, a Chandler, among those six men, a Gilbert, all names of families who have made a contribution to the Basin district"

implement Judge Stretton's recommendation to form one Country Fire Brigade, and The Country Fire Authority (CFA) came into existence. It encompassed both Urban and Bush Fire Brigades, and divided the country area of Victoria into zones and regions.

The end of World War II saw many of The Basin fire fighting men returning to the district, but many had made the "*supreme sacrifice*". Of those who did return, there seemed to be a reluctance to become involved in organised Brigade activity as many were busy reshaping their lives to civilian ways. When fires did occur, the response was always good. However, a full leadership hierarchy could not be maintained and in 1945 The Basin Bush Fire Brigade disbanded.

With some urging from CFA Regional Officer "*Mac"* McLaren, a public meeting in The Basin Progress Hall in 1946 saw the Brigade formally reconstituted. Mac McLaren served Australia in a special way during the War. Working in Rabaul when the Japanese invasion took place, he joined the gallant body of Coast Watchers whose efforts will never be fully appreciated, and their valiant efforts saved thousands of allied lives.

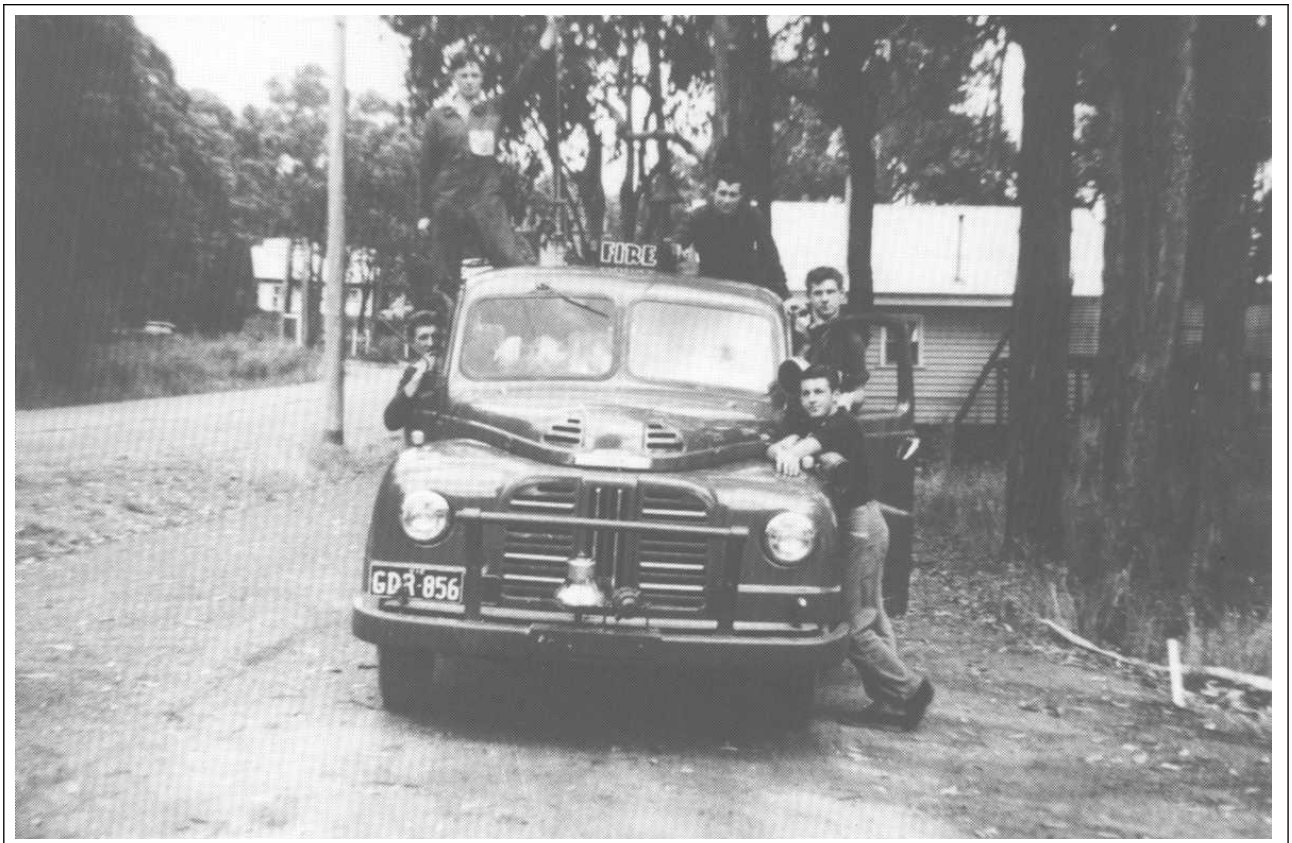
On 26th August 1947, the Country Fire Authority purchased lot 59 in the Forest Heights Estate subdivision for 85 pounds as shown in instrument number 2096974. This land was opposite the Triangle adjacent to what in 2025 is the Acorn Bar and Restaurant. The Brigade finally had a plot of land. The CFA provided the Brigade with a trailer mounted Furphy tank with a low down pump and short length of hose.

The Basin Rural Fire Brigade

1949-1962

The Basin remained a member of the Bush Fire Brigades of Victoria until 1949 when due to approaches made by Regional Officer H. McLaren, of the newly formed Country Fire Authority, a public meeting was called at The Basin Progress Hall and The Basin Rural Fire Brigade was constituted with John Chandler Captain, Don Maguire 1st Lieut., J. Ashbury Secretary, and F. Eaves Treasurer.

Plans to build a fire station on the land purchased in 1947 were made and a timber and fibro cement sheet, open door fire station was constructed built with voluntary labour using funds raised by Brigade



The first official The Basin Rural Fire Brigade vehicle, an Austin 400 gallon small town unit c1954. The fire truck is on Forest Road looking south from near Conyers Street just in front of the second Fire Station. Howe's Greengrocer (later Forest Lodge Restaurant) behind fire truck on right. Presbyterian Church, later Scout Hall, on the corner of Church Street in background on left. On fire truck Laurie Turner, Victor Battersby. Left Harold Hardinge. Right Brian Petrie, John Gribble. Photo courtesy Elsie Greenwell

members.

In March 1953, the second The Basin Fire station was finished. It housed an Austin Small Town Unit (STU), Land Rover Short Wheel Base (SWB) and a 120 gallon trailer tank and pump.

This new building was the first "*official*" fire station. The Brigade's first electric siren was installed on an old windmill stand adjacent to the Station. Other sirens/horns were on The Basin Olinda Road and in the Ravine. Hoses were dried on the boundary fences. All fire calls were received via a direct link from Boronia Urban Fire Brigade (UFB). A siren sounded on receipt of all calls, and were often answered by Helen (Nell) Radford who operated a milk bar/ mixed business in the premises where in 2025 the Acorn Bar operates.

In 1953, Arthur Cooper became President, Charlie Ashby Secretary and V. Poole Treasurer.

In June 1954, CFA Chairman Mr. Seaton presented an Austin 400 gallon tanker to the Brigade, the first official Brigade vehicle. Don Maguire became Captain and Bill Wright 1st Lieut.

The Basin was water reticulated in 1959, and with the spread of housing, additional equipment needed. After much letter writing, a new Austin Small Town Unit was obtained proving useful.

In 1960, a serious fire prompted the Brigade to raise funds to enable the purchase an ex-Forestry short wheelbase Land Rover and equip it with a radio. This vehicle served the Brigade well for many years and acted as a forward control and scout unit, not only for the Brigade, but often in Group fires. Interestingly, it was used as a "*radio relay*" for large fires in East Gippsland. A first for CFA fire fighting! It was left to the Brigade to outfit the unit and maintain it entirely, as no CFA support was forthcoming due to their policy on second hand vehicles.

The extension of the high level water supply by The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works saw a whole new deal in firefighting techniques throughout much of The Basin. Where previously water had to be laboriously carted by tankers to the higher areas, the Brigades could plug directly into mains with a huge saving in time and efficiency. Another first in techniques was introduced about this time. Blacking out the edges of a large fire in steep and difficult terrain (Ferntree Gully National Park), had always been hazardous and inefficient. Many fires thought to be completely extinguished would break out into unburnt areas and the danger would return.

With the increase of available and diverse equipment it was possible to clear a bulldozed break down the fire flanks and run small volume hoses down from the top of the fire, fed by tankers. In this way it was possible to completely blackout the fire edges, remove burning stumps and trees. The hoses were always taken down and out of the area to a point where they could be readily collected. This method of fighting large fires was an adoption of a successful technique developed by the Dandenong Ranges Group (and in particular Upwey Brigade) to deal with large static fires with no readily available water supply and was called a "*Gunga Dhin*". A large tanker was set up next to the fire and a pumper at the nearest water supply. Smaller tankers were filled by the pumper and ran a water shuttle service until the blaze was extinguished. This also proved a valuable method of dealing with fires under difficult conditions.

The years 1960-1962 saw the Brigade increase in efficiency, although still hampered with equipment of poor standard and simply not up to the job. The H.F. radios were valve types, large and unreliable and often leftovers from Wartime disposals. Often a caller could be picked up in Fiji, but it was impossible to call another fire vehicle on the far side of a small hill.

The small town Austin Tanker, although an honest workhorse, with its 400 gallons of water, was too slow in hilly areas and was limited with its two-wheel drive configuration. It was found wanting starting cold on the hill up from the Fire Station, particularly as Forest Road was starting to become busy.

The thought of relocating the Fire Station by purchasing a block was discussed, but no positive moves were made until 1965.

1962 Bushfires

The 1961-62 fire seasons shaped up early as serious both locally and Victoria wide. A wet winter, spring was warm, and things grew well, and by December the area was dangerous. To add to the Brigade's worries there was a firebug active in the area and the police were alerted. Unless the offender was caught in the act, nothing much could be done.

Sunday 14th January 1962 dawned as a typical blowup day with northerlies already gusting strongly and temperatures heading toward the 100 degree F. mark (38 degrees C), with low humidity. The scrub and forest had dried out early under the effect of a hot dry summer.

Black Sunday

At approximately 10.40 a.m. a fire was deliberately lit about 150 yards up Wicks Road on the eastern side. The Basin Brigade members, already on alert at the Fire Station, were on the road immediately and Captain Don Maguire in his own vehicle radioed a message to Group Headquarters to send all the support possible to the area around Clevedon. Boronia and Ferntree Gully responded as did Sassafras-Ferny Creek and Olinda. The tactics were to try to stop the head of the fire and prevent it taking hold in The Ravine area, where it would, by nature of the terrain, and the fuel, be lost. The heat of the fire and the speed with which it advanced, led the attack to fail, and the units were forced to fall back to the Ravine to again try to contain the head of the blaze.

"Fire Fighter"

During the 1962 fires The Basin Hall was like Bourke St. The Red Cross was in full swing. Reporters were in action and media cameras were whirring. One local fireman was so impressed by all this, he was seen rubbing charcoal over his face before entering the hall, to ensure he didn't miss out on any attention.

Due to lack of water and some serious incidents where vehicles broke down with vapour locks and other mechanical problems, units were again forced back, and the fire raced on toward Ferny Creek along the northern slopes of the Ferntree Gully National Park.

All available local Brigades together with many from far and wide were directed to One Tree Hill Road and the Mount Dandenong Tourist Road to try to save some homes dotted around the area, while brigades initially involved at The Basin found themselves doing a similar job on the eastern flank of The Ravine.

A change of wind direction during the afternoon saw the fire take off to the northeast toward Olinda and the Mt. Dandenong Ridge Road. It was during the next hour the second of the stately homes in The Basin, "*Ferndale*", burnt to the ground, along with several other homes.

The story of Ferndale and Doongalla are told in another part of this history, but both these beautiful homes were destroyed by fire, almost 30 years to the day, apart. Doongalla, 19th January 1932 and Ferndale, 14th January 1962.

By Sunday evening the first day of the 1962 bushfire, the area burnt was substantial. Apart from most of the eastern and northeastern areas of The Basin virtually burnt out, the fire was lapping Olinda and was running north through Doongalla Forest.

In trying to secure the area above Montrose, a backburn was initiated on Glasgow Road extension using volunteers from below and above. Due to the steepness and rough nature of the area and quirks of wind patterns, this proved a costly error, with the fire jumping the track in several places. Captain Don Maguire recalled apart from all the normal problems such as terrain and several ill-equipped helpers, he was faced with several serious heat exhaustion cases. Also, three suspected snake bite cases in an area where the only evacuation was on foot to the Glasgow Road, Sheffield Road intersection.

It was well after midnight, so the plan had to be disbanded as most volunteers had been engaged for over 12 hours and were completely spent. Another physical problem was quenching their thirst from privately owned knapsacks used for spraying agricultural poisons.

Black Monday

Monday morning, 15th January saw still weary crews and ill-equipped volunteers trying desperately to secure unburnt inaccessible areas before the predicted high temperatures, brought on a further crisis. The main area of concern was the township of Olinda, where a mass of fire vehicles and private pumpers, concrete mixers etc. had been assembled. The first strategy was to deploy volunteers and equipment to hold the fire on the low side of The Basin-Olinda Road and save as many homes as possible in the operation.

A few homes were lost, as the fire was constantly spotting on the high side of the road, and this meant Olinda was soon threatened. The township itself came through unscathed, but there was a casualty with the body of an elderly man discovered during the morning. This meant if the police established the fire had been deliberately lit, they had a case of manslaughter to deal with. Acting on information received from several sources an arrest was made on Wednesday 17th January.

During Monday afternoon, under the influence of a strong southerly sea breeze, the unsecured fire which had been a source of worry the night before, flared up and headed toward Montrose. A plan organised by Captain Don Maguire was to encourage able-bodied home-owner residents to stay by their homes and together with a sprinkling of Montrose and The Basin volunteers, hold the fire on the high or eastern side and save the homes thus threatened. This plan was working smoothly with house after house saved, but was nearly brought undone by police patrols driving into the area and with loud hailers at maximum power, ordering everyone to evacuate. Some strong words were exchanged between Captain Don Maguire and the officer in charge of the police.

As the fire moved through toward Mt. Evelyn a mixture of volunteers and home-owners saved many homes. Around 5.30 pm on the Monday afternoon, a radio call came through informing Captain Don Maguire to return home as his own house and farm property, which included his Mother's home and sheds, were threatened. Captain Maguire recalled this was a surprise as the fire above Chandler's Hill was thought to be completely contained and well blacked out. However, the sight greeting Captain Maguire as he sped along Liverpool Road in his old Chevrolet Ute was one he believes to be unique in his experience of fire behaviour. The fire at the northern end near Montrose was still heading steadily northeast, whilst the fresh outbreak above Chandlers Hill in the region of Short Street, was racing south under the influence of a strong northerly. Thus, there were two fires only a few miles apart, heading in almost opposite directions.

The fire in The Basin was indeed serious and was soon completely out of control. It crowned in a most spectacular fashion, along the ridge in the Ferntree Gully National Park, above Bayview Crescent. It spawned spot fires in Captain Maguire's property and these fires ran right through to Albert Ave/Mount View Road corner. It was indeed fortunate that the usefulness of large cement mixers filled with water was fully appreciated, and these

were used to black out the edges of the fire in Mount View Road most effectively. These units were found to be effective by driving them along the lower sides of roads, with shute extended, sending a cascade of water into the scrub when these roads were used as a holding point for the fire.

Black Tuesday

Tuesday, the third day of the 1962 fires, saw problems in many of the unburnt areas, with the temperature again nearing 100 degrees (38 °C) by midmorning. It reached 100 degrees by noon, remaining until after 7pm at night. The main areas of concern were Upper and Lower Ferntree Gully on the southern side where Ferntree Gully National Park still had large areas alight. At one stage when the fire in that area was most threatening, it was thought William Angliss Hospital should be evacuated. However, a late wind change turned the fire back to the northeast. Late in the afternoon a firestorm of dramatic proportions developed in the Ferntree Gully National Park, near The Devil's Elbow, which observers described as awesome indeed.

The fire continued to cause grave concern at its northern extremity, with volunteers and Forestry crews battling to save parts of Mt. Evelyn and west of the Silvan Dam. The State Pine Forest burnt fiercely and was completely wiped out and toward evening was burning east of Olinda and Sassafras and on towards Kallista. It seemed unstoppable, and The Basins' unit was sent to Kallista late evening to assist in defending the town. About 11.30 pm the first few drops of rain were felt and about 1½ hours later it was raining steadily, and the 4-day ordeal was over. The cost in housing will never be accurately known, but homes were lost in every part of the blackened Dandenongs, and hardly a section of the mighty mountain range escaped, Sherbrooke Forest being a remarkable exception.

Aftermath

Criticism was levelled at the fire services, volunteer and professional, but the Chief Secretary, Sir Arthur Rylah, roundly supported the efforts of all those who had fought so hard in such extenuating circumstances. There were plenty of lessons to be learned from this fire:

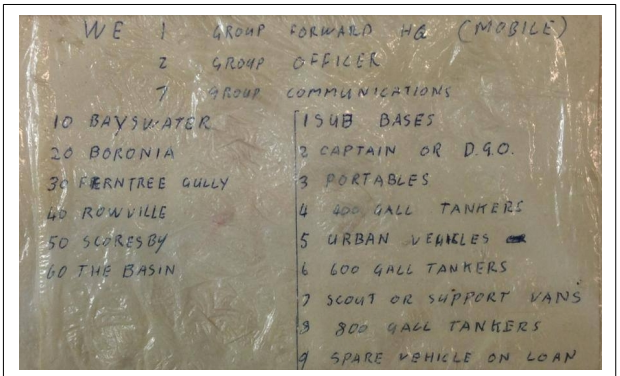
- Using untrained personnel, no matter how well-meant, was a bad move. Many were undisciplined, and inclined to head off and do their own thing, so the Officers in charge had extra problems on their hands.
- Each person who volunteered to help, had to be registered, and approved, in case of accident and injury. This proved time-consuming, for already overworked key personnel.
- Many who turned up to help were dressed in shorts and thongs or similar, and could not be put in any area of real danger.
- There was no useful equipment available to set them up to give real help. On the plus side, large concrete mixers, which ferried enormous amounts of water to all points of The Dandenongs, were also put into active firefighting using their shutes to black out roadsides.

Overall, the Brigade equipment of CFA and Brigade owned units showed many inadequacies over 3 days of continuous work. Engines boiled, and vapour locks were frequent, putting vehicles in great danger. Incredibly, only minor accidents were reported. Pumps also gave their fair share of trouble, especially when using water from some static filling points. The radio network previously mentioned proved totally inadequate, with prolonged breakdowns, and at the end of the fire, the system was in tatters.

The 1962 fire generated enormous interest in Melbourne through radio and television coverage. It was anticipated (correctly) the following Saturday and Sunday would see the roads into the hills from the city cluttered with sightseers.

The Brigades of The Dandenong Ranges Group set up collection points at strategic spots and over the weekend collected the princely sum of 2001 pounds. The Lord Mayor of Melbourne had already started a fund to aid those who had lost so much over the State, and demanded the collection be added to his appeal forthwith. However, The Group withstood this pressure. Very High Frequency (V.H.F.) radio was just emerging as a viable alternative in radio technology. The Group could equip a base station in Upwey and a repeater station on Channel 9's Mt. Dandenong tower, to cover bad areas of reception, as well as enough mobile sets to outfit most of the tankers in The Group. As far as The Brigade was concerned, it seemed some good had come out of a ghastly few days.

On the Friday after the fire, all the Brigade Captains, Group Officers and key personnel were invited to attend a debriefing in the old Upwey Progress Hall. It was attended by The Chief Officer, Mr Alex Larkins, as well as local Victorian M.P. The Hon. Bill Borthwick, known affectionately as "*Bushfire Bill*" because of his support



Old call signs
Courtesy Ray Cotter

of local volunteer brigades.

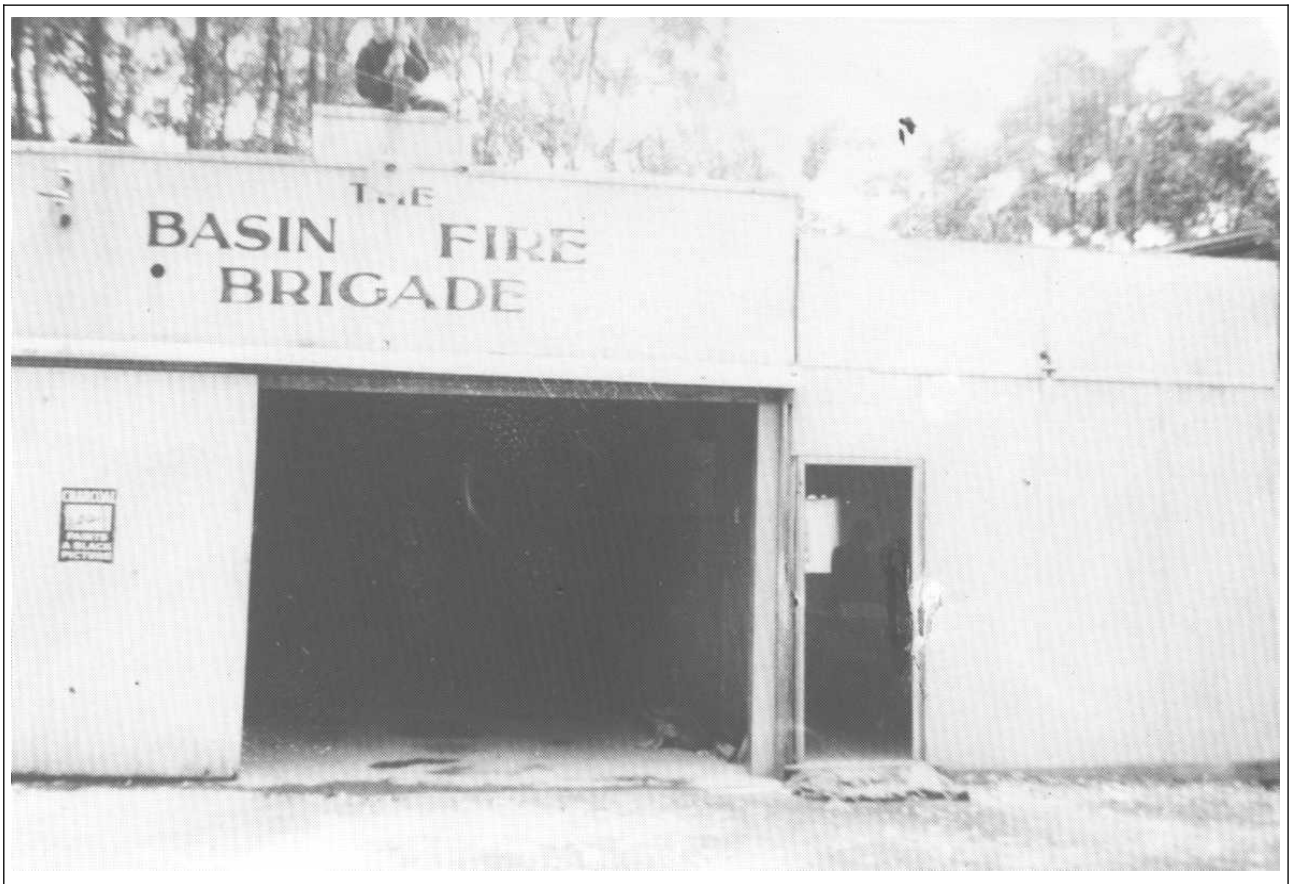
The meeting started in a friendly enough fashion until a general plea to the Chief Officer for better (and more) equipment from most of the brigade's present. Bill Borthwick had to excuse himself to attend another meeting. Instead of answering the questions and requests directly, The Chief Officer unfurled a map covering The Dandenongs and made this extraordinary statement. Pointing to The Basin, he claimed if the brigade Captain had assessed the danger of the situation more seriously, this huge blackened area would not have happened. Captain Don Maguire defended himself strongly but was disappointed not one of those present gave him any moral support. This was interesting, as although CFA units were predominant during this fire under the old "*Marginal Mile*", in force in Forestry areas, 9/10ths of the area burnt had come under the area controlled by Forestry, and yet they had emerged scot-free as far as criticism was concerned.

Captain Maguire, although deeply hurt by the Chief Officers comments (to the extent he almost gave the fire service away), decided the service was bigger than individuals and stuck with it for another twelve years.

After the 1962 fires, water tanks were erected in the National Park at the junction of Macedon and Belview Tracks, and strategically placed hydrants located in the forest. These were instigated by Captain Ray Parker from the Ferntree Gully brigade.

Soon after the 1962 fires, a public meeting was held in a Church Hall in Bayswater to press for a brigade to be formed there. Then, Bayswater acted as an outstation with Boronia. The need for a Bayswater Brigade was indeed a pressing issue, with a tremendous buildup of both residential and factory areas. Although well attended and lots of promises were made, it would be another 7 years before Bayswater was given the green light to form its own Urban Brigade. It was a natural transition with the timing just right, for Bayswater to join and become a strong member of The Knox Group. The only other brigades to join the group were Montrose, Boronia, Ferntree Gully, Scoresby, Rowville and The Basin. Upper Ferntree Gully from the Dandenong Ranges Group, joined some years later after the changes to the original Dandenong Ranges Group.

The Brigade has always been active in other areas including searches for young and old. The Brigade provided considerable help with fighting at fires at Strath Creek in 1963 and fielded a strong team to the Gippsland



The Basin Rural Fire Brigade second building built in 1953 by voluntary labour on Forest Road opposite the Triangle. Doug Greenwell fixing flagpole on top of building.
Photo courtesy Elsie Greenwell.

fires in 1965. The Land Rover was stationed on "*Mt Tassy*" and used as a communication vehicle and the old Austin tanker was crewed and sent to Bruthen and finished up at Gelantipy where rain finally extinguished what had been a huge fire. The CFA Officer in charge of this fire was Deputy Chief Officer Arthur Pitfield.

Soon after this, Chief Officer Larkins resigned due to ill health and Arthur Pitfield took over CFA leadership.

In 1965 Captain Don Maguire was invited to join the Committee of Management of Ferntree Gully National Park, becoming its Chairman the following year. The Park, bordered as it was by housing, had always been a worry to the neighbouring fire brigades and Don found himself walking a tightrope between fire protection and conservation. Hard work was put into building concrete tanks at strategic ridge positions, which served well until the high level Melbourne & Metropolitan Board of Works (M.M.B.W.) scheme started.

In 1967, a new brick Brigade station was built on the Triangle opposite the site of the second fire station. The station was financed by fundraising and local contributions, and built using volunteer labour.

Senior members of the brigade approached the Brigade's bankers, the ES and A Bank in Boronia and offered their signatures and houses up as security on a loan to build the new fire station. These members were Don Maguire, Arthur Cooper, Roy Ritchie and Max White. After the loan was obtained, the brigade held a White Elephant auction on the Boronia Football Club running track. The event was advertised on radio, TV and in newspapers. The auction was headed by Kevin Gale, also a member of the brigade. Around $5000 was raised, enough to cover the loan.

Once construction of the new fire station began, all members were given certain jobs dictated by their skills or just labour. All of the work was done on a voluntary basis including brickwork, roofing, plumbing and electrical. The station was designed to be a drive through station, but was never used that way due to the height of the rear roller door being too low for the appliances. There were dual showers and toilets situated in a rear brick building. The station housed 3 appliances side by side, and was able to accommodate the Austin STU, Bedford SDU, Land Rover and trailer tank. The layout of the fire station was simple and functional.

CFA Chairman R. Eason opened the new building as part of The Basin Centenary celebrations.

1968-1983

1968 Bushfires

In the summer of 1968, drought hit the Dandenongs. On February 19th, a hot gusty day, a fire starting in The Basin spread through Ferntree Gully National Park, to Upper Ferntree Gully and Upwey, destroying 65 homes and the Upwey Progress Hall.

On March 18th, another fire was lit near Ferndale Road and threatened Sassafras and Ferny Creek. The lives of several firemen were at risk and Fire Brigade vehicles were damaged and destroyed. The CFA allocated an 800 gallon Bedford tanker (State spare) to the Brigade to give extra strength. As a State Emergency vehicle, it was often crewed by volunteers from The Basin and sent to fires around the State over the next few years.

After 1968 fires, the Chief Secretary, Sir Arthur Rylah directed the Parks Service, Forestry, Communications management, and brigades bordering the Ferntree Gully National Park to come up with a fire protection and prevention plan incorporating the entire Ferntree Gully National Park. This included fire buffer zones, upgrading, and new fire access tracks. Many meetings were held and finally "*The Ferntree Gully National Park Fire Protection & Prevention Plan*" was adopted in 1968.

This plan was upgraded slightly in 1969 and remains in place as the basic strategy, should fires start within the Ferntree Gully National Park or around its perimeter. The buying back of private land unfortunately subdivided in the 1950s had almost ceased due to lack of funds, but progress was made in a buyback scheme, particularly on the northern boundary in the old New Mystic Lake Estate. This became part of the Ferntree Gully National Park's fire buffer zone where a thinning programme of Eucalypts was carried out in the late 1960s. These areas are given cool burns when this is considered necessary. New tracks were created in the Ferntree Gully National Park, water storage tanks installed, and communication systems upgraded.

Don Maguire remained Chairman of Ferntree Gully National Park Committee of Management until restructuring of the National Parks Service saw the committee relegated to advisory status. After three years the Advisory Committee disbanded as it seemed to be serving no useful purpose.

The 1968 fires prompted considerable discussion in local papers about The Basin as the source of fires. An article reproduced on page 198 and a cartoon reproduced on page 200 indicate the feelings of some residents of the Dandenongs.

The years of 1968 to 1971 were torrid years for The Brigade. These were the years of arson, local suspicion, great tension and pressures, Police investigations and Court appearances which finally lead to disenchantment with the Country Fire Authority.

When a senior member of the Brigade was charged for lighting fires, most members believed the officer was innocent. Things got so bad members threatened to resign en masse as the CFA refused any support, morally or legally. Later, other members of the brigade were charged and convicted of lighting house fires, a church

fire, scout hall, bulldozer, a very large fire at The Basin Primary School, a fire at Clevedon Camp and several scrub fires over a very long period of time. For many years, members were greeted with comments like "*The Basin Fire Brigade, that's where all the fire bug firefighters come from*". Arthur Cooper, as President and Don Maguire as Captain, steered The Brigade through this torrid period.

The years of 1972 and 1973 saw many prominent buildings in The Basin destroyed by fire, some under suspicious circumstances. The Scout Hall, Clevedon, Seventh Day Adventist Youth Camp, Salvation Army Special School and several houses were lost.

In 1977, the Fire Station built in 1967 was replaced by a new urban station opened by Brigadier R. Eason, CFA Chairman. The new station was financed by the CFA after the foundations of the previous station were undermined by "*yabbies*". The building was condemned and demolished. Whilst the new station was being built, a temporary fire station was erected across the road on the old site of the second fire station. On a tragic note, a worker was killed during the construction of the new station.

Late in 1977, Captain Don Maguire stood down, after 22 years of service, to take up the job of Knox Group Officer. Allan Small was elected new Captain. Don Maguire was awarded a B.E.M. for services to the community, particularly the Victorian Fire Service.

In 1979, a hose drying tower and siren platform was supplied by the CFA. The Brigade raised $20,000 for a new Ford 350 chassis and cab and built up a high performance pumper unit to serve the needs of the rapidly growing community.

A bushfire in March 1980 burnt out a large area of the Doongalla forest area. This fire burnt for three days and stretched the resources of the Brigade to its limit.

In 1980, the Brigade purchased two sets of breathing apparatus, followed by two additional sets and four spare cylinders. A grant from Knox Council in 1981, enabled the Brigade, as part of the Knox Fire Brigades Group, to introduce personal pagers to "*turnout*", thus eliminating much of the siren use.

In 1983, a Mazda Diesel Twin Cab was purchased at an initial cost of $20,000, with a further $10,000 spent on outfitting it. It served as transport for up to 7 firefighters and carried a generator, elevated lighting towers, smoke extractors, cutting gear, chain saw and other equipment.

1983 saw Victoria's worst bushfires in modern times known as "A*sh Wednesday*". In fires across the state, forty-seven people died, including thirteen volunteer firefighters. Over 2,000 homes destroyed. Entire towns were virtually wiped out. The Basin 800 gallon tanker rushed from fire to fire until its drive shaft disintegrated.

The Basin Urban Fire Brigade

1983-1996

The granting of Urban status to The Basin Fire Brigade in 1983 was indeed welcome (after years of trying). The Brigade became a D Class Unit, with 20 uniformed ("*Dress Uniforms*" commenced with the granting of Urban status) members in reserve and full membership of around 45. In the same year, Roy Ritchie decided to stand down as Secretary, after 19 years of dedicated service.

In 1992, The Brigade owned 2 vehicles of its own, and 2 CFA owned vehicles. The Brigade owned vehicles were a Mazda Salvage van and a Ford Pumper with two sets of breathing apparatus and spares. An Annex was built on the north side of the Fire Station to house the Mazda Van. The CFA owned vehicles were a Hino Diesel Tanker (Tanker 1) capable of carrying 3,000 Litres of water and also carrying two sets of breathing apparatus, and an International petrol Tanker (Tanker 2) capable of carrying 3,000 Litres of water.

In 1993, five Brigade members received The National Medal for Long Service in the Volunteer Brigade. These were: Ray Cotter, Colin Hart, Kevin Hand, John Gribble and Captain Allan Small.

February 1994 saw severe bushfires erupt in NSW. A contingent of CFA members and vehicles travelled to NSW to help with fighting the fires. The Basin Brigade

READERS' LETTERS

KNOX SHIRE AND MOUNTAIN DISTRICT FREE PRESS.
Wed., March 13, 1968, Vol. 25 No. 1142

Urges drastic act against The Basin

Sir, — Once more a madly racing fire has devastated the Dandenongs. Once more dozens of homes were burnt to the ground and human lives endangered, and some even lost. Once more the beautiful Ferntree Gully National Park was burnt — this time completely — just as it had recovered somehow after the 1962 fire.

Once more innumerable native animals and birds lost their lives in the fiery inferno. Sugar gliders, koalas, black wallabies, possums, wombats, and a great variety of native birds, found their grave in the hot ash.

It is feared that this time the lyrebirds, which managed in 1962 to dodge the fire by taking refuge in the deep moist gully running from One Tree Hill to the kiosk, found their way of escape blocked by flames. None of them had time to escape beyond the Park area—the fire was too swift to be overtaken. Only three were known to have been saved by a bird lover.

The magnificent, extremely well-coordinated work of C.F.A., fire brigades and Forests Commission achieved this time something short of a miracle. Despite strong winds the fire was contained within a limited perimeter and finally extinguished — purely by human effort, as there was no rain to help as in 1962.

The following hellish night with hot northerlies proved how well the job was done. Yet this experience proved, too, that once the fire starts its race from The Basin towards the One Tree Hill "switchboard" it cannot be stopped until it traverses and burns through inaccessible areas and comes closer to the roads, where it could be dealt with.

One glance at the map is sufficient to realise that the settlement of The Basin is actually a fuse leading to the powder barrel of the Dandenongs. Once the fuse is lit the path of the fire is easily predicted. It goes up to One Tree Hill, plunges down into the Ferntree Gully National Park, and sends its lashing tongues everywhere, towards Sassafras, Ferny Creek, Upper Ferntree Gully, Upwey and further, its main direction depending upon the prevailing wind.

Now, if there is a fuse leading to a powder barrel and you want to prevent the explosion, what would you do? You would pull out the fuse. And that is exactly what should be done with the settlement at The Basin. It should be liquidated completely and for good.

It is not a question of a punishment or vengeance. The simple fact is that there is a settlement at a spot on the map where it should have never been. Unless it is bulldozed down to the last shed, the lovely Dandenongs and all their population will remain in mortal danger every summer.

There is nothing unusually drastic in such a plan. Villages bigger than The Basin had in the past to give way to water storages. In a few years East Warburton may share the same fate. But one thing is clear now — we cannot have both the Dandenongs and The Basin. The choice is easy to make. The Dandenongs are Victoria's best tourist attraction; they are Melbourne's lungs and playground; moreover, they are a populated area, and that population rightly expects the Government to protect them from disaster.

Technically, there is nothing particularly difficult. The private land at The Basin could be taken away from owners by any Government department possessing the right of acquisition, and the settlers either compensated in cash or given the option of being resettled by the Government elsewhere. The settlement at The Basin should be bulldozed, all inflammable rubble removed and burnt, and a two mile wide firebreak should be established at the foot of the hills and kept free of vegetation by ploughing and hormone - spraying. Only when this job is completed, the residents of the Dandenongs could consider themselves safe.

Some people may argue that less drastic measures could probably be sufficient — such as all-the-year around ban on the use of incinerators and obligatory disposal of rubbish by burying it.

Some may say that the whole settlement should not be destroyed.

But such arguments won't hold water. We all know that this summer numerous people used their incinerators on the days of total fire ban—all over Melbourne and suburbs.

The accusing finger of the history of the fires in the Dandenongs points firmly at The Basin as the source of the most catastrophic disasters. There is only one radical way to protect our lovely hills — that wasps' nest called The Basin should be eradicated from the map and from the ground. Nothing less will do. — "NATURE LOVER" (Upper Ferntree Gully).

The 1968 fires in The Dandenongs prompted considerable discussion in local papers about The Basin as the source of the fires.
Article courtesy Knox News

was represented by Graeme Linaker, an experienced member of The Brigade. On returning from NSW, all contingent members were showered with accolades for their services.

1997 Bushfires

The 21st January 1997 was a hot summer's day with a strong northerly wind blowing. Around 12.00 noon, several fires erupted in the Montrose area. A short time later, fires erupted in Tobruk Avenue, The Basin and at 2 other places around towards Ferntree Gully. The Montrose fires were extinguished in the early afternoon, but the Tobruk Avenue fire raced up the hill at an intense speed towards Ferny Creek and destroyed several houses. Three residents sheltering in a home were killed when the home was destroyed. The other 2 fires merged in the Ferntree Gully National Park and headed towards Upwey.

Enormous resources were thrown into battling these fires including water bomber planes borrowed from SA, helicopters and vehicles from around the State. In the Alamein Avenue and Tobruk Avenue areas, bulldozers were called in to build fire breaks to prevent the fires spreading to the west. By late afternoon, the fires were still threatening areas around Upwey, but were no immediate threat to The Basin. The situation changed dramatically around 6.00 pm when the wind changed to a strong southwesterly. This blew smoke back towards The Basin and rekindled many small fires in The Basin area. Around 7.00 pm the fire jumped Mountain Highway near Alamein Avenue and threatened houses in The Ravine. This fire was quickly extinguished, but smoke in The Basin area was thick and acrid. This prompted many residents to pack up and leave.

Late evening saw the hillside above Tobruk Avenue glowing from the fires. At least 10 tankers were stationed along the top end of Government Road to prevent the fire sweeping up over Government Road and into The Basin. The fires were eventually contained within the National Park and by midnight the risk to The Basin was minimal.

NO. 1139

COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY ACT, 1958

Certificate of Registration

This is to Certify that the THE BASIN

Fire Brigade was registered by the Authority on the 8th OF AUGUST 1983

as AN URBAN Fire Brigade Class D in the

THIRTEENTH Fire Control Region

On behalf of the Authority,

Chairman

ACTING Secretary

Dated at Melbourne the TWENTY-THIRD day of AUGUST 1983.

NOTE:—This Certificate is the property of the Country Fire Authority, and must be returned to the Authority within seven days from the date (if any) upon which the registration of the brigade is cancelled, upon which the brigade is disbanded or amalgamated with any other brigade, or otherwise ceases to exist, or upon which the brigade is re-classified.

Three people died, and forty-one homes were destroyed along with a CFA truck. Police investigations in the months after the fires revealed the fires were deliberately lit. However, by the end of 1997 the Police were no closer to finding the culprits and had conceded there was little chance of any arrests.

Knox and Dandenong Ranges brigades received considerable help from strike teams elsewhere in the state. Fully crewed teams from as far afield as Camperdown and Warrnambool were on the road for as much as five hours before they got anywhere near the flames.

Other heroes of the fires included the Ladies Auxiliary who worked throughout the day and night preparing food and drink for the fire crews. Each time a unit called in it was restocked with sandwiches, fresh fruit and cold drinks.

The generosity of local organisations and individuals was overwhelming. GlaxoWellcome donated 2,000 cans of soft drink, 100 loaves of bread, 85 crates of orange juice and milk, 30 kilos of ham, 35 packets of cheese and huge amounts of fresh fruit.

The Basin Bakery donated foodstuffs, locals dropped in with cheques, and two nuns walked in off the street to volunteer their services. A local woman came by at 10 o'clock one night with a huge plate of freshly baked scones and a truckie donated an esky full of cold cans.

Fires erupted in Sydney in 1997 and The Basin tanker answered the call with both night and day shift crews.

Late in 1997, The Basin Fire Brigade celebrated 70 years of establishment. At a special annual dinner, several significant awards were made. Long Service awards were presented to Ray Cotter (35 years), Allan Small (30 years), John Gribble (30 years), Alan Dixon (25 years), Steve Smith (25 years), Terry Maro (20 Years) and Glenda Gribble (30 years). The DP Maguire Award, founded by former captain Don Maguire, given for community service, was awarded to Matthew Ahern. The Firefighter of the Year Award was presented to Simon Chapman. The Captain's Award was presented to Ron Tyler. The Dunkan Award, a nicely polished wooden seating device rescued from a building fire was presented to Martin Jennings.

1998-2007

Fires in Sydney over the 2001-2002 summer saw major strike teams deployed from Victoria including The Basin tanker 2 and crews.

Helping Hand for Victims

Joanne Lane, of The Basin, wanted to help the victims of the devastating 2009 Black Saturday fires. On the Monday after the fires she organised a collection and sorting depot at the garage in The Basin. She soon had an overwhelming public response and many truck loads of relief goods were transported to centres close to the fires.

For 71 days in 2003 the northeast of Victoria and Gippsland were on fire destroying forty-one homes, three bridges, over 10,000 livestock and 1.2 million hectares of land. The Basin tanker 2 and rotating crews were in the action from start to finish.

In the 2004 Queen's Birthday Awards, Allan Small was honoured with the Australian Fire Services Medal (AFSM). Allan had thirty-five years experience as a volunteer firefighter including two decades as captain of The Basin Fire Brigade and later as President. He was also Group Officer with the Knox Group of CFA Brigades.

The summer of 2006/2007 saw devastating fires in Victoria's high country. Strike teams from The Basin with tanker 2 and the pumper were away almost continuously.

2008-2013

In February 2009, disastrous bushfires hit Victoria. Over 400 individual fires were recorded on Saturday 7th February, which became know as "*Black Saturday*". Teams from The Basin actively participated in fighting these fires.

In 2009, the Brigade decided to deregister The Basin Rural Fire Brigade. After the Victorian Rural Fire Brigades Association and the Victorian Urban Fire Brigades Association combined to form Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria, The Basin Rural Fire Brigade was no longer relevant.

On Sunday 16th October 2011, members of The Basin Fire Brigade gathered with members of the family of the late Colin Hart to unveil a memorial plaque. The plaque is mounted on a rock in the Triangle about 20 m behind the Elderly Citizens Club Building. A flowering gum was planted beside the plaque in his memory. The plaque reads:

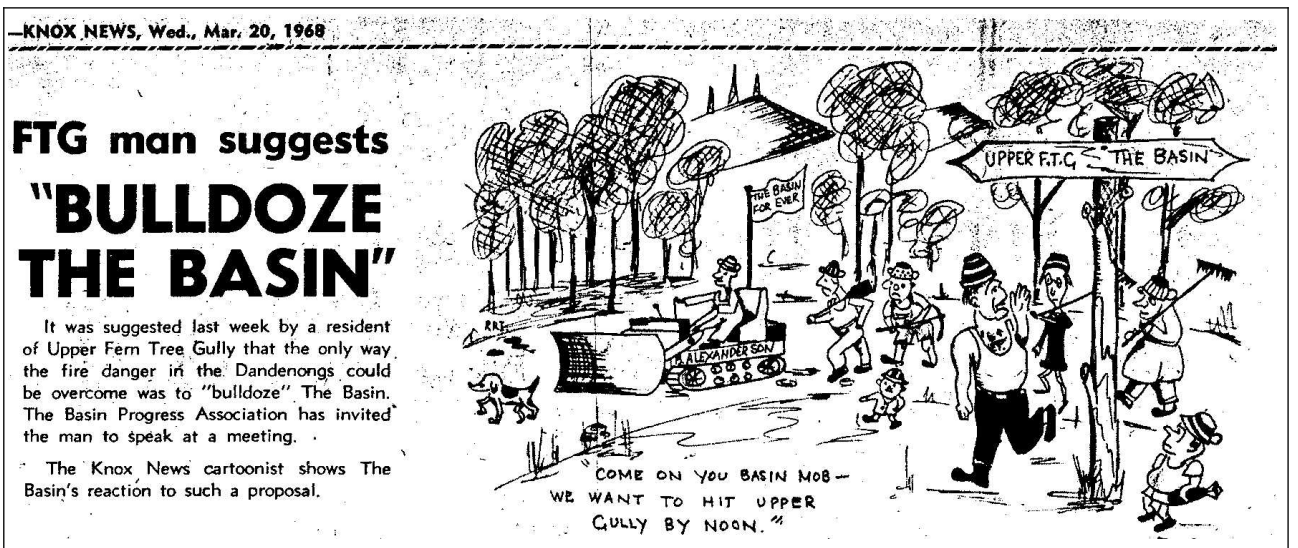
THE BASIN FIRE BRIGADE
IN MEMORY OF
COLIN WILLIAM HART
15.7.1916 – 28.8.2010
LIFE MEMBER
SERVED THE COMMUNITY 1970 – 2010

Colin William Hart was in born 1916 and died 28th August 2010. He served with the Fire Brigade for forty years, filling many roles. He is best remembered for the key role he played in the introduction of the Wajax fire hose couplings into the CFA. To an outsider this may seem a small thing, but for any firefighter who has chased fires through the forests and hills, the quick release coupling is a lifesaver.

In March 2013, Terry Maro and Vicki Linaker received certificates in appreciation of over 20 years service to the Victorian Urban Fire Brigades Association and Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria. Terry Maro received the National Emergency Medal for service during the 2009 bushfires.

2014-2025

The Brigade devised and developed what was known as a Field (or Forward) Control Vehicle (FCV) module. The unit was designed to transport crew to incidents and



The 1968 fires in The Dandenongs prompted considerable discussion in local papers about The Basin as the source of the fires. Cartoon courtesy Knox News

training and could act as a Strike Team Leader's vehicle. The FCV carried several radios, medical kits and tool bags.

The items making up the FCV are contained in a large multipurpose module sliding onto the tray of a vehicle. Vehicles can be upgraded and the existing module slides onto the tray of the new vehicle.

Interest in the FCV concept was received from around Australia and several Brigades copied the idea, as did the CFA. In 2025, FCV's are standard statewide.

Proposals to build a new fire station or upgrade the station built in 1977 began surfacing in the 2010s. The existing station had served for over 40 years but had many deficiencies that had built up over the years. One proposal was to demolish the adjacent Elderly Citizens Hall and extend the existing station. In 2021, an area for a *"Fire Authority Reserve*" of about 0.6 Hectares appeared on public maps. It was located about 100 m from The Basin roundabout on The Basin-Olinda Road on Salvation Army land.

Fire Brigade Groups

The Dandenong Ranges Fire Brigades Group was formed in 1949 and The Basin Fire Brigade was an active member of the group until 1965 when the Knox Group was formed.

After the 1962 fires, officers in the Brigades in the lower areas, Boronia, The Basin, Lower Ferntree Gully, Lysterfield, Rowville and Montrose, met to decide their future and a deputation met with Chief Officer Larkins to ask these brigades be allowed to form a new group. This was met with a firm refusal because such a group would not be strong enough.

After the Brigades of the lower area's involvement in the Strath Creek fires in 1963, several officers put to the Deputy Chief Officer Arthur Pitfield, who was in charge of these fires, the advantages a breakaway group. Again, this was met with refusal.

In 1965, the Brigades of the lower areas again applied to secede from the Dandenong Ranges Group and form their own Group and their application was upheld. This coincided with the breakaway of Knox from Ferntree Gully Shire and the suggestion was accepted the group be called The Knox Group of Fire Brigades. This move was not accomplished without much opposition, particularly from members of The Dandenong Ranges Group who felt it would weaken the overall strength of the group.

The Basin Fire Brigade's involvement with the Knox Group has been extensive, with members filling several key roles in administration, as well as operationally, with a Group Officer, Deputy Group Officers, Group Communications Officers and others.

Santa's Drink

The annual Brigade Santa trips are an institution in The Basin with some residents offering refreshments to Santa. One time Santa drank what he thought was ginger ale but instead was whisky with dire consequences.

Ladies Auxiliary

The Basin Fire Brigade Ladies Auxiliary was formed in 1955, with Mrs Betty Turner as first President. They worked tirelessly to raise funds for several projects. One of the first major efforts was the raising of funds to build a meeting room for the second The Basin Fire Station. This was finished in August 1957 on the north side of the vehicle bay, which greatly improved facilities.

The Ladies Auxiliary has given the Brigade unwavering support. They have always been on hand to feed the volunteers at the firefront and when they return after operations. They have also raised funds to support and equip the active Junior Fire Brigade.

For many years at Christmastime, the Ladies Auxiliary organised a raffle for a Christmas stocking. Local shopkeepers provided enormous support for the raffle, which has raised much-needed funds.

Christmas Eve Santa Runs

The Christmas Eve "*Santa Runs*" starting in the 1960s have grown to an almost embarrassing stage, as has the supplying of Santa's and vehicles for Christmas parties.

On Christmas Eve, Fire Brigade tinsel covered fire trucks circulate through The Basin with Santa stationed on the back. The routes are carefully planned so two Santa's are not seen in the same street together. The trucks have an onboard sound system playing Christmas carols as Santa waves and distributes lollies to children and adults. Some people set up tables on the footpath with cheese and biscuits and wait for the truck. Santa is sometimes lucky and receives food and gifts in return. The trucks are forbidden to use the onboard sirens, but occasionally they are "*accidentally*" set off.

Plans are set up for the eventuality of an incident requiring a callout during the Santa run. Trucks have been diverted from the Santa run a few times in the past to attend incidents. Santa even attended a fire once.

These trips started when The Brigade only had one vehicle but these days all vehicles are utilised along with other trucks borrowed from other brigades. The first Santa trips only visited Brigade family members with a comic as a gift.

The Basin Fire Brigade considers the Santa trips a significant community service and continues and enhances the service every year. It is an institution and creates a close affinity between residents and the Brigade.

Les Trotter holds the record of being Santa for 25 years.

Santa's Letter Box

In 1992, The Basin Fire Brigade introduced a Santa's

letter box located outside The Basin Post Office every Christmas. The box was made and donated by the staff of The Basin Post Office.

The Basin Fire Brigade help answer all children's Christmas letters and the letter box is an established tradition, particularly for the kindergarten and primary school children who eagerly await participation in this activity every year.

Fire Alert Systems

Until 1932, the Brigade had no formal alarm system. A "*cooee*" was a popular method of raising alarm, but this was limited. For the few residents who had cars or telephones, these were used. Horses and bicycles were also used. Any visible signs of smoke always provoked investigation if it was caused by an uncontrolled fire.

In 1932, as a token of his appreciation of the Brigade efforts in attempting to save Doongalla, T. M. Burke donated a large bell, mounted on a pole above the shed on the side of The Basin Progress Hall. This was the first formal alarm the Brigade utilised. The first person in attendance rang the bell by pulling a wire to summon crews to attend any fire. Jack Manders, who lived near Toorak Avenue, also had a bell mounted over his gate.

At that time, the telephone system consisted of a manual exchange in a tiny room at Bayswater with only a small number of residents connected to the system. It was operated by one dedicated lady, Miss Baker, who lived on the premises and was always available to pass on messages, particularly when a crisis arose.

In 1953, when the second The Basin Fire Station was finished, the Brigade's first electric sirens were installed on a windmill stand adjacent the building. The bell donated in 1932 by T. M. Burke was moved from The Basin Progress Hall to the windmill. For a time, warning horns were installed on Wright's and Langdon's stores for local warnings. Residents in the Ravine could not hear the siren, so when the siren at the fire station sounded, the store owners sounded the horn. The horn at Langdon's store was installed by Mr Kable, a resident of the Ravine.

In 1967, when the second fire station was finished, the electric siren was moved to the tower built with the station.

In 1979, a hose drying tower and siren platform was erected at the rear of the new station erected in 1976. The bell donated by T. M. Burke was no longer needed and was mounted in a stand and given pride of place in the station meeting room.

The siren was the primary warning device for brigade members to attend the fire station. Certain members of the Brigade also had "*Fire Reporting Systems*" (FRS) installed. This entailed a modification at the local exchange whereby when a certain number was called, the call was also automatically redirected to certain Brigade members landlines.

Fire sirens have always been tested weekly and residents were used to regularly hearing the siren at the fixed testing times. Until April 1975, the siren was tested at 8.00 p.m. every Tuesday. After complaints from residents with young children, the testing time was changed to 10.00 a.m. on Sundays. This time conflicted with the St. Mary's bells rung at the same time, and the time was changed to 9.50 a.m. on Sunday.

The original siren was to alert Brigade members, as well as the community, to incidents. Developments in Brigade communication meant the siren was no longer needed. The introduction of pagers in the 1980s started the move of directly contacting Brigade members. Some residents also complained the noise of the siren was a nuisance. In the 1990s, siren use stopped.

After the disastrous fires in Feb 2009, using sirens to alert communities, in particular localities, was recommended by the Royal Commission into the bushfires. Consequently, in 2013, The Basin Fire Brigade siren was reintroduced. The siren may sound for up to 90 seconds to indicate the Brigade has responded to an emergency incident nearby. A prolonged, five minute signal indicates an emergency has been identified in the local area and people should seek further information. Also, the siren is tested every Sunday morning at 10.00 a.m.

Mobile phones, the internet and social media have dramatically changed the way people get information about incidents affecting them. Cheap and sophisticated scanners monitoring CFA radio frequencies can also be used.

The introduction of smartphones has changed the way fires are managed. Applications such as BART (Broadcast Alert Respond Turnout) allow participants to respond faster, communicate better and work smarter.

In 2021, following a review and tender process, the CFA began replacing hand held and vehicle mounted radios with digital technology. Digital portable and mobile radios are designed to filter out much of the background noise from helicopters, trucks, sirens, hoses and machinery for greater audio clarity. Location Data combined with high quality voice for accurate situation reporting, means resources can be co-ordinated more effectively.

The Basin Fire Brigade's main response area covers

The "*Shaft*" Award

Instigated in 1983 to note events in the brigades driving history where mechanical failures, minor bumps etc were the source of laughter and banter.

It commenced on Ash Wednesday 1983, when the front drive shaft of the Bedford S model fire truck sheared off on the way to a large fire in Cardinia.

A brigade member mounted the broken shaft, and every year an award was made.

The Shaft Award ceased existence when it was felt by people with a lesser sense of humour that it "*promoted and awarded bad driving*".

some 16.18 square Km. This area extends from Canterbury Road area in the north, to the Chandler Track area in the south. To the west to Mount View Road, and to the east the Channel 10 Track area. The Brigade also supports neighbouring brigades in response to calls.

Carols by Candlelight

After the disastrous fires in 1983, the Brigade made a determined effort, as a voluntary group and a necessary part of the community, to involve other people in a community activity, with the side agenda of generating fire awareness.

So began in 1984 the first "*Carols by Candlelight*" at The Basin Triangle with the help of the Salvation Army, local schools and other local groups. It was so successful it has become an annual local event. Local Federal member, Steve Crabb, who lived in The Basin at the time, conducted the first Carols by Candlelight and continued for many years.

Programmes and candles can be obtained for a small donation. At the end of the celebrations Father Christmas arrives, bringing a gift for each child.

Upgrades to The Triangle, including a pavilion, public toilets and new entrance to The Basin Progress Hall, have enhanced the experience.

In 1987, rain forced celebrations into The Basin Progress Hall. In 2023, the event was cancelled in advance due to predicted persistent rain.

Good Friday Appeal

As part of the Knox Group, The Brigade helps yearly with the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday appeal.

Fire Equipment Maintenance

Fire Equipment Maintenance (FEM) involves servicing firefighting, fire prevention and safety equipment predominantly located in business locations.

The Basin Fire Brigade originally provided the service to areas of The Basin and surrounding suburbs. It was conducted by brigade volunteers in an unpaid capacity. The service commenced in the 1950s and in 2025 still operates, but is conducted by private organisations. They collect a fee for service from the business, and a percentage is paid to The Basin Fire Brigade.

All money raised from FEM is used to help in running the brigade and purchasing replacement equipment.

FEM includes all types of fire extinguishers, (water type, foam type, dry chemical, carbon dioxide CO2 and wet chemical) fire blankets, fire hose reels, hydrants and lay flat hose.

All servicing is performed in line with CFA Guidelines, and to relevant Australian Standards.

Roadside Hydrants

The Brigade is permitted to use roadside hydrants provided by the water authority. It is important that hydrant locations are marked for fire fighting purposes. Two types of hydrants are in use.

- The familiar above ground type is usually a square metal with a red top. These are marked on sealed roads by a visible blue block stuck on the road.
- The other is an inground hydrant, commonly called a fire plug with a small rectangular metal or large round plastic top. These are marked by a visible post beside the road.

Junior Fire Brigade

Cr. Guy Turner encouraged the formation of a junior fireman's club in 1959, by donating a trophy for "*keenest junior*". The concept was to give aspiring firefighters a place to train and prepare them for moving up into the senior ranks. Training is carefully overseen by officers and firefighters from the senior brigade. Though the Juniors do not attend fires, the training given familiarises them with experience and knowledge of the running of a Brigade, equipment use, and carries this knowledge into the senior ranks. The club continued for many years until interest waned.

The club restarted shortly after the 1983 fires when there was a surge of interest in Fire Brigades. With modern naming conventions, the club was renamed the Junior Fire Brigade. A running team was formed later that year.

Each year, the team competes in several competitions including the State Championships, where in 1992, a second place was gained in an event for two competitors.

Although Juniors have fun, they also learn serious and valuable skills benefiting them throughout their lives, no matter what career and/or volunteer paths they may later choose. Many Juniors go on to join The Basin Fire Brigade as full volunteer firefighters when they reach 17.

Community Involvement

As well as managing bushfires, the brigade also deals with other incidents and runs various education programs.

The brigade responds to house fires, car fires and road accidents as well as dealing with fallen trees and power lines during storms. To deal with the various incidents, the brigade draws on the skills of its members trained in everything from first aid to chainsaw usage. Members are continuously building their skill set, with numerous training courses on offer through the CFA and an inhouse training regime.

Up to 2015, Fiskville, a CFA training complex near Ballan in Victoria, was used by the Brigade. It closed

after the detection of contaminated water on the site. In 2025, the SETG CFA training site in Carrum Downs is used.

The CFA runs several community education programs, many administered directly by brigade volunteers. From the pre-summer Bushfire Blitz program which educates homeowners on asset protection and fire safety, to brigades in schools and kindergartens, teaching children about fire safety.

A Brigade Community Relations Officer coordinates most of the above programs. In November 2013, the brigades Community Relations Officer, April Himmelreich, won the Education Award at the 2013 CFA Fire Awareness Awards. April devised "*The Captain Koala and Friends Show*" as an innovative approach to spreading the CFA's Fire Safety messages and travelled around Victoria staging the show.

In 2012, the brigade commenced using social media to inform residents of brigade activities and issues of interest to the local community.

A tailored website and Facebook page gives the community comprehensive information about The Basin Fire Brigade.

A static message board located at the front of the station gives the passing public immediate notices such as total fire bans days and bushfire education evenings. Electronic movable roadside message boards are also used.

A successful innovation commencing around 2014 are open days at the fire station. Events held include demonstrations, fire safety information with firefighters on hand to answer questions.

The brigade supports and attends the yearly The Basin Music Festival.

Sources of Information

- "*The Basin Centenary Booklet*" by Ron Ikin.
- "*Fire on the Hill, Flowers on the Valley*" by Rick Coxhill
- 1962 bushfires and early Brigade history from personal interviews with Don Maguire.
- Residents and The Basin Fire Brigade members.
- Janet Dobson diary courtesy of Knox Historical Society.
- History of the Ferntree Gully Fire Brigade.
- Various internet sites.

From Page One

BUSH FIRES

FLAMES THREATEN 150 HOMES

DANGER AVERTED AT THE BASIN

VOLUNTEERS' ADVENTURE IN COTTAGE

Roaring up the Ravine, a natural funnel in the hills at the Basin, near Bayswater, a bush fire endangered 150 homes on Saturday afternoon. Seven houses were saved after 10 p.m. The fire was controlled soon after it had ignited.

Surrounded by flames leaping nearly 100 feet up tall trees in an unbroken tunnel of fire advancing at walking pace through undergrowth, a party of fire fighters was belated at the home of Mr. Sinclair.

"The heat was so great that the water in the tank scalded our hands," said Mr. F. Grumont. "It was nearly boiling. The smoke was blinding and so dense that we could not see more than a few feet."

Beat Way Through Fla

...pped to Waist

200 Volunteers

THE BASIN, Tuesday.—A bush fire broke out yesterday afternoon near Dodd's Gully, and to-day was still burning. All local men available have turned out to ...ht the fire.

Devoted fireman is our top citizen

ALLAN Small has saved countless lives and homes from countless lives and homes from countless fires and uncountless fires and uncountless fires and uncount

The Basin Fire Brigade Honour Roll					
Captain		President		Secretary	
Year	Name	Year	Name	Year	Name
1927-32	H. Clarke	1947-51	B. Chandler	1932-36	G. Langdon
1932-34	J. Manders	1951-53	A. Cooper	1936-47	E. Gilbert
1934-36	B. Clarke	1953	E. Turner	1947-51	V. Hornsby
1936-47	B. Chandler	1953-78	A. Cooper	1951-53	L. Edwards
1947-55	J. Chandler	1978-99	D. Maguire	1953-63	C. Ashby
1955-77	D. Maguire	1999 -	A. Small	1963-65	R. Robinson
1977-99	A. Small			1965-66	R. Turner
1999-10	C. Killian			1966-86	R. Ritchie
2010-16	M. Ahern			1986-90	G. Linaker
2016 -	C. Schmutter			1990-06	R. Brown
				2006-10	P. Shaw
				2010	A. Dixon
				2010-13	A. Huttig
				2013-15	M. Johnson
				2015 -	D. Maro

The Basin Fire Brigade Life Members Honour Roll				
D. Maguire	A. Cooper	R. Ritchie	C. Hart	K. Hand
J. Gribble	S. Smith	R. Cotter	A. Small	A. Dixon
T. Maro	R. Brown	C. Killian	G. Linaker	V. Linaker
J. Van Der Velden	J. Priest	G. Plant	J. Mortimore	R. Brown
S. Chapman	A. Himmelreich	M. Johnson	C. Schmutter	G. Gribble

The Basin Fire Brigade Terry Maro Junior Encouragement Award			
2015 Haelee Small	2016 Brock Ridell	2017 Jaxon Mitchell	2018 Jaymie Peters
2019	2020	2021	2022
2023			

The Basin Fire Brigade Roy Ritchie Fire Fighter of the Year Perpetual Trophy Implemented in acknowledgement of the true spirit of volunteerism and the very best performers in firemenship					
Year	**Name**	**Year**	**Name**	**Year**	**Name**
1960		1980	P. Collings	2000	S. Spendlove
1961		1981	G. Linaker	2001	A. Dixon
1962	R. Henley, K. Shepphard	1982	R. Brown	2002	S. Van Der Velden
1963		1983	H. Ednie	2003	J. Parkinson
1964		1984	H. Ednie	2004	A. Rankine
1965		1985	T. Hand	2005	G. Oliver
1966	J. Gribble	1986	J. Dewar	2006	N. Gaertner
1967	G. Gould, A. Small	1987	D. Grewcock	2007	S. Van Der Velden
1968	R. Badger	1988	H. Ednie	2008	J. Priest
1969	S. Smith	1989	G. Pearl	2009	D. Evered
1970		1990	G. Plant	2010	G. McCloud
1971		1991	T. Dimmock	2011	D. Hancock
1972		1992	M. Ahern	2012	A. Turnham
1973	T. Hand	1993	D. Hall	2013	C. Schmutter
1974	M. Smith	1994	J. Lawrence	2014	A. Kamenek
1975	J. Kingma	1995	P. Thomas	2015	M. Vulling
1976		1996	A. Gribble	2016	J. Priest
1977	B. Lawrence	1997	S. Chapman	2017	T. Jackson
1978	B. Clarkson	1998	R. Tyler	2018	G. Keats
1979	J. Viney	1999	P. Beggs	2019	
				2020	
				2021	
				2022	
				2023	

The Basin Fire Brigade D P Maguire Award For Outstanding Contribution To The Brigade And The Fire Service					
Year	**Name**	**Year**	**Name**	**Year**	**Name**
1981	Colin Hart	1994	Terry Maro	2007	Peter Beggs
1982	Alan Small	1995	James Van Der Velden	2008	Not Awarded
1983	Roy Ritchie	1996	Stuart Hand	2009	John Mortimore
1984	John Gribble	1997	Matthew Ahern	2010	April Himmelreich
1985	Not Awarded	1998	Graham Plant	2011	Peter Shaw
1986	Raymond Cotter	1999	Vickie Linaker	2012	Bill Watson
1987	Brian Lawrence	2000	David Crewcock	2013	Not Awarded
1988	Not Awarded	2001	Not Awarded	2014	Anne Killian
1989	Stephen Smith	2002	Lynda Dixon	2015	Jonathan Priest
1990	Graeme Linaker	2003	Alan Dixon	2016	Simon Van Der Velden
1991	Colin Killian	2004	Glenda Gribble	2017	Not Awarded
1992	Bryan Clarkson	2005	Cheryl Van Der Velden	2018	Michael Vulling
1993	Ray Brown	2006	Not Awarded	2019	Not Awarded
				2020	
				2021	
				2022	
				2023	

The Basin Fire Brigade Member Honorary Awards	
Don Maguire	Queens Long Service & Good Conduct Medal. (1974) British Empire Medal. (1977)
Roy Ritchie	Queens Long Service & Good Conduct Medal. (1999)
Allan Small	Australian Fire Services Medal. (2004) Knox Citizen of the Year. (2008)

The Basin Fire Brigade Ladies Auxiliary Honour Roll					
President		**Secretary**		**Treasurer**	
Year	**Name**	**Year**	**Name**	**Year**	**Name**
1969-73	H. Robinson	1969-72	M. Dommett	1969	M. Gardiner
1973-76	P. White	1972-74	S. Trotter	1970-74	N. Radford
1976-79	G. Gribble	1974	G. Gribble	1974-77	P. Hartin
1980	B. Collins	1975	H. Robinson	1978	J. Groves
1981-87	V. Linaker	1976-80	D. Lawrence	1980	D. Davies
1988-90	C. Pearl	1982	M. Ahern	1981-83	H. Viney
1990-	V. Linaker	1984	L. Smith	1984-02	G. Gribble
		1986	D. Lawrence	2002-11	J. Rankine
		1988-90	L. Smith	2011-16	J. Taylor
		1990-04	N. Maro	2016-	C. Van Kollenburg
		2004 -	A. Killian		

The Basin Fire Brigade Ladies Auxiliary Life Members Honour Roll				
N. Radford	G. Gribble	J. Small	L. Dixon	N. Maro
V. Linaker	C. Van Der Velden			

The Basin Fire Brigade Awards		
Year Awarded	**Name (s)**	**Award**
1993	Ray Cotter, Colin Hart, Kevin Hand, John Gribble, Allan Small	National Medal for Long Service in the Volunteer Brigade.
1997	Ray Cotter (35 years), Allan Small (30 years), John Gribble (30 years), Alan Dixon (25 years), Steve Smith (25 years), Terry Maro (20 Years), Glenda Gribble (30 years)	National Medal for Long Service in the Volunteer Brigade.
2013	Terry Maro, Vicki Linaker	Certificate in appreciation of over 20 years service to the Victorian Urban Fire Brigades Association and Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria.
2013	Terry Maro	National Emergency Medal for service during the 2009 bushfires.

The Basin Junior Fire Brigade Honour Roll					
Captain		Vice Captain		Secretary	
Year	Name	Year	Name	Year	Name
1985-86	T. Small	1985-86	R. Ahern	1984-87	M. Ahern
1986-87	R. Ahern	1986-88	T. Small	1987	D. Maro
1987-89	M. Ahern	1988-89	D. Maro	1987-89	D. Blood
1989-90	J. Small	1989-90	J. Lawrence	1989-90	T. Maro
1990-91	J. Lawrence	1990-91	K. Linaker	1990-91	B. Lawrence
1991	N. Brown	1991-93	A. Gribble	1991-92	N. Brown
1991-93	K. Linaker	1993-94	D. Linaker	1992-93	D. Linaker
1993-94	A. Small	1994-95	H. Balkwell	1993-94	H. Balkwell
1994-95	D. Linaker	1995-96	R. H. Balkwell	1994-95	D. Smith
1995-96	H. Balkwell	1996-98	D. Maro		
1996-98	R. Balkwell	1998-99	L. McCleary		
1998-99	C. Albantow	1999-00	K. Taylor		
1999-00	K. Tyler	2000-01	K. Tyler		
2000-02	K. Taylor	2001-02	M. Priest		
2002-03	M. Priest	2002-03	R. Priest		
2003-05	R. Priest	2003-04	S. Van Der Velden		
2005-06	S. Riddell	2004-05	C. Riddell		
2006-07	K. Ratcliffe	2005-07	B. Ratcliffe		
2007-08	B. Ratcliffe	2007-09	A. Gaertner		
2008-09	M. Oliver	2009-10	T. Hosken		
2009-10	A. Gaertner	2010-11	I. Gaertner		
2010-11	G. Keats	2011-12	N. Rankine		
2011-13	I. Gaertner	2012-14	M. Redgewell		
2013-14	G. Keats (Gabby)	2014-15	J. Gluskie		
2014-15	M. Redgewell	2015-	B. Prissmann		
2015-16	J. Gluskie				
2016-17	B. Lutkins				
2017-18	J. Peters				
2018-19	B. Schmutter				
2019-20					
2020-21					
2021-22					
2023-23					

The Basin Fire Brigade Vehicles (2 pages)		
Vehicle	**Years Used**	**Information**
Morris Commercial Truck	1928-1945	Owned by Bert Chandler.
Morris Commercial Truck	1930s	Owned by Harry Chandler
International Truck	1930s	Owned by Ferndale.
Austin 400 gallon Tanker	1954 to late 1960s	Presented to the Brigade in 1954. First official Brigade vehicle.
Furphy Tank	1960s	Trailer mounted with a low down pump and a short length of hose.
Austin STU (Small Town Unit)	1950s & 1960s	Two wheel drive. Low geared, capable climbers with crash gear box.
Land Rover	1960s	Ex Forestry vehicle. First Brigade vehicle equipped with a radio.
C1310 International Tanker 4x4 STU (Brigade had 3 of these)	1960s	400 gallon capacity. Grazcos pump. 675 litres per minute. Primed via a hand operated Southern Cross Low Down pump. The Brigade fitted electric starters to these pumps as they were originally supplied with rope pull start. Had problems with vaporisation in the heat, flimsy "*jack*" shafts and front drive shaft.
Holden HJ Station Wagon	1970s	Used for personal transport
Holden HZ Station Wagon	1970s & 80s	Used for personal transport.
Austin Tanker (Region Spare)	1980s	
International 1410 Tanker	1980s	400 gallon capacity. Heat shields later fitted.
Bedford 1968R series 4×4 Tanker	1970-1985	800 gallon capacity. Classed as an STU (State Disaster Unit) (one of 40). Brigade's first "*Tanker*". Used in Ash Wednesday (1983).
Mazda T3500 Crew Cab Salvage Van.	1980s	Purchased for $20,000. Further $10,000 spent on outfitting. Equipment included 5 kVA generator, lighting, salvage tarps, other auxiliary equipment. Crew capacity of 6.
Ford F350 Pumper	1979-1999	Water capacity 700 litres. Pumping Capacity 1800 litres per minute. Used VW Godiva pump. Equipment included breathing apparatus and other auxiliary equipment. Crew capacity of 6. The Brigade raised $20,000 to purchase and fit out this vehicle complete with 2 sets of breathing apparatus. Bodywork by Cooks Body Works.
1610 ACCO International 4×4 Tanker.	1980s	Water capacity 3000 litres. Pumping capacity 910 litres per minute. Used mainly for wildfire fire fighting. Crew capacity of 8 (later reduced to 6 with the addition of a role over protection crew cabin on the rear).
Hino FF 4×4 Tanker.	1999-	Water capacity 3000 litres. Pumping capacity 900 litres per min. Used mainly for wildfire fire fighting. Crew roll of 8 (later reduced to 6 with the addition of a roll over protection crew cabin on the rear).
Nissan Urvan	2000s	Used for personal transport.
Izuzu 4×4 Tanker.	2000s	Water capacity 3000 litres. Pumping capacity 900 litres per min. Used mainly for wildfire fire fighting. Crew Capacity of 6.
Hino Crew Cab Type 2 Pumper.		Pumping capacity 2000 litres per minute. Water capacity 1800 litres. Urban appliance, reliant on reticulated water supply.
Landrover Defender TDI 4×4. (Brigade had 2 of these)		Crew support & forward Control. Equipment carried included 5 kVA generator, lighting, chainsaw and cutting equipment. Crew capacity of 5.
Nissan Patrol		

The Basin Fire Brigade Vehicles (2 pages)		
Vehicle	**Years Used**	**Information**
Ford Ranger (Brigade had 2 of these)		
Hino 4×4 Tanker.		Water capacity 2000 litres. Pumping capacity 910 litres per minute. Used for mainly wildfire fire fighting. Crew Capacity of 6.
Isuzu Crew Cab Type 3 Pumper.		Pumping capacity 3000 litres per minute. Water capacity 1800 litres. B Class foam capacity 200 litres. A Class foam capacity 90 litres. Urban appliance, reliant on reticulated water supply. Equipment carried included breathing apparatus, chemical splash suits, steel cutting equipment, forcible entry tools, positive pressure smoke extraction fan, salvage tarps.
Hino Crew Cab 4×4 Tanker.		Water capacity 3750 litres (3000 for fire fighting, 750 for crew protection sprays). Pumping Capacity 910 litres per minute @ 700 kPa. B Class foam capacity 80 litres. A Class foam capacity 50 litres. Crew capacity of 5. Crew protection sprays fitted around vehicle deliver 100 litres per minute water spray to cover vehicle if trapped by wildfire.

Chapter 9 Sporting Clubs

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Summary

The Basin Badminton Club was formed in 1935. The club's most successful years were the 1950s and 1960s.

The Basin Football Club was formed in 1946. The senior side won its first premiership in 1962.

The Basin Ladies Football Team was active from the late 1950s to the early 1970s.

The Basin Cricket Club was formed in 1946 although not until 1983 was it known by that name. The club has won at least 10 premierships over the grades since the 1960s.

The Basin Junction Basketball Club was formed in 1962 and won their first premiership in 1964. The club was disbanded in the late 1960s.

The Batterham Park Tennis Club started in 1972.

Miller Park Tennis Club was formed in 1986.

The Basin Netball Club was formed in the late 1950s.

The Basin Basketball Club was formed in 1975. Many teams in all grades have won premierships over the years.

The Basin Tennis Club was formed in 1932. In 1951, the club won its first premiership. The club disbanded in the early 1950s.

In 1971, the first "*Riding for the Disabled*" group in Victoria was registered with its base at Wicks Reserve, The Basin.

The Lilydale Bowman Club was formed in 1977 and operates off land in Sheffield Road.

The Doongala Horse and Pony Club was formed in 1969 and have their base in Sheffield Road.

Distinguished Resident

Max White

A past Secretary, President and junior team manager, Max was a great worker for The Basin Football Club. Never a shirker from hard work, Max ran a drainage business and a hardware store at The Basin. He was a former policeman and in 1962 brought honour to himself, family and town when he was awarded a Police Valour Medal for bravery in assisting to arrest an armed man at Blackburn. Many local organisations benefited from Max's charitable nature. In a good cause he often rolled up his sleeves or made donations of materials.

In 1965 and 1966 Max stood for the Knox Shire Council. The Basin people gave him an almost unanimous vote but the bigger population in Boronia carried the day for his opponents. Max was eventually elected to Council in 1969 and served for 12 years. He held the position of Mayor in 1971 and 1972.

After leaving The Basin, Max and his wife Pat ran the Homestead motel at Buninyong, near Ballarat for a time. Max passed away in 2009.

The Basin Badminton Club

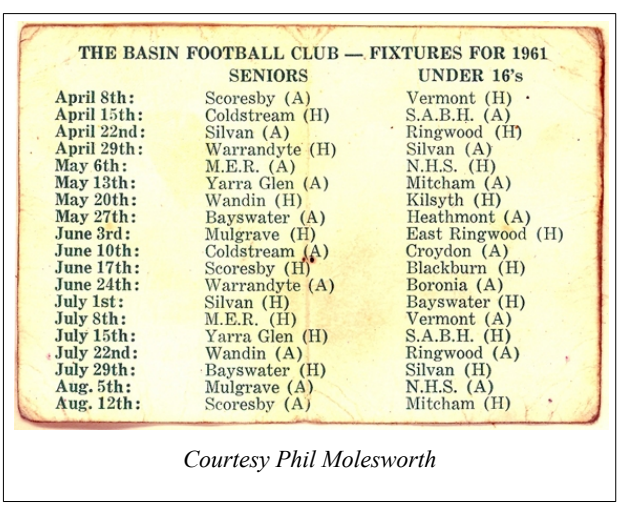
As a result of talks between the first minister of The Basin Presbyterian Church Mr. H. M. Bell, and church members Mr. & Mrs. Roxburgh, Mrs. Pickett and Mr. L. Gretton, The Basin badminton club was formed in 1935. Mr. Roxburgh donated four racquets, a net, and the game played in the Presbyterian Church. Other first year members included Messrs. F. & E. Gretton, A. John, G. & F. Grumont, W. Martin, and Misses M. Dickson, and N. Gibson. Foundation office bearers were Mr. H. M. Bell Chairman, and Mr. L. Gretton Secretary and Treasurer.

The Basin Presbyterian church hall (on the uphill corner of Church Street and Forest Road) was used for approximately 2 years before the club moved to The Basin Progress Hall providing extra space and better playing conditions. Before S.E.C. power coming to the district, the game was played under kerosene lamps. Finance was limited, and the club held various social functions to help defray costs.

The game was mainly a social nature before World War II, but individuals entered Victorian Badminton Association Carnivals such as country Week. The club participated in the Central Badminton Association for several years. Matches were arranged with neighbouring clubs and tournaments held within the club. Gentlemen rarely played in shorts. During the war, the club went into recess but reformed in March 1946, when it flourished.

In 1949, the Croydon District Badminton Association formed with The Basin as a foundation member. In 1952, after being runners-up for the past 3 years, The Basin emerged as A Grade premiers defeating Croydon 172 points to 146 points.

To make a stronger competition, the Mountain District and Croydon and District Associations amalgamated in 1953 to form the Croydon & Mountain District Badminton Association (C&MDBA). George Grumont from The Basin was elected as President, a role he held for 17 years.



THE BASIN FOOTBALL CLUB — FIXTURES FOR 1961

	SENIORS	UNDER 16's
April 8th:	Scoresby (A)	Vermont (H)
April 15th:	Coldstream (H)	S.A.B.H. (A)
April 22nd:	Silvan (A)	Ringwood (H)
April 29th:	Warrandyte (H)	Silvan (A)
May 6th:	M.E.R. (A)	N.H.S. (H)
May 13th:	Yarra Glen (A)	Mitcham (A)
May 20th:	Wandin (H)	Kilsyth (H)
May 27th:	Bayswater (A)	Heathmont (A)
June 3rd:	Mulgrave (H)	East Ringwood (H)
June 10th:	Coldstream (A)	Croydon (A)
June 17th:	Scoresby (H)	Blackburn (H)
June 24th:	Warrandyte (A)	Boronia (A)
July 1st:	Silvan (H)	Bayswater (H)
July 8th:	M.E.R. (H)	Vermont (A)
July 15th:	Yarra Glen (H)	S.A.B.H. (H)
July 22nd:	Wandin (A)	Ringwood (A)
July 29th:	Bayswater (H)	Silvan (H)
Aug. 5th:	Mulgrave (A)	N.H.S. (A)
Aug. 12th:	Scoresby (A)	Mitcham (H)

Courtesy Phil Molesworth

The "A" Grade pennant was again won in 1958 by The Basin after many years as runners-up.

In 1964, The Basin won the "A" Reserve premiership. Among many fine former players, Bob Irwin holds a high place having been ranked No. 5 player in Victoria in 1965 and having represented Victoria in 1965-66.

In 1970, the Association changed its name to the Mountain District Badminton Association (MDBA) with The Basin still an active member.

Since the early 1960s, the MDBA had been investigating the feasibility of a dedicated building for badminton. Most playing venues used were not ideal for badminton for the following reasons:

- Ceilings were too low requiring more drives and net shots, than clears and lobs.
- Nets were not permanently installed.
- Lighting was not ideal.
- Line markings were often mixed with lines for other sports or temporary lines required.
- Timber floors were not the ideal surface to play on.

In 1970, after many years of investigation by an MDBA building committee, an offer from Lilydale council for land in Liverpool Road was accepted, and plans drawn up. In 1972, building commenced and was finished in 1973 consisting of 3 courts. The building was financed by fundraising, a State Government grant and Council donations and help. These new courts were subsequently used by The Basin Badminton Club instead of The Basin Progress Hall which suffered from most of the restrictions detailed above.

In 2019, more badminton courts were erected on the site, and it is also home to other sporting organisations. It is known as the Kilsyth Sports Centre.

There were many long-standing members of The Basin club including George Grumont (32 years), Ernie Gretton (over 28 years), John Chandler, Wally Goodwin, May Moran, Elsie Greenwell, Val Gretton, Marjorie Dickson, and Anne Spry.

Life memberships of the MDBA from The Basin club include George Grumont (1961) and Ernie Gretton (1962). In 1962, Sir Gilbert Chandler was invited to become a Patron for the MDBA which he accepted and held for many years. Roy Ritchie from The Basin club was treasurer for the MDBA for the years 1971-72.

The Basin club produced many fine players including Ernie Gretton, Bob Irwin, Margaret Ritchie, May Dickson and Elsie Greenwell.

In 2025, The Basin badminton club is no longer active. It is unknown when the club disbanded.

The Basin Football Club

In Victoria, no town is complete without an Australian Rules Football Club.

From 1946, the young men of The Basin have been

represented in this field. To the credit of many staunch workers, the club, after a modest beginning, has grown to a formidable club. It has grown even though little local support was forthcoming in the early days and great reliance was placed upon the efforts of officials and the ladies auxiliary for sorely needed funds.

Before the days of The Basin Football Club the Bayswater team had Basin boys W. Jackson, H. Collier, A. Collier, A. Turner and Gilbert and Alan Chandler playing with it. Consequently, the football club dance was well patronised by Basin lads and lasses. A wonderful supper was included in the entry price of four shillings.

The club's inaugural meeting was held at the home of Mr. Jack Martin late in 1946. Arthur Cooper was elected President, R. Peck Treasurer and F. Byford Secretary. Committee members included A. Collett, C. Whitworth, and A. J. Stephens. In 1947, a side was fielded in the Croydon Mail Football League. Having no home ground, the side was drawn to play away continuously and consequently were beaten by huge margins. Players and loyal supporters were transported by Thompson's buses.

A company known as the "*Horizon Hand Weaving Co*", designed and wove scarves for The Basin Football Club in 1947. The business was owned by Sonia Hardy and operated from a house on Mountain Highway near Clevedon.

In 1948, the club combined with the Colchester-Basin Cricket Club and commenced playing at Batterham Reserve after the site of Wicks Reserve proved unsuitable. Southwest of the lower oval (beside the dam from which the football was frequently retrieved) was a bark and paling hut built by a working bee. This was supplemented by an army tent supplied by Arthur Cooper. The army tent was used as a change room until 1949 when a temporary dressing shed was built.

In 1950, the club joined the Croydon Ferntree Gully Football League, staying with them until 1961.

In 1953 Clifton Pugh, well known artist, was president, and in 1955, because of insufficient players, the club was temporarily suspended.

The team was selected at "*Vassos's*" Hotel (later known as the Club hotel on the corner of Ferntree Gully Rd and Burwood Highway) on Saturday morning (there was no training in those days) and they could always pick two or three drinkers when short.

In 1957, the club reformed with Alf Petrie President, A. Cooper Treasurer and J. Stephens Secretary with their home at Batterham Reserve. Anyone involved with the rebirth of The Basin Football Club would scarcely believe the changes made to Batterham Reserve in the intervening years as a result of the continued presence of the Football Club and later the Cricket and Tennis Clubs.

In 1957, the club was using the lower oval and played on a surface still baring signs of the drainage furrows from the days when the ground was part of Rowley Batterham's apple orchard. The club had many working bees to develop the grounds. Saplings were cut down at The Ravine for point and goal posts and power poles were erected to get electric power.

Premiership Celebrations

One mystery not solved is the identity of the football supporter who ran in his undies down Forest Road after The Basin won its first premiership in 1962.

An "*Ugly Man's Competition*" (see insert on page 220) raised enough money to buy timber and galvanised iron to proudly build a 24 foot × 48 foot unlined "*tin shed*". It was the first in the district with a 1000 gallon water tank serving for a couple of years for showers and other water supplies. A briquette hot water service and wire netting were added later. Working bees laid the first water pipes from Arcadia Avenue.

Dinny Lewer was appointed coach in 1957, but the team finished last. Dinny was involved in a memorable event in late July 1957. The club had only a single win that year and playing Yarra Glen at home. The forty-seven-year old nonplaying coach decided to play in the team and show them how it should be carried out. The side performed well, without much help from Dinny. In the dying moments of the last quarter, with The Basin three points down, Dinny took a mark thirty yards from goal. Rather than go with convention, the coach decided on a place kick to win the game; probably the first place kick in the district since the war. Dinny kicked a point and The Basin lost.

All year the club had struggled to attract more than seven or eight players to training, but the coach's place kick was responsible for the full nineteen players attending an emergency team meeting at the club the following Sunday morning. After much debate, Dinny managed to hold on to the coach's position by the narrowest margin. That place kick will never be forgotten by those who witnessed it.

The club's first success came in 1958 when side made the semifinals. Wally Lindsay took over as coach in 1959 and the side finished about the middle of the list. In 1960 Noel Harman was coach and an under 16 side, with Max Norton coach, was fielded.

In 1962, the club joined the Eastern Districts Football League (EDFL), which later became the Eastern Football league (EFL).

Continuing as coach, Harman was rewarded in 1962 when the senior side won its first premiership by one point. Officials that year were J. Wallace (President), A. Cooper (Treasurer), and R. Williams (Secretary). Star players included John Wright, Norm Parkinson, Morrie Cook, Kevin McDonagh and Ron Williams. See page 237for a list of the players.

In 1963, a 2nd XVIII was fielded and played in the

grand final.

From 1957 to 1965 the club owed a lot to the work of the Ladies committee. Stalwarts among them were Mesdames Swanson, Petrie, Norton, Murray, Scanlon and Harrod.

Until about 1962, all improvements at Batterham were jointly funded by the Park Committee and the Football Club. On many occasions, the club loaned money to the Park Committee for improvements instead of future rentals. Over the years the facilities have been improved and upgraded.

On the playing field, the club has had mixed fortunes since the 1962 premiership, but in 2025 is flourishing. The first premiership was won in 1977 by the under 15s. The club has always been financially stable because all finances are self generated. Monies are generated by playing fees, functions, bar and food sales, gate entrance fees and generous sponsors.

A supporters group formed in the 1980s met monthly and were responsible for many improvements to the clubrooms and grounds. The group is credited with starting the highly popular Country and Western Day held in February for many years.

The supporters group manage clubroom based plaques dedicated to deceased members of either The Basin Football Club or The Basin Cricket Club who have made a significant contribution in their time at the club. As at 2025, the following people have dedicated plaques:

- Arthur Cooper.
- William Wright.
- Reginald Fay.
- Moira Fay.

The supporters group also manage a joint Football/Cricket Club honour board displayed in the clubrooms. The board has a separate plaque for each person listing their contribution to the club and their achievements. As at 2025, the board has dedications to the following people:

- Steve Mills
- David Smith
- Jack Wallace
- Terry Davis
- Michael Redpath
- Fred Davis
- Greg Smith

The club is fully licensed and runs a well-ordered bar. Discipline was tightened when a handful of individuals were banned for behaviour unbecoming to the Club. Members are aware of the value of the facilities and take pride in them. Visitors are also made welcome.

The club is stable and held in high esteem by its players. This was highlighted by senior coach John Ruffles, when he observed in June 1992 the senior side which beat Templestowe by ten goals the previous week contained only two players who did not play their junior football at The Basin.

To commemorate 50 years of football at the club, the Legends Team was announced at a gala function at The York on Lilydale on the 29th June 1996. See insert on page 237 for details. Also, see teams of the decades inserts on pages 237 and 237.

The club's emblem is the Bears, its name is the Rosellas, and colours are green, white and red.

The first jumper used by the club was light green with a red cross stripe and used from 1950 to 1960. Later jumpers were black with a red cross stripe and vertical red stripes.

The club supports the various football pathways:

- Auskick 5-8 for boys and girls aged 5-12.
- Junior and youth football for male and female aged 7-17.
- Girls 8-18.
- Senior men.
- Senior women.

Chapter 13, page 328, has further information about the club facilities including the 1 million dollar donation and council funding in 2018.

The club shares facilities with The Basin Cricket Club and The Basin Football Netball Club. As early as 1947, the football and cricket clubs have shared facilities and held joint presentation events.

Around 2014, the club was encouraged by the Eastern Football League (EFL) to incorporate a Netball group into the organisation. The club changed their name to The Basin Football Netball Club and commenced fielding Netball teams known as the "*The Bearettes*" The Basin Football Netball group only play in Winter and are separate from The Basin Netball Club described on page 222. In 2025, Batterham Reserve did not have facilities to play Netball but a training court is under development. In 2025, The Netball Club has three senior teams.

Since 2017, when the AFL women's competition commenced, there was an increase in women and girls playing football. With the support of Knox Council and recent donations, the club is actively encouraging women's football and providing supporting infrastructure including a new changing facility.

In 2018, the club formed the first women's team to play in competition football. In 2025, the club has two Senior Ladies' football teams, Seniors and Reserves, who are known as "*The Lady Bears*". The first coach was John Hayhurst and the first captains were Julia Baker and Candice Carroll.

The Hetrel Medal for women's Best and Fairest was introduced in 2018 and the first recipient was Julia Baker. The medal is named in recognition of George and Pat Hetrel who in 2018 made a significant donation towards upgrading the facilities at Batterham Reserve.

Most women don't have the network of years of support men have enjoyed. This was recognised and addressed by the club.

The club is supported by a community of passionate locals who call friends family, and see their club as their second home. Opposing teams look forward to playing The Basin on their home ground because of the passionate supporters who follow The Basin wherever they play.

The clubrooms contain displays of successful teams, photos, honour boards, plaques and electronic displays of achievements.

Batterham Reserve facilities are colloquially called "*The Bear Cave*" and tightly associated with The Basin community.

In 2023, Joel Clarke was awarded Knox City Council Clubperson of the year. Joel was the junior coordinator for 8 years, the club treasurer, he coached and captained, was COVID officer and had many other roles.

The Basin Football Club Ladies Team

Little is known about the team which appeared in the 1950s, and were active for over a decade. The latest available picture was taken in 1970.

As reported in the Free Press, 7th May 1959 at The Basin family picnic and baby show at Batterham Park:

"Ladies Football Game

In a day full of entertainment The Basin ladies played a football match against the football team.

Umpire Russell Harod officiated in a most appropriate outfit-that of a clown.

Starring as a ruck-rover combination was Alison Sloane (5'10") and Eunice Harod (4'10"). Many scoring opportunities were created by the fine play of these two players and young Mavis Battersby was very noticeable as centre half forward and kicked two fine angle goals on the run. Eunice Eagles and Maxine Edwards were both prominent in defence. Jill Wright played a fine game on the wings and was too fast for Billy Girvan. Splendid handball and team work was noticed by Edith Thompson and Lois Evans.

Final scores were ladies four goals three behinds, to men, no goals one point, in a most entertaining game."

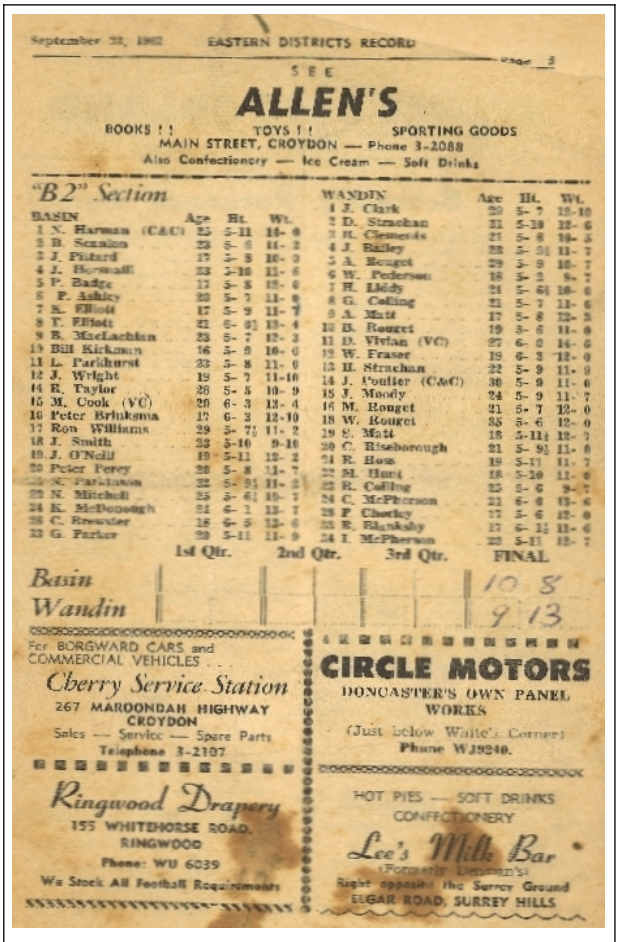
A photo of an early 1959 team is on page 223.

A report in the Knox News in 1972 stated:

"*HEY GIRLS! ITS OVER HERE*"

"*The football match between the girls of The Basin and Upper Ferntree Gully didn't interest the two above (a picture shows two players looking the wrong way). One felt the need to pull guernsey down in all modesty and the other was giving the knicks a womanly tug. But where the action was there was little time to powder the nose or add a touch of lipstick The match was played at Batterham Reserve, The Basin and was naturally a ladylike affair.*"

As late as 1972, the team was still playing and known as "*The Basin Beauties*".


September 22, 1962 EASTERN DISTRICTS RECORD

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Also Confectionery — Ice Cream — Soft Drinks

"B2" Section

BASIN	Age	Ht.	Wt.
1 N. Harman (C&C)	25	5-11	11- 0
2 B. Scanlon	23	5- 6	11- 2
3 J. Pittard	17	5- 8	10- 0
4 J. Boswell	23	5-10	11- 6
5 P. Badge	13	5- 8	12- 0
6 P. Ashley	20	5- 7	11- 0
7 K. Elliott	17	5- 9	11- 7
8 T. Flindt	21	6- 0½	13- 4
9 B. MacLachlan	23	5- 7	12- 3
10 Bill Kirkman	16	5- 6	10- 0
11 L. Parkhurst	33	5- 8	11- 0
12 J. Wright	19	5- 7	11-10
14 E. Taylor	28	5- 5	10- 9
15 M. Cook (VC)	20	6- 3	13- 4
16 Peter Brinkema	17	6- 3	12-10
17 Ron Williams	29	5- 7½	11- 2
18 J. Smith	23	5-10	9-10
19 J. O'Neill	19	5-11	12- 2
20 Peter Percy	20	5- 8	11- 7
21 N. Parkinson	22	5- 9½	11- 2
22 N. Mitchell	25	5- 6½	10- 7
24 K. McDonough	21	6- 1	13- 7
25 C. Brewster	18	6- 5	12- 6
33 G. Parker	20	5-11	11- 9

WANDIN	Age	Ht.	Wt.
1 J. Clark	20	5- 7	12-10
2 D. Strachan	21	5-10	12- 6
3 R. Clements	21	5- 8	10- 5
4 J. Bailey	28	5- 9½	11- 7
5 A. Rouget	29	5- 9	10- 7
6 W. Pederson	18	5- 2	9- 7
7 H. Liddy	21	5- 6½	10- 0
8 G. Colling	21	5- 7	11- 6
9 A. Matt	17	5- 8	12- 5
10 B. Rouget	19	5- 6	11- 0
11 D. Vivian (VC)	27	6- 0	14- 6
12 W. Fraser	18	6- 3	12- 0
13 H. Strachan	22	5- 9	11- 9
14 J. Poulter (C&C)	30	5- 9	11- 0
15 J. Moody	24	5- 9	11- 7
16 M. Rouget	21	5- 7	12- 0
18 W. Rouget	35	5- 6	12- 0
19 S. Matt	18	5-11½	12- 7
20 C. Riseborough	21	5- 9½	11- 0
21 R. Ross	18	5-11	11- 7
22 M. Hunt	18	5-10	11- 0
23 R. Colling	25	5- 6	9- 7
24 C. McPherson	21	6- 0	13- 6
28 F. Chorley	17	5- 6	12- 0
33 R. Blankshy	17	6- 1½	11- 6
24 I. McPherson	20	5-11	12- 7

	1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	FINAL
Basin				10 8
Wandin				9 13

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Eastern Districts Record of the 1962 Grand Final

The Basin Cricket Club

Cricket had a chequered career in The Basin, having many phases over the years.

Before the 2nd World War, Cricket was played by a team calling themselves "*The Valley*" competing in the Ringwood competition. The side played on a pitch at the corner of Colchester and Canterbury Roads and included such players as George Fiedler, Mick Godfrey and A. Treleaven. This club continued after the war as "*The Colchester-Basin Cricket Club*".

In 1946, The Basin Cricket Club formed and played on the same private property as The Valley in the Ferntree Gully Competition but shortly afterwards moved to Batterham Reserve.

The club was officially affiliated with the Ferntree Gully and District Cricket Association (FTGDCA) on 25th August 1947 with two teams. Players and officials

Ugly Man Competition

Dinny Lewer, a captain and coach of The Basin Football Club, contributed more than football ability to the cause. His face won the Uglyman's competition in 1957, thus lifting the club's funds by 96 pounds.

remembered in that period include Alan Collett, Graeme Kerr, and Jim Stephens.

The Basin's first team finished the season as undisputed leaders of the competition and rightly earned the title of hot favourites for the Frank Pickett Shield, however Ferntree Gully defeated them in the final. Scores were Ferntree Gully 204 and The Basin 89. Inaugural trophy winners were presented to The Basin's George Fiedler (Batting award), Ferntree Gully's Arthur Hicks (Bowling award) and Mick Godfrey (The Basin) won the best all-rounder award.

The club met hard times and disbanded in 1948 and suspended from the FTG District Cricket Association in December 1951.

The club changed their name to "*Somerville Park*" and played for the seasons 1952/53 and 1953/54.

The club was in recess for the 1954/55 to 1957/58 seasons.

In 1958 a fresh start was made when The Basin Footballers fielded a cricket side again in "B" Grade of the Ferntree Gully Competition. Over about a ten-year period, the club headed the ladder after the home and away matches several times, but unfortunately a premiership did not come the club's way. Defeats in finals were by as little as 3 and 9 runs. One season, the "B" Grade side headed the list with 88 points out of a possible 100, but was plagued by injuries and mishaps during the final.

In season 1962-1963 a "C" Grade side was added, and then in 1964-1965 A, B, C and Juniors were fielded. The club had come a long way in a short time.

There were many staunch players and officials up to 1965, among them Doug Sims, John Wallace, Noel Harman, Alan Sward, Alan White, Norm Parkinson, Morrie Cook, John Wright and Philip Jordan.

In the 1967/68 season the club won its first premiership. See insert on page 251 for the players names.

In the late 1960s, the word "*Footballers*" was dropped from the club's name. For the period 1973-1983 the club played under the banner of Batterham Park Cricket Club after combining with the Church of Christ Cricket Club.

At the commencement of the 1983/84 cricket season, the club reverted to the name The Basin Cricket Club and continues to play under this name.

The club has achieved much success on field and up to 2025 has won ten premierships throughout the grades. By far the most successful leader has been the late Phillip Johnstone, who captained three premiership teams in the lower grades before his tragic death in 1991. Phillip and his wife Robyn were staunch workers for the club.

From having two senior and one junior team in the early 1970s, in the 1990s, the club had grown to the stage where it was fielding five senior and five junior teams each Saturday.

The Basin Cricket Club had many outstanding players, including Fred Davis, David Lambert, Steven Plymin, Garth Smith and Tony James. Players have also filled most positions on the club's committee and there have been many tireless workers including Robert Smith who served as President for eight years, Graeme Murray, Secretary for six years and Mark Posch, Treasurer for eight years.

The outstanding service of these men has been recognised with the presentation of life membership awards and others awarded this honour include Terry Davis, Dennis Wheeler, Paul Wakefield and David Smith. A full list of the awards is listed in the appendix.

Since 1989, there have been over 200 centuries scored for the club. The highest was 232 by K. Glover in the 1996/97 season.

Since 1989, there have been over 20 times a player got 7 or more wickets in an innings. The best was 9/41 by M. Flanagan in the 1989/90 season.

The club awards the Tony "*Tacka*" James medal every year in honour of a club legend. "*Tacka*" was often the first one at the club and the last to leave. He was inducted as a life member in 1990, was captain/coach, club champion and best clubman. Tony's passing is still felt to this day but his legacy lives on. See the Appendix for a list of recipients.

The club awards the Jack Wallace Club Champion every year. Jack Wallace was the founding member of The Basin Cricket Club. This award recognises the clubs most outstanding first XI cricketer. Jack Wallace has a stand in his honour and without him, the club would not be where they are today. Jack passed away in 2018, but his legacy will continue. See the appendix for a list of recipients.

The Robert Smith Best Clubman award is voted by the committee members that served that season. It recognises the outstanding service of an individual to club duties. Robert Smith, or better know as Harpo, is a club legend and has served the club for over 35 years. This is one of the most prestigious awards. See the appendix for a list of recipients.

The club awards the Graeme Rawnsley U/21 Player every year. Graeme was what all clubs aspire to have at their club; lover of cricket, gentleman, passionate, loyal supporter and hard-worker.

Graeme's son Michael played many years of junior cricket and as a result, Graeme coached his son for four years. Graeme was passionate about junior cricket and involved in developing the careers of many cricketers at the club.

Graeme tragically passed away in 2017. His death left a massive hole in the hearts of many. In recognition of his work at the club, which saw him become a life member, the U/21 player was awarded in his honour. See the appendix for a list of recipients.

In 2019, after losing 8 finals, including the 1947/48 season, the 1st's won their first premiership.

Since inception and up to 2025, The Basin Cricket Club has won 27 premierships across all Grades. A full list of the clubs achievements are listed in the appendix. Shield premierships are named after sponsors including Neilson, Topline and DeCoite.

The club shares many facilities with The Basin Football Netball Club. The supporters group, facilities and clubroom plaques are described in The Basin Football Club section.

The Basin/Ferntree Gully Salvation Army Cricket Club.

The first team was formed in 1988. Foundation members were Bill Cooper, a retired Major in the Salvation Army, his two sons, Alan and John, and the then O.I.C. of the Salvation Army farm, Captain Barker. The idea was to field a local team in the Eastern Suburban Churches Competition.

The Basin Netball Club

In 1962, several local girls who were keen on sport decided to form a basketball club. These girls raised enough support to form two teams which joined the Mountain District Girls Basketball Association. A distinctive purple and white uniform with a "*BJ*" badge was designed by Joyce Reid and The Basin Junction Basketball Club made its debut with an "*A*" Grade and "*B*" Reserve team. Both teams had successful seasons with "B" finishing runners-up.

Another team was added in 1963, and playing and training on courts at St. John's The Baptist Primary School in Ferntree Gully, all teams finished in the four.

One year in the early 1960s, they were unable to play on the scheduled court and used a tennis court at the residence of Midge Beesley as a netball court. This tennis court once belonged to The Basin Tennis Club located behind The Basin store. Midge purchased the property with an attached block containing the abandoned tennis court.

The need for home courts was obvious, so the girls set to work to raise funds. With the help of parents, The Basin Progress Association and the Shire Council, a court was finally constructed in 1964 on the driest part of the lower ground in Batterham Reserve. The same year saw Mrs. Marie Alexanderson appointed as the club's first official coach. With extra practice, excellent support and fine coaching, "A" Grade won the club's first premiership. It was fitting this team consisted mainly of

Vanessa Beesley, Norma McNamara, Heather Chandler, Alison Hampton, Unknown, Elizabeth Sims, Robyn Ritchie, Barbara Wallace. (names not verified).
The Basin Junction Basketball Club c1963.

the club's original members. Two more courts were added as six teams were fielded.

Some original members were Jill and Carol Wright, Joyce Reid, Meryl Neeson, and Denise Gretton whose work and play combined with the efforts of Lindy Bagley, Mrs. Alexanderson, Mrs. Nicholls, Mrs. Hayles and Mrs. Kaliszewski lifted the club to prominence.

Unfortunately, the club ceased operation in the late 1960s or early 1970s. The courts in Batterham Reserve were changed to tennis courts when the Batterham Tennis Club commenced operation in 1972.

Up to 1970, netball was called "*Women's Basketball*". In 1970, New Zealand and Australia agreed to change the name to Netball.

In 1973, a group of wives of The Basin Football Club players, who were already playing together as a netball team (Jill Lockwood, Barbara Moxham, Josie Kirkham to name a few), decided to recruit more players to form new teams. The original teams trained at a netball court next to Batterham Park tennis courts once a week, until the competition began. Training began in September, and in 1974 teams began playing at various competitions. Although the colours of The Basin Football Club were green and red and the team at the time were wearing green tunics with red cord, they decided on red and black as the new team colours.

Some inaugural players in these teams were Lyn Terry, Glenda Beard, Denise Pitts, Glenda Beard, Lorraine Gowers, Joy Fitchener, Kathy Long, Lyn Shepherd, Annette Jones, Pauline West, Roxanne Hope, Kerry Sergeant, Robyn Carville, Valmai Gray, Anita Duffy, Lyn Begg, Joy Wallace and Irene Major.

Over the years, further teams were formed and training often had a line up of prams and pushers and toddlers playing on the sidelines.

With the removal of the netball court from Batterham Park, training moved to Chandler Park and then to the Bayswater train park to accommodate the growing need for more courts and growing membership. The venue was shared with Bayswater Netball Club.

Training moved back to Chandler Park and in 2025 this is their training venue. Teams played at various venues including Cheong Park, Croydon Leisure Centre, Nunawading Basketball Stadium, Boronia Basketball

Top Row: *Mavis Battersby, Alice Wallace, Joyce Howe, Jill Wright, Alison Slean, Val James,, Eunice Eagles*
Bottom Row: *Dianne Copley, Ivy Attwood, Edith Thompson, Clara Beale, Lorraine Cable, Maxine Edwards, Lois Evans, Eunice Hared.*
The Basin Ladies Football Team 7th May, 1959. Community Fundraising Day Batterham Park.

Stadium, Lilydale Basketball Centre, Carrington Park and Knox Region Netball Centre. The original team were highly competent players and played at an elite level in many grand finals. Players wore a red and black A line uniform they made themselves.

As more teams were formed, friendships were formed and morning teas held with children playing in the background. Social evenings were held, progressive dinners, fancy dress ups, car rally's and raffles, to not only raise money, but to enjoy socialising with other members.

Joy Wallace came on board as the club senior coach and was integral in coaching senior teams to play at higher levels and developing players who had not played netball before. Many of the athletic and capable players went on to play at State league and elite netball, also playing in Interstate Carnivals. Players such as Roxanne Hope, Kerry Sergeant, Kathryn Ferrier, to name a few.

As children on the sidelines grew older, the time came to formalise the club and The Basin Junior Netball Club was formed. A committee was organised and junior teams selected. These teams began playing in 1980 at the Knox Region Netball Centre. The club grew in size and were fielding between 14-17 teams in the late 1980s and 1990s.

The club was officially registered in 1985 as The Basin Netball Club but deregistered in 2001. In 2006, the club was registered as The Basin Netballers and in 2025 is the registration.

Two life memberships were awarded in the late 1990s to Kerry Tate and Lyn Shepherd.

Over the years, committee membership has changed and members moved on as their children moved away from the sport.

The uniform has changed over the years from the dress to a red polo top and black pleated wrap around netball skirt with minor alterations to style.

For many years, the Club fielded teams in The Mountain District Netball competition and had success with player awards in the Mountain District Saturday Netball Competition. The Club also won Best Club Team awards for excellent club management and communication. Unfortunately, records of premierships and committee names have been lost.

In 2025, the committee is active with its President, Melissa Rosie promoting the club's activities and competitions and the Club has a more modem A line Dress.

Although the club still fields open teams, the main focus is on junior development but would like to see this further increase in teams in all age groups in the future.

In 2025, the Club has members on the Mountain District Committee helping with the organisation of over 3000 members each week and one of their coaches, Lucy

First The Basin under 16 team c1960s. Coach. Max Norton. Third left back row Phil Molesworth. Photo courtesy Phil Molesworth

Caulfield, is a Representative Team Coach.

Many of the players have gone through the Representative Team program some reaching elite netball, playing at State League and Victorian Netball League (VNL).

The Basin Netball Club is an established club of the local community with strong membership and leadership with a vision to improve and develop players with a love and enjoyment in netball.

The Basin Football Club also has a Netball group but in 2025 the two Netball groups are not associated.

Batterham Park Tennis Club

The Batterham Park Tennis Club started on 4 September 1972. The founding President was Rev. Ian Parton and Secretary Mrs. Claire MacMillan.

The idea of a tennis club at the reserve had been raised some time earlier when the Batterham Park Grounds Committee called a meeting of local people to discuss the formation of a tennis club. However, little interest was shown, and it was not until a chance meeting between Don Maguire and Claire MacMillan that steps were taken to form the Batterham Park Tennis Club.

Don Maguire was a member of The Batterham Park Grounds Committee, and Clare MacMillan was a member of The Boronia Presbyterian Church Tennis Club, a small, but active club without their own courts. They had three teams and hired various courts in Boronia and Bayswater for home matches. After months of negotiation, The Boronia Presbyterian Church Tennis Club ceased functioning, and together with a group of ladies from Mount View (The Mount View ladies played midweek on Rita Matthews' private court in Boronia) became the nucleus of the new Batterham Park Tennis Club.

The aim of the new organisation was to have a family based tennis club, open to the local community and catering for all levels of tennis. Founding members were: Len and Judy Pacey, Jeanette and Don Osborne, Beryl Tate, Claire and Hamish MacMillan, Ian and Anne Parton, Ted Cornell, Jean Isherwood, Bill and Dawn Ochiltree, Peter and Lorraine Smith, Gordon and Laurence Hill, Pat Ewart, Robert Henry, Pieta Boyles, Pat Ingram, Terry Starling, Lorraine Davie, Pat Harvey, Jeanette Brown and Alan Thorne.

The new club was located on its present site and consisted of two en-tout-cas courts, a clubhouse and one asphalt netball court.

Several locals have been members of the club, including four Mayors of Knox — Hurtle Lupton, Tom Blaze, Geoff Draper and Peter Maley. Another prominent member was Hamish MacMillan, Treasurer of the Victorian Tennis Association and a Director of Tennis Australia. Hamish is also a life member of Batterham Tennis Club and was a past president of Ferntree Gully and District Tennis Association, a position he held for 15 years.

In 1992, the Tennis Club had grown from its original 43 members, to 266, and boasted five en-tout-cas courts and an attractive clubhouse surrounded by gardens and lawn. The courts can be floodlit for night matches.

In 1997, the club held their 25th anniversary with a celebration at a local restaurant.

The Club has had some financial help from the local council, but the most funds come from the membership and from fund-raising events.

Honour Rolls are listed in the Appendix.

Miller Park Tennis Club

Situated on the corner of Liverpool Road and Mountain Highway, the club was officially opened on 6th July 1986 by Cr Tom Blaze.

Original members of the Committee of Management were N. Gooday, A. Barden, C. Roberts, B. White, I. Major and J. Hall.

The first complex consisted of the clubrooms and 3 plexipave courts.

The first night competition was registered in July 1988 after lights were installed on the existing courts. Twelve months later, three en tout cas courts were constructed with lights installed on these courts in August 1990.

In May 2002, the worn plexipave courts were upgraded to sand filled artificial grass courts with help with a grant from Knox Council.

In October 2007, the club held its 21st year celebrations with dinner and entertainment at the clubrooms.

Well known coaches over the years have been Keith Rogers and Ian Goolagong.

The club has its own uniform and logo.

In the years leading up to 2019, interest in tennis was declining while interest in spectator sports like Football and Basketball was increasing. Miller Park tennis club recognised this and has, or are introducing, several activities to regain interest in tennis. These include:

Regular programs run at the club:

- Social Tuesdays all year.
- Cardio Tennis on Friday mornings all year.
- Social Fridays/Saturdays/Sundays every 3 to 4 weeks in warmer weather.
- Tennis For Teens.

Involvement and proposed involvement in State Govt/Tennis Vic (free) and Knox Council events:

- February Month of Tennis.
- Active April.
- Worlds Greatest Shave.
- City of Knox Seniors Festival.
- Vic Tennis Seniors Festival.

Competition:

- Adult night competition Monday, Wednesday and Thursday all year.
- Junior competition Saturday mornings all year.
- Sunday morning competition for juniors under consideration.

Promotional activities run by the club:

- Free Tennis Clinics for kids.
- Open days.
- Attendance at various community events.

Coaching:

- Kinder kids.
- Hotshots.
- Squad coaching for juniors.
- Adult coaching.

Honour Rolls and Premiership flags are listed in the Appendix. The list of Premiership flags was complied from those attached to the clubroom ceiling, but some could not be deciphered. Runners-up flags are not included in the list. Many flags have been taken by the recipients and consequently have not been recorded.

The Basin Basketball Club

In 1975, several women living in The Basin were getting together at playgroup meetings. Their husbands also met regularly, playing cards and billiards. Instigated by Dick Thomas, some of these men decided to form The Basin Basketball Club. The team, which played at Kilsyth stadium, consisted of Dick Thomas, Matt McManus, Bill Major, Howard Blegg, Andy Sweet, Brian Hill, Godfrey Baker and Bill Barry.

The following year a women's team was formed. This team, coached by Dick Thomas, also played at Kilsyth stadium and was made up of Norma Thomas, Sandra McManus, Irene Major, Joy Wallace, Margaret Stewart, Barbara Moxham, Marilyn Rose, Carol Baker, Loretta Kelly and Lyn Blegg.

The first junior team was formed in 1978 when the coach of an under 16 boys Boronia Technical School team ceased coaching. The team was taken over by Dick Thomas under the banner of The Basin Basketball Club. Included in the team were Geoff Toulson, Matt and Seymour Van De Meere and several boys from the school.

On the 21st April 1979, the club entered its first boy's team for a full season. The team, an 11d side, played at Nunawading and was coached by Bruce Kelly, although the first game was coached by Dick Thomas as Bruce was unavailable. Much of the early work was carried out by Dick Thomas and Irene Major. A team set of green singlets with white trim were purchased from Kmart and red numbers sewn on. Red cotton football shorts were also purchased and added to the uniform. The boys in the team were David Bortolussi, Ian Bottel, Peter Dobson, Simon and Tony Major, Brian Page, Stephen Shepherd and Andrew Wallace.

In 1981, the first junior girls team was formed and coached by Margaret Sweet and Ute Frankcom played in the under 10 competition. The team played at Boronia stadium and was made up of Gillian Bottel, Michelle Sweet, Joanne Frankcom, Kendra and Donna Gill and Michelle Moore.

In 1992, the club, under the Presidency of Justin Walton, had 460 juniors and 80 seniors making 70 junior teams and 8 senior teams competing at Knox Amateur Basketball Association (K.A.B.A.), Melbourne East Basketball Association, Nunawading (M.E.B.A.), and Kilsyth and Mountain District Basketball Association (K. & M.D.B.A.).

The club started using "*The Basin Wildcats*" from around 1995.

Many teams have won premierships over the years.

In 2025, the club has teams playing in the Knox and Kilsyth associations and also has teams playing in various tournaments throughout the years. The club has over 400 members, a fantastic introduction to basketball for many junior players. Many talented players have gone on to representative basketball and state teams.

In 2018, the club commenced using the finished basketball stadium at The Basin Primary School as their base.

The club presents many yearly awards with the earliest recorded from 1992:

- **Gillian Bottell Outstanding Player Award**. Gillian was in the first The Basin Wildcat junior girls team (Under 10) which started in 1981. This award was developed by the Club in memory of Gillian and the outstanding way she represented herself and The Basin Wildcats. Gillian tragically passed away in a car accident; reportedly on her way to a basketball game.
- S**hane Nicolaou Outstanding Player Award**. This award was developed by the Club in memory of Shane but more so in recognition of the contributions his parents who coached at the Club and his sister who played for The Basin Wildcats. Shane passed away from cancer at the age of 18.
- **Kyle Vassil Award**. This award was developed by the club in memory of Kyle Vassil, an active Club member playing in the U14 team in 2010. This is why this award is only presented to an U14 player who demonstrates good commitment/attitude/perseverance, encourages other players and represents the club well. Kyle tragically passed away at the age of 12 in February 2010 while swimming at a school camp.
- **Junior Encouragement (Boy & Girl) Award**.
- **Celebration Services Sportsmanship Award (Boy & Girl).** Player who displays outstanding sportsmanship.
- **Justin DaCosta Memorial Award.** The Best Club Member. The award was developed as a "*Club Trophy*" in honour of the DaCosta Family and all

they contributed to the Basin Wildcats — this is why it is awarded to a club member (NOT a player) who contributes a lot to the club behind the scenes. The Da Costa family was involved with the club for many years as players, coaches and committee members.

- **Peter O'Callaghan Memorial Award (Boy & Girl)**. The Best player and contributor to the club. This award is donated by the O'Callaghan family in memory of Peter's love of sports, and his support of boys and girls in their involvement in junior sports. Peter was always encouraging participants in a range of sports/activities to persevere, and to be the best they could be. It is awarded to a player who contributes to the club, not just playing, encourages others & "*keeps on trying*".
- **Jayco Coaches Award**. Recognition of contribution.

Recipients of the above awards are listed in the Appendixes.

The Basin Tennis Club

The Basin Tennis Club was formed in 1932 at the initiative of Mr R. B. Smith, owner of Smith's Store, the first store in The Basin. The first meetings were held in Mr Smiths lounge room. The clubs' first President was Mr. Smith and the first treasurer and secretary Miss Rose Rafferty. Mr Smith provided some land at the rear of his property and constructed an asphalted tennis court (see photo on page 228). Due to the popularity of the game, another court was added a little later. The club affiliated with and participated in the Fern Tree Gully and District Tennis Association.

A newspaper report dated April 1948 of "*Basin Tennis Club Ball*" held in The Basin Progress Hall stated in part:

"*…the thanks of the club were heartily expressed to Mr H Poulter for keeping the courts in such splendid order.*"

The first few years successes were few. In 1949, the B Grade won its first premiership and in 1951 the A Grade won their first premiership, the "*Dr Farrow Cup*".

During its existence, the club was popular with its warmth of atmosphere and the afternoon teas provided by the ladies.

In early the 1950s the club disbanded and the clubs funds donated to The Basin Progress Association.

Midge Beesley and her husband purchased a house in Olinda Road near The Basin roundabout in 1954. They also purchased an adjacent overgrown block of land. They discovered asphalt, net posts and wire netting from the abandoned tennis court. They later built a new house on the tennis court site.

The Basin Progress Association attempted to reform the Tennis club in 1962 in the Batterham Park area but this was unsuccessful. Later, in 1972, the Batterham Park Tennis Club was formed.

Riding for the Disabled

Early in 1971, several community minded people in The Basin formed a group with the aim of teaching handicapped children to ride. Lead by Mrs. J. Ericson, of Fern Street, the group initially started at South Yarra. In October 1971, the group became the first registered "*Riding for the Disabled*" group in Victoria with its base at Wicks Reserve, The Basin.

Riding for the Disabled had its origins in England in 1954 and quickly spread to other countries. Queensland was the first State in Australia to start in 1964.

For the handicapped, riding represents a whole new way of life: four strong legs to carry you instead of two weak or useless ones. To those confined to a wheelchair or to moving slowly using crutches or callipers, horse riding opens new horizons, gives new independence and confidence, and much enjoyment.

The group at The Basin were known as the "*Wick's*" group (for the reserve where they met). They were greatly helped by the Wicks Reserve Committee and the Rotary Club of Boronia, who provided an enclosed area for the riders to work within.

In 2025, Riding for the Disabled no longer operates in Wicks Reserve.

Lilydale Bowmen Club

The Lilydale Bowman Club is located on the corner of Pavitt Lane and Sheffield Rd.

The club was formed in 1977 by five members of the Moorabbin Archery Club. These members were Steve Edwards, Peter Dickson, Brian Williams, Graham Windsor and David Abbott. They recognised a need for a club focused on Field Archery while the Moorabbin Club focused on Target Archery.

The founding members spent considerable time assessing potential sites for the club; finally choosing a site of 35 acres on the corner of Pavitt Lane and Sheffield Rd. The site was ideal for the purpose surrounded by national park and farm land.

The land was originally selected by William Jackson as Crown allotment 51 which he secured title to in 1893. He subdivided and sold parcels commencing in 1898. A 100 acre parcel on the corner of Pavitt Lane and Sheffield Road was used as a farm called Bonnie Doon (see page 97).

The Shire of Lilydale purchased the property in 1965. Thirty-five acres is used by the Bowman Club, and the rest part used by Doongala Pony Club.

The farm land had been leased on occasions for use when the club hosted international shooting competitions.

Field archery simulates hunting game, with small targets placed in natural surroundings at various

Hard Times

The Basin Football Club could have done with a benefactor one year when finances took a sudden dive. No new project had been entered into, no great player had been bought – the treasurer had absconded with the funds and police had to be called in.

distances. It requires a large site with natural bush surroundings.

As opposed to target archery using flat open turf, field archery is shot in the bush, which can range from open scrub land to steep terrain.

The clubhouse is surrounded by pleasant grassed parkland, used for parking and visitor camping, while in the lower sections of the property the Dandenong creek flows through picturesque fern stands. The three 20 target field courses which wind their way around the grounds are set up for multipurpose use for the various games, Australian Bowhunters Association (ABA), International Field Archery Association (IFAA), 3D (shooting at targets of different sizes set at varying distances, heights and angles around a course in forest or other rough terrain). A field archery round has many similarities with a golf round, though the target lanes are shorter than fairways. Indoor Shooting is situated inside the clubhouse building with stationary circular targets postioned at a short distance.

The site is owned by the local council and leased by the club who pay all the land rates. In 2025, the site has no reticulated water or electricity. Water is provided by on site tanks and a generator provides electricity.

In the early days, the local council supported the club by providing clubrooms in 1984 and toilets in 1986. The toilets were installed on the site boundary to be shared with Doongalla Horse and Pony Club.

Over the years, the club has spent over $20,000 improving the facilities and in 2025 have excellent clubrooms and their own toilets and showers. Finances to improve the facilities have been entirely self funded.

The club grew rapidly and in 1997 boasted the largest club membership in Australia. In 2025, the club is one of the largest and fastest growing field archery clubs in the country, having a membership of around 200, with ages ranging from 10 to 70, both male and female.

The Club is affiliated with the Australian Bowhunters Association (ABA), the national body which governs the sport and operates through a network of branches throughout Australia. As well as setting the rules and regulations, ABA provides members and clubs

The Basin Tennis Club Courts behind Smith's Store. c1933.Ernie Burton, Ernie Westworth, Dell Burton. Both men worked at the Doongalla Timber Mill

with public liability insurance.

Doongala Horse and Pony Club

On the 24th March 1969, The Basin Progress Association called a special meeting inviting interested people to form a local horse and pony club. A total of 33 people attended the meeting where following points were made:

There was a definite need in the area for a Horse and Pony Club, as the nearest was at Croydon.

The Basin Progress Association compiled a list of 33 names who did not belong to a club but were interested in joining if a local one was formed.

A suitable location was available at Wicks Reserve and the Committee of Management would encourage and help a newly formed club.

The Shire Riding Councillors were in favour of the proposal and would do what was within their power to help.

The Basin Progress Association was sponsoring the proposal for community benefit and once the club was formed would take no further active participation unless asked by the club.

Various executive and members of the Croydon and Mountain District Horse and Pony Club had been contacted and some inspected the proposed location. While the proposal had not been put at their meeting, the proposal was worthy, and the club would be willing to advise and help in the formation of the club.

A committee of 15 was elected to guide the formation and draft a constitution. The first committee members were Mrs Morgan, Mrs Elliott, Mr. John Pittard, Mr. Wallace Campbell, Mrs. Phelan, Mr. John Campbell, Mrs. Ierufi, Mrs. Veal, Mrs Tremevan, Mr. K. Riddell, Mr. L. Everett, Mr. Roy Ritchie, Mrs. Stellar, Mrs. Ericason and Mrs. Gale. President was Mrs. Morgan, Secretary Mrs. Elliott.

The committee arranged to hold a rally and gymkhana soon. A local veterinarian, Mr. Wilson, offered his services to the club. Miss Ericason offered to loan 4 horses to the club for a few months and Mr. Robinson offered to let them graze in his paddock provided someone looked after them to which Miss Vikki Walker volunteered.

Later meetings drafted a constitution and the club commenced operations at Wicks Reserve. It was soon discovered Wicks was unsuitable and other areas including land near Millers Road and the Chandlers paddocks were used for a time. In 1971, the group discovered a large tract of land in Sheffield Road which had been purchased by the Shire of Lillydale in 1965, and previously used as a farm called Bonnie Doon (see page 97). Negotiations were successful in using the land, although the agreement was loose. The land is shared with the Lilydale Bowmen Club.

The land in Sheffield Road became the clubs home and has proved suitable. It consists of an area of 8-10 acres cleared over time with a further 10-15 acres of bush used for cross-country jumping. All the area is appropriately fenced.

The Doongala Pony Club Incorporated was registered/affiliated with the Victorian Pony Club Association on 25th May 1971 with full affiliation granted on 14th December 1971.

Major ground and building improvements over the years have been:

- The first shed (a double garage) erected in 1972 to store gear and an area flattened for a temporary arena.
- A double garage shed erected in 1976 beside the earlier one creating a walkway between the two.
- In the late 1970s, a cover was erected over the area between the two garages and also extended out the front of the garages.
- In 1985, a besser block shed was constructed with a concrete floor and roof and roller door. A 25 kVA electric generator with electric wiring to other areas was installed. Before this, the members used a portable generator. This new shed was financed and erected by club members. The generator was donated by a club member.
- In 1988, the club negotiated with the Council to build a series of riding trails following local roads, and leading to the pony club. Many of the younger club members agist horses in local paddocks and ride to

The Story of Johnny Reb

The Royal Melbourne Show is the Mecca of show jumping in Australia. Show Day is Grand Prix Day; the most coveted event on the Australian Show Jumping circuit.

On Show Day 1971, a cloud hung over the event. The third horse to jump was the skewbald, Johnny Reb, ridden by Guy Creighton. As he made his way around the course, all those who knew him could see that he was not jumping his best or in his usual neat fashion.

Coming to the second last fence, he looked right to jump the parallel bars. He failed to rise high enough to clear the bar, took the front rail with him and crashed heavily to the ground, throwing his rider well clear. He made an attempt to rise but failed to do so.

A screen was placed around him and eventually he was removed to the Research Station at Werribee, where he died on the operating table.

Owned by Max Towns of Orbost in Victoria, Johnny was only a 10 year old. Starting his jumping career at the early age of 3 years, firstly with his owner, then Geoff Richards, Robert Allen and finally Guy Creighton.

Johnny Reb had jumped with distinction at every worthwhile show between Adelaide and Cairns. He was a Melbourne Grand Prix winner in 1969 when ridden by Geoff Richards, an event he won in brilliant fashion over a big course.

Plagued by leg injuries for a couple of seasons, he came right back to his own in 1971 with a number of placings in Sydney. This was followed by a win in the Queensland Championships, at Toowoomba, a string of wins in Northern Queensland during the Winter, winning the Australian Show jumping Championships during the Royal National Exhibition in Brisbane and 5 wins in Adelaide.

Johnny Reb was not a big horse, but he was a brilliant jumper who disliked hitting fences. By all standards he was great horse. Any horse that wins a Melbourne Grand Prix must be classed as great.

Johnny Reb died a Champion. A true Champion in every sense of the word.

and from the pony club.
- A stone topped and fenced arena was created in 1989. The local Council financed the excavation and stone topping and the club paid for and erected the fence.
- In 1990, the club renegotiated the land lease arrangement with the Council incorporating much tighter conditions suiting the club.
- In 1991, a huge tree planting effort saw trees around the arena and in many other areas.
- The club used pan toilets up until 1986 when Council constructed public toilet facilities on the land border shared with the Lilydale Bowmans Club. However, these toilets were too distant from the club buildings. In 1992, the club financed and erected a large toilet block located closer to the club's buildings.
- The largest "*gear*" shed was donated to the club in 1993 and erected by members.
- Over time, the canteen front area roof was extended and the floor concreted. In 1999, steel walls were added.
- In 2002, the construction of an additional arena commenced and this was finished.
- In 2009, new clubrooms were finished.

Major events held each year included:
- The Annual Johnny Reb memorial jumping competition (see the insert on page 229 describing how this event came to be named). This event was discontinued in 2002.
- The Annual Johnny McCabe fancy dress event held after the last rally of the year. The McCabe family were active members of the club in the 1970s. Johnny McCabe, the young son, was killed in a tragic accident and the fancy dress is named in his honour.
- Show jumping day, Dressage day and One Day Event (includes Cross Country Jumping).

The club operates a Junior Committee and a Senior Committee. The Junior Committee has been operating since inception and offers younger members of the club a venue for involvement in the administrative functions of the club.

The site is home to the Doongalla Adult Riders Club which commenced operation in 1981, They use the club facilities, provide finance to the club, and help at working bees, but operate as an independent organisation.

Sources of Information

- "*The Basin Centenary Booklet*" by Ron Ikin.
- "*Fire on the Hill, Flowers on the Valley*" by Rick Coxhill.
- Residents at the time of writing and former residents. In particular, Jim and Barbara Stephens for general help and information.
- Members and residents at the time of writing, former residents and former members of sporting clubs.
- Sporting clubrooms for honour rolls.
- George McDonald for Badminton information including minute books.
- BBCN articles.
- Sporting Club websites.

Basin Tennis Club Ball

PINK gladioli in profusion, Easter daisy and dainty greenery, add gaily colored balloons, and you have the setting for The Basin Tennis Club Ball, held in the Progress Hall, on April 2. Visitors and club members voted the evening a great success.

Among the dancers were Mr and Mrs Poulter, Mrs Poulter looking dignified and charming in black, shoulder cape, lined in contrast, and silver trimmings, Mr and Mrs Davey, Mrs Davey in shot taffeta, Mrs West, wearing black, sequin trimmed, Mr and Mrs Daniels, she in dusty pink, Mrs Basil Henderson, the president's wife blue dress, earings to match and wearing a spray of pink gladioli, Mr and Mrs Ross, Mrs Ross in blue frock having unusual beaded neck line, Mr and Mrs McGuire, she wearing white frock and pink flowers.

Also present were Councillor and Mrs Pickett, Mr and Mrs Dunstan, Mrs W. Stephens, Mrs and Miss Gandini, Miss Gandini's dress was of floral jersey, shirred front, heart-shaped neck, Mr and Mrs Greenwell, Mrs Maher, Mr and Mrs Harris, Mr and Mrs Roy Henley, Mrs Henley in green taffeta.

Mrs Ernie Thompson, Miss Jan Daniels, demure in pink taffeta, Miss Alice Galloway, wearing mauve net. Mrs Dingley of Boronia, whose pale blue crepe dress had pink flowers on the waist band, Miss Eunice Rogers, powder blue crepe, with diamente clips, Miss Pat Lloyd, torquoise crepe and colored top, Miss Betty Bonson white taffeta and net with white flowers in her hair, Miss Hazel Howship in frock of torquoise lame top, American ninon skirt, red rose in her hair

During the evening, the thanks of the club were heartily expressed to Mr H Poulter for keeping the tennis courts in such splendid order.

Supper arrangements were in the capable hands of the ladies and judging by the rapidity in which it disappeared the cooking was well appreciated. Music was supplied by Franklin's band.

National Library of Australia

F.T.G. District Cricket Association

The F.T.G.D.C.A.,which was formed on August 25, held a further meeting on Tuesday, September 2.

Eight clubs have stated their willingness to enter the newly formed Association and entries by any clubs wishing to enter will be accepted up to September 30, 1947.

Teams which have already entered are Scoresby, Fern Tree Gully (No. 1 and 2 teams), Boronia Church of Christ, The Basin (No. 1 and No. 2 teams) and Upper Fern Tree Gully (No. 1 and No. 2 teams).

It had been hoped that two grades would be formed this year, but owing to the lateness of the move to form an Association, many local clubs were not prepared. It is hoped that all clubs in F.T.G. district will give the Association a thought, and that next year there will be two grades and all adjoining clubs will be represented.

The competition will be started in October and will be for the Cr. A. F. Pickett Shield.

The office bearers who were appointed are as follows:—Cr. A. F. Pickett, Burke road, Fern Tree Gully, president; Mr L. Ewart, the Avenue, Fern Tree Gully, hon. treasurer, Mr A. C. K. Aplin, C/o T. Hayes, Upper Fern Tree Gully, hon. secretary.

The Basin football club notes

We have put away the sweaters for this year just a couple of matches sooner than we'd hoped but that's the way it goes. We've had a mighty season; we've beaten every team in the comp. (nobody else has tossed East Ringwood); we've been in the four for the first time ever and we've a nice new dressing shed almost finished.

What more could we want?

This year several players have played their 100th game with this club — Wal Linsay, A. Galloway, W. Girvan, T. Murphy — and we hope they'll play another 100.

T. Murphy ("Claude") has won best and fairest of the club. He proved that a fit old man is better than an unfit young man.

Murray Adams won the most improved trophy (well earned too). Can you remember a few years back when he first played? Mrs Adams' little boy took some fearful punishment but this year was a different tale.

Don Ling was voted the best utility player. think he could play anywhere on the field with great success. I've seen him exchange bumps with rucks, forwards full backs and even goal posts.

M. Cook won most consistent and R. Powkes the best first year player; both popular awards.

R. Harrod won best clubman and was another good choice. Not many people realise the work Russell does marking the ground, minding the gear and carting it to every game.

The club is very grateful for the excellent support that players and spectators have given this year and look forward to even better things next season.

Also as special vote of thanks to the ladies' committee for their untiring job done in the background.

To wind up the year we are having our annual presentation ball next Friday, August 29. You are all welcome to come along and help wind up our successful footy season.

—BASIN-ITE

Basin win first flag by point in thriller

In a hard game featuring strength and speed, The Basin last Saturday defeated Wandin by one point to gain their first premiership ever.

Right from the start the Basin went into attack but Wandin's back line turned them back. The Basin persisted, and G. Parker kicked a brilliant goal. Not to be denied, Wandin attacked and goaled.

As the game settled down it could be seen that this would be a battle of back lines.

The siren rang to end the first quarter with the Basin having a one goal advantage.

Basin, 3.2.
Wandin, 2.2.

With the wind in this quarter, Wandin soon evened the score and looked like running away from the Basin, but the Basin took stock, and with K. McDonough at full-back pulling down every kick that came his way, and P. Badge showing plenty of pace, slowed down the attack and many times sent the Basin into attack, where R. Williams and P. Percy gave Wandin plenty of trouble.

At the close of the quarter the Basin were trailing by 11 points but looked like settling down.

Half-time scores:—
Basin, 5.2.
Wandin, 6.7.

After the rest it was a different Basin. With a few positional changes they settled down and really got on with the job The Basin's rucks were killing their opponents, and with J. Wright on the ball now were attacking all the time.

K. Elliott, in the centre, was giving his side plenty of drive, while G. Parker and R. Williams were putting plenty of fire into the forward line.

At the other end of the ground K. Elliot and P. Badge were turning back all that came their way, only allowing Wandin two scoring shots.

Three - quarter time scores:—
Basin, 9.6.
Wandin, 7.8.

From the start Wandin were into attack but only to be turned back by a very tight, hard-hitting back line.

Then it happened. A free-kick to Wandin, and the Basin looked like being in trouble with Wandin going mad and having shots from all angles, but K. McDonough still stood firm.

With only time-on to play, N. Harmon grabbed the ball out of a pack and running around two opponents, kicked a beautiful goal. Back to the centre and Wandin towards goal. Poulter gained possession and this looked like Wandin's flag, but up in the middle of the pack came two big hands and K. McDonough saved again. With only seconds to go the Basin were driving forward again, and then it was all over, with the Basin taking out the flag.

Basin, 10.8.
Wandin, 9.13.

Best: K. McDonough (best on ground), M. Cook, P. Percy, J. Wright, P. Badge, J. Horsnaill.

Goalkickers: P. Percy 3, R. Taylor 2, N. Harmon 2, G. Parker, M. Cook and K. Elliott one each.

• CARL BREWSTER, Basin ruckman, palms the ball to N. Mitchell (22) in last Saturday's grand-final. —R. Gatherum photo.

THE BASIN BADMINTON CLUB.

Sir,—Re letters printed in your paper (10/4/47), the above club has never at any time given permission to send letters to the "Press" under the heading "The Basin Badminton Club." We have no complaints to put to the progress association. So unless official, please do not head them as above—(Signed) J. N. GRIFFIN, Secretary and Treasurer.

Basin Cricket Club

The Basin Cricket Club has obtained the services of Art. Franklin's band for club dances and extends a hearty welcome to young and old to come along and have a good time at future dances. A nice supper will be provided and there will also be some very good prizes given for Monte Carlos, etc.

If local support is given to this club it should go ahead by leaps and bounds.

The Basin Football Club Honour Roll (3 pages) Senior Premierships Highlighted							
Year	**President**	**Secretary**	**Treasurer**	**Senior Coach**	**Senior Captain**	**Redpath-Smith Medal**	**Larter-Killian Medal**
1947	A. Cooper	J. Stephens	R. Peck				
1948	A. Cooper	F. Byford	J. Stephens				
1949	A. Cooper	F. Byford	J. Stephens			T. Murphy	
1950	A. Cooper	A. Kent	J. Stephens				
1951	A. Cooper	A. Kent	J. Stephens				
1952	A. Cooper	F. Byford	J. Stephens	B. Wright	B. Girvan		
1953	C. Pugh	J. Stephens	J. Stephens				
1954	A. Cooper	J. Stephens	J. Stephens	H. Turner	H. Turner	T. Murphy	
1955	Disbanded						
1956	Disbanded						
1957	A. Petrie	M. White	A. Cooper	D. Lewer	D. Ling	D. Ling	
1958	A. Petrie	G. Baker	A. Cooper	W. Lindsay	W. Lindsay	T. Murphy	
1959	A. Petrie	J. Stephens	A. Cooper	W. Lindsay	W. Lindsay	N. Parkinson	
1960	F. Perry	J. Stephens	A. Cooper	N. Harman	N. Harman	N. Parkinson	
1961	M. Norton	D. Sims	A. Cooper	N. Harman	N. Harman	R. Taylor	
1962	**J. Wallace**	**J. Stephens**	**A. Cooper**	**N. Harman**	**N. Harman**	**J. Wright**	**J. Wright**
1963	J. Wallace	R. Williams	A. Cooper	N. Harman	N. Harman	J. Wright	
1964	M. Norton	J. Pittard	A. Cooper	N. Harman	N. Harman	J. Pittard	
1965	M. White	N. Mitchell	A. Cooper	B. Kilpatrick	B. Kilpatrick	B. Jones	
1966	M. White	N. Mitchell	A. Cooper	B. Kilpatrick	B. Kilpatrick	P. Murray	
1967	M. Norton	A. Cooper	A. Cooper	A. Clarke	A. Clarke	W. Kirkman	
1968	J. Wallace	T. Tate	A. Cooper	A. Clarke	A. Clarke	F. Davis	
1969	J. Wallace	T. Tate	J. De Kort	R. Hobbs	R. Hobbs	l. Cromarty	W. Wood
1970	J. Wallace	T. Tate	J. De Kort	P. Moxham	P. Moxham	F. Davis	
1971	J. Wallace	T. Tate	T. Tate	P. Moxham	P. Moxham	F. Davis	
1972	F. Wood	T. Tate	J. Brown	A. McCarthy	A. McCarthy	A. McCarthy	
1973	R. Dixon	T. Tate	T. Gramlick	C. Burns		C. Burns	
1974	R. Hin	P. Ashby	L. Shepherd	P. Smith		D. Lambert	
1975	F. Wood	P. Ashby	A. Robinson	A. Lambert		A. Lambert	
1976	P. Smith	T. Tate	J. Cosstick	A. Lambert		D. Lambert	A. McCarthy
1977	J. Cosstick	T. Tate	F. Cosstick	D. Hunnam		D. Lambert	
1978	D. Luscombe	P. Ashby	D. Lambert	G. Barnet		D. Lambert	M. Wood
1979	D. Luscombe	A. Rennick	D. Lambert	G. Robinson	R. Smith	Garth Smith	
1980	J. Brasher & P. Ashby	M. Mills	M. Little	A. Gill		Greg Smith	R. Fay
1981	J. Wallace	N. Smith & R. Fay	R. Smith	A. Gill	Greg Smith	J. Cerini	B. Prestly

The Basin Football Club Honour Roll (3 pages) Senior Premierships Highlighted							
Year	**President**	**Secretary**	**Treasurer**	**Senior Coach**	**Senior Captain**	**Redpath-Smith Medal**	**Larter-Killian Medal**
1982	J. Wallace	T. Slatter	R. Smith	J. Ruffles	Greg Smith	P. Cannon	A. Gill
1983	J. Wallace	D. Wilson	R. Smith	J. Ruffles	Greg Smith	S. Hilton	A. Morse
1984	J. Wallace	W. Fillis	R. Smith	K. Rout	K. Rout	K. Rout	D. Lambert
1985	**C. Kruger/ N. Harman**	**R. Bruton**	**M. Little**	**K. Rout**	**K. Rout**	**K. Rout**	**J. Lowry**
1986	K. Ryan	J. Ruffles	L. King	S. Hilton	M. Hall	S. Kruger	G. Rankin
1987	K. Ryan	B. Ryan	L. King	S. Hilton	M. Hall	A. Dalton	P. Hopley
1988	K. Ryan	B. Ryan	B. Ryan	S. Waye	S. Downard	A. Dalton	P. Hopley
1989	K. Ryan	C. Mehegan	B. Ryan	S. Waye	J. Wright	M. Redpath	A. Walter
1990	K. Ryan	C. Mehegan	B. Ryan	S. Waye	M. Hall	N. Flanagan	F. Waither
1991	S. Mills	C. Mehegan	G. Smith	G. Newbold	G. Newbold	M. Redpath	M. Flanagan
1992	S. Mills	D. Semken	G. Smith	J. Ruffles	M. Redpath	A. Dalton	M. Day
1993	S. Mills	S. Semken	G. Smith	J. Ruffles	M. Redpath	B. Hartman	D. Larter
1994	**S. Mills**	**D. Semken**	**G. Smith**	**J. Ruffles**	**M. Redpath**	**C. Watson**	**M. Day**
1995	S. Semken	D. Semken	G. Smith	P. Brown	M. Redpath	C. Watson	D. Larter
1996	S. Semken/ S. Mills	C. Mehegan	G. Smith	P. Brown	M. Redpath	M. Smith	
1997	S. Mills	M. Mills	G. Smith	N. Tenant	N. Tenant	A. Watson	P. Stewart
1998	S. Mills	M. Mills	G. Smith	G. Norbry	M. Thomas	R. Mitchell	P. Stewart
1999	S. Mills	M. Mills	D. Larter	S. Jones	R. Mitchell	R. Mitchell	
2000	L. Keenan	V. Laurito	S. Wilson	R. O'Neil	R. Mitchell	M. Thomas	M. Redpath
2001	L. Keenan	V. Laurito	S. Wilson	R. O'Neil	R. Mitchell	S. Flynn	G. Gill
2002	B. Akers	D. Cowlishaw	S. Wilson	J. Ruffles	S. Flynn	A. Cowlishaw	R. Cross
2003	B. Akers	C. Mehegan	C. Mehegan	S. Downward/ S. Mehegan	S. Flynn	A. Watson	G. Gill
2004	B. Akers	M. Bailey	C. Mehegan	C. Gillett	C. Gillett	L. Cook	A. Heath
2005	V. Laurito	M. Bailey	S. Wilson	C. Gillett	C. Gillett	R. Mitchell	D. Maggs
2006	V. Laurito	B. Phillips	J. Jones	B. Hartman	S. Ellis	M. Smith	D. Maggs
2007	B. Phillips	S. Billsborrow	J. Wilson	D. Searle	M. Smith/ L. Anderson	B. Holmes	C. Boromio
2008	G. Lee	B. Phillips	V. Laurito	L. Rowe	A. Cowlishaw	L. Haslem	B. Dahan
2009	G. Lee	B. Phillips	C. Mackay	L. Rowe	M. Smith	P. Garrity	
2010	B. Howlett	B. Phillips	C. Mackay	L. Rowe/ M. Clark	P. Garrity	D. Den Braber	G. Lee
2011	B. Howlett	B. Phillips	C. Mackay	M. Glassborow	D. Den Braber	M. Callinan	M. Killian
2012	**B. Howlett**	**B. Phillips**	**C. Mackay**	**M. Glassborow**	**D. Den Braber**	**T. Mills**	**B. Dahan**
2013	A. Winters	B. Phillips	C. Mackay	M. Glassborow	L. Watson	W. Gayfer	J. Cosenza
2014	A. Winters	B. Phillips	C. Mackay	M. Glassborow	L. Watson	J. Adams	S. Debernardi

The Basin Football Club Honour Roll (3 pages) Senior Premierships Highlighted							
Year	**President**	**Secretary**	**Treasurer**	**Senior Coach**	**Senior Captain**	**Redpath-Smith Medal**	**Larter-Killian Medal**
2015	A. Winters	B. Phillips	G. Rule	M. Glassborow	T. Mills	M. Kruger	D. Makin
2016	A. Winters	B. Phillips	G. Rule	G. Lee & J. Morris	T. Mills/ A. Battye	J. Adams	M. Richardson
2017	A. Winters	B. Phillips	G. Rule	S. Homewood	T. Mills	C. Cripps, A. Findlay	J. Osbourne
2018	A. Winters	B. Phillips	G. Rule	J. Stanton	T. Mills	J. Adams	A. Battye
2019	A. Winters	B. Phillips	G. Rule	J. Stanton		N. Hallo	D.Makin
2020	A. Winters	B. Phillips	G. Rule	J. Stanton			
2021							
2022							
2023							
2024							Jack Kahsnitz

The Basin Football Club Life Members Honour Roll				
A. Cooper	J. Stephens	J. Wallace	W. Lindsay	A. Petrie
F. Petrie	F. Perry	N. Harmon	D. Scanlon	M. Cook
B. McLachlan	N. Kirkpatrick	G. Murray	F. Murray	L. Badge
W. Kirkman	P. Murray	W. O'Hara	M. Norton	T. Gramlick
F. Davis	R. Fay	D. Lynch	M. Scanlon	B. Fitzgerald
G. Murray	H. Kidner	P. Ashby	T. Tate	J. Kirkham
R. Fay	M. Luscombe	J. Folino	M. White	I. Amos
G. Robinson	A. Robinson	R. Smith	B. Akers	G. Smith
W. Akers	D. Lambert	J. Ruffles	S. Jacobs	A. Jacobs
T. Davis	J. Harrod	M. Hall	K. Smith	D. Laurito
S. Mills	R. Jacobs	D. Smith	S. Downward	A. Morse
M. Redpath	V. Laurito	L. Mehegan	K. Winters	T. McGinty
D. Larter	N. Akers	L. Dalton	A. Gill	S. Kruger
C. Mehegan	J. Brasher	G. Skerke	S. Mehegan	J. Tompkins
J. Ikin	D. Gillies	S. Wilson	B. Howlett	M. Adams
M. Killian	C. Ewart	M. Wallace	M. Smith	B. Phillips
G. Lee	S. Nicholls	A. Winters	G. Rule	T. Reiner
L. Watson	D. Makin/S. Oxley			

The Basin Football Netball Club Achievements as at 2025

Senior Premierships:
- 1962 EDFL (Div. 3) The Basin 10.8 68 defeated Wandin 9.13 67 (B2 Grade)
- 1985 EDFL (Div. 3) The Basin 18.14 122 defeated Fairpark 18.11 119
- 1994 EDFL (Div. 3) The Basin 15.10 100 defeated Templestowe 5.18 48
- 2012 EFL (Div. 4) The Basin 19.10 123 defeated South Belgrave 11.4 70

Senior Runners Up:
- 1984
- 1988 (Div. 3)
- 2004
- 2005 (Div. 4)

Reserves Premierships:
- 2011
- 2012 (Div. 4)

Colts (Under 19's & 18's) Premierships:
- 1981
- 1991 (Div. 3)
- 2007 (Div. 4)

Seniors Wooden Spoons:
- 1967 (Div. 2)
- 1979 (Div. 3)
- 1986 (Div. 2)
- 2002 (Div. 2)
- 2003 (Div. 3)
- 2024 (Div. 2)

Champion Club Award:
- 1985 (Overall) 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012 (Div. 4)

Highest Score:
- 41.29 275 versus Rowville (Div. 3) round 16 1969

Lowest Scores:
- 1 point versus Boronia (Seconds 18) 1947
- 4 points versus Montrose (Div. 3) round 13 1980

Highest Goal Kicker:
- Nick Tennant 75 (1997)

Junior Premierships:
- Under 19.5: Red 2022 (Div 2)
- Under 17: 2012 (Div. C1), 2017 Greens (Div. D)
- Under 16: 2024 (Div. C)
- Under 15: 1977*, 1978*, 2004 (Div. C), 2007 (Div. C), 2013 (Div. C), 2018 (Div. B), 2022 (Div. B)
- Under 14: 2019 (Div. D), 2022 (Div. B), 2024 (Div. C)
- Under 13: 1990*, 2002 (Div. C), 2007 (Div. C), 2013 (Div. C)
- Under 12: 1989*, 1999 (Div. C), 2003 (Div. B), 2022 (Div C)
- Under 12 Girls Whites: 2022 (Div B), Red 2023 (Div. A)
- Under 11: 1983*, 1988*, 2019 (Div. B), Greens 2022 (Div. B)
- Under 10: 1985*, 1986*

*Knox Junior Football Association

Netball Premierships:
- 2015 (Reds Div. 4)
- 2019 (Bears Div. 7)
- 2022 (Grizzlies Div. 6)

Players to AFL (VFL):
- *Angelo Petraglia.* North Melbourne 5 games, Footscray 49 games
- *John Holt.* North Melbourne 71 games
- *Jason Daniltchenko.* North Melbourne 39 games
- *Liam Shiels.* Hawthorn

Leagues:
- Croydon Mail Football League 1947 to 1949
- Croydon Ferntree Gully Football League 1950 to 1961
- Eastern District Football League 1962 to 1997
- Knox Junior Football Association 1970's to 1997
- Eastern Football League 1997 to 2014
- Eastern Football Netball League 2014 to 2025

Most Games:
- Michael Redpath (332)

The Basin Football Netball Club Best Clubperson Award							
1957	A. Lewer	1977	J. Bennet	1995	R. Johnstone, K. Winters	2015	G. Alden, T. Reiner
1958	R. Harrod	1978	D. Lambert	1996	V. Laurito, M. Bailey	2016	J. Moody, J. Sawyer
1959	W. Lindsay	1979	A. Robinson	1998	T. Williams	2017	L. Reiner
1960	M. Norton	1980	D. Ross	2000	A. Farrell	2018	S. Porch
1961	F. Petrie	1981	A. & S. Jacobs	2001	J. Ikin	2019	L. Dalton
1963	F. Murray	1982	R. & J. Smith	2002	A. Morse		
1964	M. Cook	1983	B. Wilson	2003	N. Akers		
1965	L. Lucas	1985	D. & B. Palmer	2004	G. Smith		
1968	W. Adams	1986	K. Ryan	2006	C. Thompson		
1970	W. Beggs	1987	H. McDonald	2007	T. Burt		
1971	L. Badge	1988	S. Mills, J. Brasher	2008/09	J. Ikin		
1973	E. Gramlic	1989	K. Ryan	2010	C. Mackay		
1974	P. Ashby	1990	B. Ryan	2011/12	N. Moody		
1975	D. Lynch	1991	L. Mehegan	2013	M. Edwards		
1976	R. Luscombe	1992/93	G. Smith	2014	J. Pitman		

The Basin Football Club

Legends Team 1947-1996

Back: N. Parkinson, W. Lindsay, N. Harman

Half Back: S. Kruger, M. Redpath, Garth Smith

Centre: S. Wright, D. Lambert, Greg Smith

Half Foward: F. Davis, M. Thomas, A. Dalton

Foward: D. Ling, D. Hill, T. Murphy

Followers: M. Cook, B. Hartman, C. Watson

Interchange: B. Beverley, L. Dalton, R. Brasher, A. McCarthy

Coach: J. Ruffles **President:** Steve Mills

The Basin Football Club

1962 Grand Final Line Up

Full Back: D. Scanlon, K. McDonagh, J. O'Neil

Half Back: P. Badge, J. Horsnaill, N. Parkinson

Centre: B. McLachlan, J. Wright, W. Kirkman

Half Foward: R. Williams, K. Elliott, P. Percy

Full Foward: N. Mitchell, G. Parker, K. Brewster

Followers: M. Cook, N. Harman, R. Taylor

Interchange: J. Smith, L. Parkhurst, T. Eilliott, J. Pittard

Captain/Coach: Noel Harman

The Basin Football Club

Team of the Decade 1990-1999

Full Back: A. Watson, M. Stickland, M. Kruger

Half Back: P. Castillo, M. Redpath (C), D. Flanagan

Centre: M. Smith, P. Spencer, R. Norris

Half Foward: S. Kruger, M. Thomas, M. Cieslak

Full Foward: B. Howlett, D. Hill, P. Brown

Followers: R. Mitchell, B. Hartman, C. Watson

Interchange: A. Duncan, T. Jackson, R. Coccaro, A. Dalton

Coach: P. Brown

The Basin Football Club

Team of the Decade 2000-2009

Full Back: L. Watson, M. Smith, A. Duncan

Half Back: M. Kruger, C. Gillett (C), B. Dahan

Centre: L. Cook, P. Spencer, L. Haslem

Half Foward: M. Killian, A. Cowlishaw, A. Watson

Full Foward: A. Pudney, G. Noonan, M. Hayhurst

Followers: R. Mitchell, M. Thomas, L. Anderson

Interchange: B. Skerke, M. Oxley, A. Smith, J. Wilson

Coach: C. Gillett

The Basin Junior Football Club

U/11 Premiership 1983

Stuart Mitchell, Bradley Heddle, Gregg Reynolds, Brendon Skerke, Paul Stewart, Warren Turner, Matthew Whalan, Heath Thomas, Wayne Saltmarsh, Stephen O'Halloran, David Blood, Timothy Stewart, Glen Bardsley, John Solomon, Mark King, Brett Burgess, Simon Stafford, Gavin Henshaw, Peter Eacott, Bree Shead, Jason McDonald, Travis McDougall, Mark McDonald

The Basin Junior Football Club

U/10 Premiership 1986

Coach Mick Morris **Team Manager** P. McDonald **Trainer** S. Ryan **Runner** T. White **Boundary** J. Skerke

M. Lemmings, N. Moody, J. McDonald, J. Robson, J. Kann, D. Wood, M. Burton, M. Martin, M. Rutland, N. Hastings, T. McIntyre, M. Treziak, P. Treziak, S. Lloyd, L. Farrell, B. Valentine, S. Hicks, D. Bourke, M. Smith, S. Allsopp, C. Thetford, A. Wenke, R. Simpson

The Basin Junior Football Club

U/11 Premiership 1988

Coach Gary Allsopp **Asst Coach** Taddy **Runner** John Zinnow **Team Manager** Rob Gemmell **Boundry Umpire** Meagan Wade **Goal Umpire** Ray Reid

Shane Allsopp (Capt), Darren Wade (V Capt), Shane Flynn (DVC), Matthew Smith, Stuart Gemmell, Josh Sapwell ,Scott Porter, Jason Knight, Jason Zinnow, Keiren O'Brien, Ben Donnelly, Troy Daniltchenko, Matthew Bailey, Wayne Reid, Gavin Fox, Andrew Stephen, Dean Semken, Adam Watson, Luke Holland, Shaun Pynaker

The Basin Junior Football Club

U/12 Premiership 1989

Coach Steve Miller **Manager** Rob Gemmell **Trainer** Taddy Davis

M Smith, S Allsopp, S Gemmell, J Sapwell, A Watson, J Knight, J Zinnow, S Flynn, K O'Brien, D Wade, B Donnelly, T Daniltchenko, M Bailey, W Reid, S Chinn, G Fox, A Stephen, D Semken, L Holland, S Dare, S Pynaker, A Gribble, G Gill

The Basin Football Club

U/13 Premiers 1990

Coach Gary Allsopp **Asst Coach** Taddy **Team Man** Rob Gemmell **Boundary** Elisa Fox

M Smith, S Allsopp, S Gemmell, J Sapwell, A Watson, J Knight, J Zinnow, Shane Flynn, K O'Brien, D Wade, B Donnelly, T Daniltchenko, W Reid, S Chinn, G Fox, D Semken, S Dare, A Gribble, G Gill, M Turnham, J Hurley, B Dahan

The Basin Football Club

Eastern Football League U/10 2011

Commonwealth Bank Lightning Premiership

Ethan Boyd, Mitchell Brown, Jake Chalman, Daniel Fiumara, Jack Flynn, Dylan George, Daniel Laurent, Matt McLaughlin, Justin Plattern, Michael Plattern, Ethan Power, Jack Redden, Tim Ruff, Jai Smith, Jamieson Stanford, Bailey Thompson, Kyle Valentine, Tom Weir, William Young

The Basin Football Club

Eastern Football League U/10 2013

Bendigo Community Bank Lightning Premiership

Coach Chris Eldridge **Assistant Coach** Jamey Beggs **Team Manager** Lara Ferguson **Trainers** Jenny Healey Michelle Buchanan **Runner** Leigh Ellis

Charley Ancans, Joel Allanson, Toby Ayliffe, Lachlan Burrows, Joshua Curson, Liam Eldridge, Harry Evans, Kobe Ferguson, Luke Flynn, Joshua Gill, Joshua Hansen, Corey Hardinge, Harry Healey, Tyson Marshall Flynn, Bradley Mayfield, Thomas Maxwell, Jaxon Mitchell, Elijah Roberts, Heath Sartori, Lachlan Saunders Emerson, Thomas Swindell, Jacob Taylor, Kane Valentine, Reece Walsham

The Basin Football Club

Eastern Football League U/10 2018

Bendigo Bank Lightning Premiership

Coaches Darren Nicol, Regan Simpson **Team Manager** Jaime Nicol

Jett Pattison, Jackson Bryans, Jimmy Young, Jaiggah Perger-Jude, Cameron Gebing, Ryder Justin Nicol, Lachlan Cowan, Kallen Beasley, Jayden Jack Cook, Elliot Cullinan, Jordan Knapp, Tahj Garrity, Luke Clemow, Beau Simpson, Patrick Reamann West, Keaton Furlong, Ethan Mackie, Max Scott, Cameron Bayer-Monssen, Ryder Ellis, Kallen Garrity

The Basin Football Club

Eastern Football League U/10 Red 2010

Commonwealth Bank Lightning Premiership

Coach Mark Kruger, **Team Manager** Melissa Lavender

Trainer Leanne Goggin, **Runner** Shane Turner

Chris Chalman, Zac Chalman, Joshua Condello, Finn Curry, Kyle Delaney, Charles Eilersen, James Goggin, Troy Hirst, Bradley Keeghan, Rhyder Kennedy, Lachlan Kruger, Jack Lavender, Jack Le Brun, Jackson Maes, Sean McNamara, Trent Nicholas Jake Robertson, Jesse Sartori, Thomas Turner, Jack Weldon

The Basin Football Club

Eastern Football League U/9 Red 2012

Bendigo Bank Lightning Premiership

Coach Leigh Ellis **Team Manager** Kerry Sartori **Trainers** Jenny Healey, Michelle Buchanan **Runner** Chris Eldridge

Charley Ancans, Lachlan Burrows, Joshua Curson, Liam Eldridge, Kobe Ferguson, Luke Flynn, Joshua Gill, Corey Hardinge, Harry Healey, Bradley Mayfield, Thomas Maxwell, Lachlan Saunders Emerson, Heath Sartori, Thomas Swindell, Jacob Taylor, Reece Walsham, Levi Waters

The Basin Football Club

Eastern Football League U/10 Red 2016

Bendigo Community Bank Lightning Premiership

Coach Jarrod Heenan **Team Manager** Michelle Clemow **Trainers** Ed Sartori, Bruce Stewart **Runner** Glynn Pratt

Brodie Bourke, Atticus Cullinan, Shaun Dinter, Jack Eldridge, Liam Green, Thomas Hawkins, Harrison Heenan, Josh Lubbers, Noah Nugent, Jake O'Neill, Blake Rule, Ethan Sartori, Tyson Simcocks, Connor Stephen, Will Stephens, Brayden Stewart, Riley White

The Basin Football Club

Eastern Region Girls U/10 2019

Eastland Lightning Premiership

Coach Kirsty McConnell **Assistant Coach** Hayley Troake **Team Manager** Abby Jeans **Trainers** Luc Matthews, Chris Webb **Goal Umpire** Maran Smith

Charlotte Kavanagh, Imogen Poliness Ruby Sammut, Abbie Wilson, Lyla Matthews, Hayley Garrity, Jasmine Thompson, Abi Phayer, Sarah Smith, Jorja Vevvoort, Isabelle Bowden, Eliza McConnell, Astrid Webb, Bonnie Wylde, Gemma Bennett, Talise Stoddart, Olivia Doherty, Mia Cullen, Maya Jeans

The Basin Football Netball Club. Football Games Played as at 2023 (2 pages)	
Player	**Games**
300	
Luke Watson	336
Michael Redpath	332
Michael Oxley	320
Greg Smith, Steve Mills	300
250	
Scott Mackay	293
Mark Hall	287
Matthew Killian	284
Matthew Smith	255
200	
Dale McGrath	232
David Rankin	221
Leigh Cook	219
Karl Winters	218
Alan Dalton	211
Joshua Lee	210
Andrew Morse	208
John Wright, Darryl Larter, Andrew Cowlishaw	207
Gabriel Gill, Steve Downward	206
Mark Day	205
150	
James Tompkins	198
Jonathan Pitman	192
Matthew Stickland	190
Colin Ewart	187
Simon Mehegan	184
Joshua Adams	183
Brett Howlett	182
Dean Makin	178
Anthony Duke, Trevor Mills	177
Mark Kruger, Les Dalton	175
Travis Reiner	172
David Baldwin	169
Andrew Farrell	168
Mark Thomas	166
Michael Thompson	164

The Basin Football Netball Club. Football Games Played as at 2023 (2 pages)	
Player	**Games**
Dahan Benjamin	163
Rodney Mitchell	162
Steven Kruger	161
Luke Anderson	156
Andrew Battye	154
Paul Stewart	153
100	
Mario Laurito	149
Joshua Wilson	148
Gary Lee	145
Adam Watson	142
Jarrod Ball	139
Brett Hartman	138
William Donovan	137
Daniel Flanagan	134
Adam Grant	133
Max Kruger	132
Paul Spencer	131
Matthew Hayhurst	126
Darren Lee, Christopher AAltonen	123
Clinton Jones, Cameron Cripps	122
Geoff Rankin	121
Jarred Bell	120
Matthew Cowlishaw	119
Chris Gay, Phil Cannan	118
Glynn Pratt	116
Matthew Ikin	113
Steven Reeves	111
Angus Duncan	110
Shane Underhill, Leigh Haslem, Jackson Kean	109
Brad Skerke	107
David Laurito	106
Craig Christie	105
Michael Flanagan	104
Adam Smith	103
Darrin Datson, Lachlan Cripps	102

The Basin Football Netball Club. Football Games Played as at 2023 (2 pages)	
Player	**Games**
Joshua Hensler, Vito Blangiardo, Jayden Brown	101
50	
Keith Smith, Darren Gill	99
Neil Flanagan, Craig Flynn	98
Steven Brasher, Aaron Findlay	97
Aaron Brown	96
Justin Hutchinson-Drake	95
Paul Nicholls	94
John Kilby, Robbie Coccaro	93
Richard Palmer, Daniel Nolan, Nathan Freeling, Nicholas Freeling, Shannon Davis, Wayne Burton	92
Brett Mills	91
Dylan Thierauf, Shane Hamilton, Nathan Jones	89
Adam Wenke, Brett Wills, John Harrod, Matthew James, Daryn Maggs	87
Andy Cultrera	86
Keith Oakland, Ashley Butler	85
Frank Walther, Colin Jacobs, Aaron Foster	84
Grant Murphy, Stephen Flynn, Robbie Brasher, Patrick Garrity	83
Jordan Thomas, Jason Daniels, Chris Caulfield, Mitchell Brown	82
Brad Martin, Glen Fay	81
Mitchell Rule	80
David Malone	79
Alan Rennick, Stephen Smith, Carlo Coccaro	77
Matthew Biggs	76
John Morris,Thomas Edwards	75
Steve Trask	74

The Basin Football Netball Club. Football Games Played as at 2023 (2 pages)	
Player	**Games**
Darren Hill, Keith Morse, Matthew Fernando	73
Luke Wilson, Adam Heath, M Campbell, Robert Donovan,Truman Dare	72
Jordan Chircop	71
Dom Laurito, Benjamin Mitchell, Joshua Best, Conner Edwards, John - Michael Bric	70
Dale Winsall,Todd Power, John Lowery	69
Steve Arnott	68
Daniel Rundle, Mitchell Wallace, Justin Nicol	67
Bruce Stephens, Cameron Maes, Nicholos Callanan, Michael Cardamone, Shane Dare	66
Daniel Den Braber, Glenn Frater	65
Michael Laurito, Shane Debernardi	64
Peter Wemmering, Brad Berryman, Dayne Barclay	63
Dean Jones, Greg Fisher, Jamie Battersby	62
Ian Ruffles, Bailey Hobbs, Craig Lehmann, Rhys Fearn	61
Liam Pollard, Robert Beverley	60
Garth Smith, Peter Stephens, Ethan Power, Kris McIntyre, Jarryd O'Sullivan, Ricky Fisher	59
Alexander Winters, Jonathon Morris	58
Christopher King, Michael Morris, Jackson Macaulay, Colin Gatti	57
Rob Norris, Luke Day	56
M. Luscombe, Robert Cross	55

The Basin Football Netball Club. Football Games Played as at 2023 (2 pages)	
Player	**Games**
Jordan Roberts, Liam Walter, Simon Major, Armstrong Jai	54
Jayden Turcinovic, James Peters, William Gayfer	53
Aaron Walter, Justin Hartzmeyer	52
S. Williams, Damon Nicolson, Shane Davidson	51
Clinton Watson, Matthew Young, Keith Rout, Chris Williams, Mick Harper, Jake Mills, Mitchell Burrows, Jackson Drake, Greg Cowlishaw	50

The Basin Football Netball Club League Best and Fairest 1982-2024 *Knox Junior Football Association		
Year	**Grade**	**Player**
Senior Men		
1982	Div 3	Garth Probyn-Smith
1995	Div 2	Brett Hartman
2004	Div 4	Cameron Gillett
2012	Div 4	Max Kruger
Senior Women		
2018	Div 1	Teagan Sheldon
2021	Div 1	Julia Baker
Senior Netball		
2022	Div 2	Kristy Dahan
2024	Div 3	Jaynee Tough
Reserves Men		
1962	B2	John Wright
1976	Div 4	Arthur McCarthy
2006	Div 4	Darryn Maggs
2007	Div 4	Kris McIntyre
2018	Div 3	Andrew Battye
2021	Div 3	Jack Walton
Under 19's/18's		

The Basin Football Netball Club League Best and Fairest 1982-2024 *Knox Junior Football Association		
Year	**Grade**	**Player**
1980	Div 3	Angelo Patraglia
1984	Div 3	Frank Walther
1985	Div 3	Bruce Stephens
2006	Div 4	Nathan Jones
Under 17's Boys		
1978	C	John Wright
2016	B	Antoun Dib
Under 16's Boys		
1967	C	J Roe
1990	C	Robbie Coccaro*
2010	C	Jordan Chircop
Under 15's Boys		
2004	C	Josh Adams
2015	C	Lachlan Kruger
2022	B	Charlie Lavender
Under 14's Boys		
1977	A	Angelo Patraglia*
1982	C	Peter Stephens
1983	D	Bruce Agnew

The Basin Football Netball Club League Best and Fairest 1982-2024 *Knox Junior Football Association		
Year	**Grade**	**Player**
1985	D	Clinton Watson
1991	C	Stephen Flynn
2015	B	Mitch Brown
Under 14's Girls		
2017	B	Rhiannon Ockwell
Under 13's Boys		
1982	B	Bruce Agnew*
1984	B	Clinton Watson*
1987	C	Myke Leahy*
Under 12's Boys		
1975	A	Angelo Patraglia
1983	A	Clinton Watson*
Under 12's Girls		
2019	Prem	Charlie Bell

The Basin Football Netball Club Senior Women Football Coaches & Captains 2018 - 2024			
Year	**Senior Coach**	**Reserves Coach**	**Captain**
2018	John Hayhurst	N/A	Julia Baker
2019	John Hayhurst	Julie Jaski	Julia Baker
2020	Matt Bailey	N/A	Julia Baker
2021	Matt Bailey	Kirsty McConnell	Julia Baker
2022	Mark Eisenbise	Kirsty McConnell	Julia Baker
2023			
2024			

The Basin Football Netball Club Senior Women Awards 2018 - 2024			
Season	**Hetrel Medal (Senior)**	**Hetrel Medal (Reserves)**	**Leading Goal**
2018	Baker, Julia	N/A	Baker, Julia (33)
2019	Baker, Julia	Glass, Ang	Baker, Julia (43)
2021	Vantilburg, Mon	N/A	Baker, Julia (31)
2022	Alston, Zoe	Glass, Ang	Baker, Julia (38)
2023			
2024	Nicole Swan	Shelley Mills	

The Basin Football Netball Club. Senior Women Football. Games Played as at 2022	
Player	**Games**
Brooke Priest	58
Julia Baker	55
Ebony Reus	54
Dani Phillips	45
Hayley Troake	42
Bridgette Gaulke	39
Michelle Brown	38
Candice Carroll	37
Tammarah Brown	36
Angela Glass	35
Caitlin Grimmett	35
Holly Dalton	33
Lynlee Saysombath	30
Alicha Caminito	29
Teagan Beattie	28
Emily Dalton	27
Leisa Beggs	27
Cassandra Stanford	26
Michaela Holford-Moss	26
Jaimee Monk	26
Hayley Gardiner	25

The Basin Football Netball Club. Senior Women Football. Games Played as at 2022	
Player	**Games**
Ebony McDonald	25
Molly Morrison	25
Rachel Watt	25
Amy Wright	24
Emma Nixon	23
Sarah Smith	23
Lili Gibson	23
Lily Grace Murrell	22
Monica Vantilburg	22
Tayla Robins	22
Aleah Murrell	22
Kate O'Neill	21
Romany Barnett	21
Suzanne Bascombe	20
Bethany Corrigan	18
Paige Priest	18
Isabella Garbuio	18
Chloe Burton-Puts	17
Jessica McDowell	17
Alexandria Fisch	16
Cassandra Stringer	16

The Basin Football Netball Club. Senior Women Football. Games Played as at 2022	
Player	**Games**
Zoe Alston	16
Kaylee Stoffels	15
Ellie Weldon	15
Hannah Davies	14
Abigail Wilson	14
Kate O'Neil	14
Kylah Nicolson	14
Emily Bailey	14
Natasha Lane	13
Rachel Drill	13
Simone Priest	13
Isobel Stoneman	12
Patricia Boxell	12
Meg Hardwick	12
Emma Fearn	12
Ruby Hardwick	12
Jemma Wright	11
Libby McNay	10
Sarah Gregorio	10
Kirsty Allen	10

The Basin Football Netball Club Senior Netball Coaches & Captains as at 2024 R = Red, G = Green/Grizzlies, B= Bears, K = Kodiaks, C = Cubs		
Season	**Coach**	**Captain**
2015 R	Kristy Dahan	Kristy Dahan
2015 G	Kristy Dahan	Blair Blackburn
2016 R	Kristy Dahan	Kristy Dahan
2016 G	Kate Watson	Lisa Reiner
2017 R	Peter Westen	Janelle Hutchings
2017 G	Rick Turcinovic, Travis Reiner	Lynlee Saysombath
2017 B	Kylie Mackay	Kylie Mackay
2018 R	Peter Westen	Kristy Dahan
2018 G	Rick Turcinovic	Abigael Jamieson
2018 B	Mandy Simpson	Emma Winsal
2019 R	Tammy Preist	Mandy Simpson
2019 G	Kylie Mackay, Abigael Jamieson	Dayna Welsham
2019 B	Abigael Jamieson	Lynlee Saysombath

The Basin Football Netball Club Senior Netball Coaches & Captains as at 2024 R = Red, G = Green/Grizzlies, B= Bears, K = Kodiaks, C = Cubs		
Season	**Coach**	**Captain**
2022 K	Kristy Dahan	Kristy Dahan
2022 C	Holly Dalton	Holly Dalton
2022 G	Rick Turcinovic	Abigael Jamieson
2023 K	Kristy Dahan	Kristy Dahan
2023 C	Holly Dalton	Holly Dalton
2023 G	Rick Turcinovic	Abigael Jamieson

The Basin Football Netball Club. Senior Netball. Games Played as at 2022	
Player	**Games**
Dahan, Kristy	90
Vozzo, Daneka	84
Saysombath, Lynlee	82
Jamieson, Abigael	72
Howcroft, Cassandra	71
Simpson, Mandy	68
Turcinovic, Elly	66
Watson, Kate	63
Reiner, Lisa	62
Walsham, Dayna	59
Barrett, Johanna	56
Mackay, Kylie	53
Samargis, Hayley	52
Blackburn, Blair	48
Cuesta, Alicia	47

The Basin Football Netball Club. Senior Netball. Games Played as at 2022	
Player	**Games**
Wright, Amy	42
Thomas, Jessica	
Hutchings, Jeynelle	41
Mitchell, Emily	35
Beardsworth, Melissa	34
Priest, Brooke	33
Stevens, Katie	31
Edwards, Michelle	29
Dalton, Holly	28
Winsall, Emma	27
McNab, Jessica	26
Smit, Alexandra	
Fearn, Emma	
Grogan, Katherine	24

The Basin Football Netball Club. Senior Netball. Games Played as at 2022	
Player	**Games**
Johnson, Salena	
Dale, Taylah	
Moloney, Lisa	23
Woods, Kerryn	22
Rousch, Jessica	21
Nealy, Kayla	19
Westbury, Natasha	
Roncali, Amy	
Stanton, Brooke	17
Bullen, Stacey	
Priest, Tammy	
Kruger, Bree	
Dunkley, Cassandra	

The Basin Football Netball Club. Senior Netball. Leading Goal Shooter as at 2022	
Player	**Goals**
Walsham, Dayna	862
Watson, Kate	816
Simpson, Mandy	785
Turcinovic, Elly	717
Mackay, Kylie	614
Beardsworth, Melissa	481
Rousch, Jessica	336
Nealy, Kayla	328
Winsall, Emma	254
Woods, Kerryn	208
Stevens, Katie	160
Nolan, Vanessa	142

The Basin Football Netball Club. Senior Netball. Leading Goal Shooter as at 2022	
Player	**Goals**
Mitchell, Emily	131
Tough, Jaymee	
Tanzen, Elise	129
Gstrein, Hayley	117
High, Brianna	112
Dalton, Holly	110
Jamieson, Abigael	103
Wright, Amy	102
Gillies, Erin	97
Blackburn, Blair	84
Westbury, Natasha	64
Johnson, Salena	63

The Basin Football Netball Club. Senior Netball. Leading Goal Shooter as at 2022	
Player	**Goals**
Lambert, Stephanie	60
McDonald, Terri	44
Reiner, Lisa	42
Alicia, Hughes	35
Carnell, Chelsea	31
Di Sciascio, Sharon	28
Underhill, Chelsea	26
Dale,Taylah	23
Howcroft, Cassandra	
Van Lier, Beth	20

The Basin Cricket Club Honour Roll (3 pages) Senior Premierships Highlighted						
Season	**President**	**Secretary**	**Treasurer**	**Captain 1st's**	**Captain 2nd's/3rd's**	**Captain 4th's/5th's**
1947/48		J. Stephens		S. Fiedler		
1948/49/51	Disbanded					
1951/52	Suspended					
1952/53/54	Played as Somerville Park					
1954//55/56/57/58	In Recess					
1958/59/60	D. Sims	J. Wallace	J. Wallace	D. Sims		
1960/61	D. Sims	S. Hallett	S. Hallett	D. Sims	B. Brown	
1961/62	D. Sims			D. Sims	D. Knight	
1962/63	D. Sims		D. Sims	D. Sims	S. Hallett	
1963/64	J. Wallace	A. Sward	N. Parkinson	N. Harman		
1964/65	J. Wallace	G. Murray	N. Parkinson	N. Harman		
1965/66	J. Wallace	G. Murray	N. Parkinson	A. Sward		
1966/67	J. Wallace	G. Murray	N. Parkinson	J. Davies		
1967/68	J. Wallace	G. Murray	N. Parkinson	J. Davies	J. Wallace	
1968/69	J. Wallace	G. Murray	N. Parkinson	B. McKerrin	J. Wallace	
1969/70	J. Wallace	G. Murray	N. Parkinson	B. McKerrin		
1970/71	J. Wallace	G. Murray	N. Parkinson	P. Jordan		
1971/72	P. Jordan	D. Lynch	N. Parkinson	P. Jordan	W. O'Hara	
1972/73	P. Jordan	D. Lynch	P. Wakefield	P. Jordan	R. Smith	
1973/74	J. McMullan	P. Wakefield	P. Jordan	P. Hinch	R. Handasyde, G. Murray	
1974/75	J. McMullan			P. Hinch	R. Handasyde, G. Murray	
1975/76	R. Hogan	H. McIntosh	S. Plymin	P. Hinch	G. Smith, J. Ewison	
1976/77	R. Hogan	H. McIntosh	R. Jacobs	H. McIntosh	R. Handasyde, D. Lynch	
1977/78	R. Hogan	H. McIntosh		H. McIntosh	J. Ewison, D. Lynch	C. Grey
1978/79	R. Hogan	D. Burgess		J. Cosstick	J. Cosstick, D. Smith, D. Lynch	C. Grey
1979/80	D. Smith	A. Rennick	L. Hellier	G. Smith	J. Cosstick, J. Ewison	R. McIntyre
1980/81	D. Smith	P. McIntyre	C. Williams	P. Joiner	R. Jacobs, J. Ewison	A. Stickland
1981/82	D. Lambert	R. McIntyre	C. Williams	T. James	P. Wakefield, P. Elsby	R. McIntyre
1982/83	R. Smith	D. Wilson	G. Best, R. Smith	L. Harvey	D. Wheeler, C. Lambert	
1983/84	R. Smith	D. Wilson	J. Alexander	D. Lambert	C. Jacobs, A. Eldridge	J. Kelly
1984/85	R. Smith	R. Turcinovic	M. Posch	D. Lambert	A. Rennick, P. Jackson	J. Kelly
1985/86	R. Smith	R. Turcinovic	M. Posch	P. Gardiner	D. Smith, P. Jackson	P. Johnstone
1986/87	R. Smith	R. Turcinovic	M. Posch	R. Turcinovic	D. Smith, R. Jackson, G. Downward	P. Johnstone
1987/88	R. Smith	D. Walker	M. Posch	A. Gale	R. Smith, T. Davis	P. Johnstone
1988/89	J. Kilby	D. Evans	M. Posch	R. Irving	R. Smith, M. Posch, T. Davis	P. Johnstone, C. Jacobs
1989/90	R. Smith	D. Evans	M. Posch	S. Walter	R. Smith, D. Evans	P. Johnstone, B. Woolcock

The Basin Cricket Club Honour Roll (3 pages) Senior Premierships Highlighted						
Season	**President**	**Secretary**	**Treasurer**	**Captain 1st's**	**Captain 2nd's/3rd's**	**Captain 4th's/5th's**
1990/91	R. Smith	D. Evans	M. Posch	S. Walter	P. Wakefield, D. Walker	P. Johnstone, R. Jacobs
1991/92	P. Johnstone & S. Semken	D. Evans	M. Posch	S. Walter	P. Wakefield, P. Johnstone	P. Jackson, R. Jacobs
1992/93	D. Smith	D. Evans	M. Posch	S. Wilkins	R. Close, R. Smith	P. McDonald
1993/94	D. Smith	D. Evans	M. Stickland	S. Roberts	G. Smith, D. Evans, R. Smith, D. Flanagan	R. Osborne
1994/95	D. Smith	G. James	S. Wallace	S. Roberts	M. Day, D. Smith	R. Osborne, T. Reiner
1995/96	D. Smith	G. James	S. Wallace	C. Baxter	D. Evans, R. Osborne	P. McDonald, T. Reiner
1996/97	D. Smith	G. James	R. Smith	D. Brodtmann	R. Close, B. Lever	R. Osborne, R. Cluning
1997/98	D. Smith	G. James	R. Smith	D. Brodtmann	R. Close, B. Lever	S. Vincent
1998/99	T. Howlett	G. James	R. Smith	P. Evans	L. Day, M. Morris	P. Humphries
1999/00	T. Howlett	G. James	R. Smith	A. Brown	L. Day, M. Morris	T. Reiner
2000/01	R. Osborne	G. James	R. Smith	M. Stickland	K. Watkins, S. Vincent	R. Osborne
2001/02	R. Osborne	M. Humphries	G. Bunker & R. Smith	D. Brootmann	K. Watkins, G. Lee	K. Reiner
2002/03	R. Osborne	M. Humphries	G. Bunker	C. Brown	K. Watkins, G. Lee	K. Reiner
2003/04	G. Carey	M. Bosley	G. Bunker	A. Luckman	G. Apsey, P. Stewart	S. Vincent, K. Winters
2004/05	G. Carey	M. Bosley	G. Bunker	A. Luckman	G. A. Sey, P. Hume, C. Aaltonen	D. Carnie, G. Gill, K. Reiner
2005/06	G. Carey	M. Bosley	G. Bunker	A. Luckman	J. P. Hartshorn, C. Aaltonen	K. Winters, J. Conboy
2006/07	G. Best	W. Koster	R. Smith	A. Luckman	J. P. Hartshom, D. Brootmann	K. Winters, J. Conboy
2007/08	G. Best	R. Pavia	R. Smith	A. Luckman	L. Cook, D. Gill	K. Winters, M. Singh
2008/09	G. Best	R. Pavia	R. Smith	S. Rodie, A. Heath	G. Apsey, C. Aaltonen	D. Gill
2009/10	C. Aaltonen	M. Rawnsle	A. Winters	S. Elworthy	A. Winters, C. James	D. Gill, T. Reiner
2010/11	A. Winters	M. Rawnsle	V. Blangiardo	J. Lee, M. Heskes	S. Porch, C. James	D. Gill
2011/12	A. Winters	L. James	G. Bunker	L. Bowyer	S. Porch, D. Evans	C. Aaltonen
2012/13	A. Winters	L. James	G. Bunker	L. Bowyer	D. Lee, C. Aaltonen	R. Turcinovic
2013/14	A. Winters	L. James	G. Bunker	S. Vozzo	S. Porch, M. Wallace	D. Sawyers, K. Winters
2014/15	A. Winters	L. James	G. Bunker	S. Vozzo	S. Porch, J. Pitman	D. Sawyers
2015/16	S. Porch	L. James	J. Clarke	J. Best	M. Rawnsley, N. Freeling	C. Aaltonen
2016/17	S. Porch	L. James	J. Clarke	J. Best	M. Rawnsley, N. Freeling	S. O'Sullivan

The Basin Cricket Club Honour Roll (3 pages) Senior Premierships Highlighted						
Season	**President**	**Secretary**	**Treasurer**	**Captain 1st's**	**Captain 2nd's/3rd's**	**Captain 4th's/5th's**
2017/18	S. Porch	L. James	J. Clarke	J. Turcinovic	S. Porch, M. Turcinovic	M. Wallace
2018/19	S. Porch	M. Edwards	J. Clarke	J. Turcinovic	B. Carnell, N. Freeling	M. Turcinovic
2019/20	S. Porch	M. Edwards	J. Clarke	B. Walter	B. Carnell, N. Freeling	M. Turcinovic
2020/21	S. Vosso	M. Edwards	B. Carnell	B. Walter	M. Rawnsley, N. Freeling	M. Turcinovic
2021/22	S. Vosso	M. Edwards	B. Carnell	J. Turcinovic	M. Rawnsley, N. Freeling	M. Turcinovic
2022/23	R. Turcinovic	M. Edwards	B. Carnell	J. Turcinovic	S. Vozzo, J. Sawyer	J. Clarke

The Basin Cricket Club Jack Wallace Club Champion Award	
1984/85	Mick Morris
1985/86	Peter Gardiner
1986/87	Mark Posch
1987/88	Ray Irving
1988/89	Tony James
1989/90	Ray Irving
1990/91	Mark Posch
1991/92	Ray Irving
1992/93	Neil Flanagan
1993/94/95	Steve Roberts
1995/96	Paul Stewart

The Basin Cricket Club Jack Wallace Club Champion Award	
1996/97	Brett Howlett
1997/98/99	Jamie Coates
1999/00	Craig Brown
2000/01	Jamie Coates
2001/02	Craig Brown
2002/03	Brett Howlett
2003/04/05/06	Adam Luckman
2006/07	Leigh James
2007/08	Cal Sheen
2008/09/10/11	Matthew Heskes
2011/12	Luke Bowyer

The Basin Cricket Club Jack Wallace Club Champion Award	
2012/13	Daniel Rundle
2013/14/15/16/17	Scott Vozzo
2017/18	Jake Sherriff
2018/19	Blake Walter
2019/20	Shane Luck
2020/21	Jake Sherriff
2021/22	Mitch Ley
2022/23	Blake Walter

The Basin Cricket Club Life Members Honour Roll	
1968/69 Jack Wallace	2002/03 Alan Clark
1969/70 Norm Parkinson, John Wright, Alan Sward	2003/04 Ross Osborne
1984/85 Fred Davis, David Smith	2004/05 Mathew Whalan
1985/86 Robert Smith, Terry Davis	2006/07 Greg Best
1986/87 David Lambert	2007/08 Steven Vincent
1987/88 Garth Smith	2011/12 Lois Clarke, Glenn Bunker
1988/89 Dennis Wheeler, Paul Wakefield	2012/13 Graeme Rawnsley, Craig James
1989/90 Tony James, Brian Jackson	2013/14 Leigh James, Vito Blangiardo
1990/91 Colin Jacobs	2014/15 Sarah Wallace
1991/92 Mark Posch, Phil Johnstone	2015/16 Alex Winters, Daniel Rundle
1993/94 Graham Murray, Daniel Evans	2017/18 Gary Freeling
1994/95 Matt Wallace, Rick Turncinovic	2018/19 Stephen Porch, Mark Edwards
1995/96 John Kilby, Robyn Johnstone	2019/20 Chris Aaltonen, Joel Clarke
1997/98 Matthew Stickland	2020/21 Jayden Turcinovic
1999/00 Glenda James, Colin Ewart	2021/22 Trevor Hawlett, Greg Carey
2000/01 Paul Stewart	2022/23 Jarryd Debernardi

The Basin Cricket Club Graeme Rawnsley U/21 Player(s) of the Year Award	
1989/90	A. Freeman
1990/91	Luke Day, Paul Stewart
1991/92/93	Paul Stewart
1993/94	Matthew Whalan
1994/95	Luke Day, Matthew Smith
1995/96	Adam Smith
1996/97	Brendan McNamara
1997/98/99	Leigh James
1999/00	Ronnie Heskes
2000/01	Daniel Rundle, Leigh James
2001/02	Lee Davis
2002/03	Darren Lee
2003/04	Josh Lee
2004/05	Steve Ryan
2005/06/07	Shane Underhill

The Basin Cricket Club Graeme Rawnsley U/21 Player(s) of the Year Award	
2007/08/09	Jayden Turcinovic
2009/10	Jarryd Debernardi
2010/11	Hayden Betts
2011/12	Jayden Turcinovic
2012/13	Sean Ewart
2013/14	Dylan Stocker
2014/15	Mitchell Wallace
2015/16	Connor Edwards
2016/17/18	Tom Edwards
2018/19	Joel Robertson
2019/20/21	Ryan Heenan
2021/22	Coby Law
2022/23	Blake Rule

The Basin Cricket Club Robert "*Harpo*" Smith Best Clubperson Award	
1983/84	Terry Davis
1984/85	Brian Jackson
1985/86	Robert Smith
1986/87	Brian Jackson
1987/88/89/90	Mark Posch
1990/91	Paul Johnstone/Robyn Johnstone
1991/92	Denise Semkin
1992/93	David Smith
1993/94/95	Tony James
1995/96	Matthew Wallace/Sarah Wallace
1996/97	Delma Heskes
1997/98	Peter Barke
1998/99	Robert Smith
1999/00	Margaret Davis
2000/01	Stephen Vincent
2001/02	Greg Best
2002/03	Lois Clarke

The Basin Cricket Club Robert "*Harpo*" Smith Best Clubperson Award	
2003/04/05	Greg Best
2005/06	Mark Bosley
2006/07	Lois Clarke
2007/08	Vito Blangiardo
2008/09	Greg Best
2009/10	Pru Betts
2010/11/12/13/14	Mark Edwards
2014/15	Stephen Porch
2015/16	Mark Edwards
2016/17	Joel Clarke
2017/18	Jayden Turcinovic
2018/19	Stephen Porch
2019/20	Joel Clarke
2020/21	Rick Turcinovic
2021/22	Chris Springett
2022/23	Mark Edwards

The Basin Cricket Club Tony "*Tacka*"James Award	
2002/03	Brett Howlett, David Stewart, Stuart Murray
2003/04	Leigh James
2004/05	Adam Luckman
2005/06	Adam Luckman
2006/07	Leigh James, Shannon Davis
2007/08	Adam Luckman
2008/09	Daniel Evans
2009/10	Matthew Heskes, Daniel Rundle
2010/11	Matthew Heskes
2011/12	Shane Underhill
2012/13	Daniel Rundle

The Basin Cricket Club Tony "*Tacka*"James Award	
2013/14	Patrick Betka
2014/15	Scott Vosso
2015/16	Jake Best
2016/17	Scott Vosso, Josh Lee, Jarryd Debernardi
2017/18	Blake Walter
2018/19	Blake Walter
2019/20	Blake Walter
2020/21	Jake Sherriff, Stephen Porch
2021/22	Blake Walter
2022/23	Blake Walter

The Basin Cricket Club Vets Honour Roll		
Season	**Captain Vets 1**	**Captain Vets 2**
1986/87	J. Keily	
1987/88	T. James	
1988/89	T. James	
1989/90	T. James	
1990/91	B. Hewitt	
1991/92	B. Hewitt	
1992/93	R. White	
1993/94	R. White	
1994/95	A. Clarke	
1995/96	A. Clarke	
1996/97	R. Bunker	
1997/98	R. Bunker	
1998/99	P. Humphries	
1999/00	P. Humphries	
2000/01	G. Best	
2001/02	G. Best	
2002/03	R. Hayhurst	
2003/04	R. Hayhurst	
2004/05	R. Hayhurst	

The Basin Cricket Club Vets Honour Roll		
Season	**Captain Vets 1**	**Captain Vets 2**
2005/06	G. Roberts	R. Pavia
2006/07	D. Evans	R. Pavia
2007/08	D. Evans	R. Rayhurst
2008/09	D. Evans	A. Clarke
2009/10	G. Granland	A. Clarke
2010/11	G. Granland	G. Best & G. Freeling
2011/12		K. Reiner
2012/13	M. Wallace	
2013/14	M. Wallace	
2014/15	B. Howlett	
2015/16	M. Whalan	
2016/17	M. Whalan	
2017/18		
2018/19		
2019/20		
2020/21		
2021/22		

The Basin Cricket Club Achievements as at 2023

Premierships

- 1967/68 (C Grade) against St. Josephs
- 1970/71 (A Reserve Grade) against Ferntree Gully
- 1972/73 (A Reserve Grade) against Upwey Tecoma
- 1984/85 (C Grade) against Ferntree Gully
- 1984/85 (B Reserve Grade) against UFTG
- 1985/86 (C Grade) against Ferntree Gully
- 1986/87 (Neilson Shield 4) against Ferntree Gully
- 1988/89 (Neilson Shield 4) against Ferntree Gully
- 1988/89 (Neilson Shield 3) against Knox – Boronia
- 1989/90 (Neilson Shield 3) against Ferntree Gully
- 1990/91 (Neilson Shield 4) against Mountain Gate
- 1994/95 (Topline Shield 2) against Rowville
- 1996/97 (Topline Shield 3) against Upper FTG
- 1999/20 (DecCoite Shield 03) against Cockatoo
- 2000/01 (DecCoite Shield 01) against Scoresby
- 2003/04 (B2 Grade) against Bluebirds
- 2005/06 (Div. 6) against Johnson Park
- 2009/10 (B2 Grade) against Aura Vale
- 2009/10 (B3 Grade) against St Johns/Tecoma
- 2012/13 (Div. 3) against Eildon Park
- 2013/14 (Div. 4) against Knox/Boronia Churches
- 2013/14 (DecCoite Shield) against South Belgrave
- 2018/19 (Div. 1 Norm Reeves Shield) against Eildon Park.
- 2018/19 (Div. 8 4ths) against Ferntree Gully
- 2019/20 (Div. 5 3rds) against Knoxfield
- 2020/21 (Div. 5 3rds) against Lysterfield
- 2021/22 (Div. 8 4ths) against Knox-Boronia Churches
- 2022/23 (Div. 3 U14) against Emerald

Hat Tricks

- R. Treleaven 1948
- A. Corbitt (Div. 4) 1991/92 against Eildon Park
- D. Flanagan (Div. 3) 1992/93 against Ferndale
- M. Morris (Div. 3) 1997/98
- J. Coates (Div. 1) 1998/99
- C. Betka (Div. 2) 2008-09 against Knox
- M. Thomson (Div. 7) 2013/14 against Knox-Boronia Churches
- R. Heenan (U12) 2016/17 against Upper Ferntree Gully
- J. Fay (Div. 5) 2018/19 against Knox-Boronia Churches

Highest Team Score

- 1996/97 (Grade Topline Shield 3) 8/648 against Bluebirds

Highest Individual Score

- K. Glover 1996/97 232

Jack Feaver Medal

- 2014/15 Scott Vosso

V.C.C.L Junior Representative (Under 19)

- 1991/92 Darren Wade

Victorian Country Representative

- 2017/18 Jake Sherriff

The Basin Cricket Club
Team Of The Decade 1990-1999
Jamie Coates
Rick Turcinovic (WK)
Stuart Hendricks
Paul Stewart
Chris Baxter
Mark Posch
Stephen Walter (C)
Andrew Freeman
Steve Roberts
Brett Howlett
Ray Irving
Neal Flanagan (12th)

The Basin Cricket Club
Team Of The Decade 1999-2009
Glenn Bunker
Matthew Whalan
Daniel Rundle
Peter Tahin
Adam Heath
Adam Luckman (C)
Josh Lee (Wk)
Matthew Heskes
Leigh James
Craig Brown
Shane Underhill
Craig James(12th)

The Basin Cricket Club
The Greatest 1st XI Team 1988 - 2018
Jake Best - 1826 Runs @ 41.50
Jamie Coates - 1680 Runs @ 31.11
Daniel Rundle - 5606 Runs @ 27.62
135 Wkts @ 24.33
Adam Luckman (C) - 2127 Runs @ 40.13
Scott Vozzo (VC) - 1790 Runs @ 35.10
106 Wkts @ 18.98
Jayden Turcinovic (WK) - 2413 Runs @ 27.74
Neal Flanagan - 1183 Runs @ 31.97
Mark Posch - 1154 Runs @ 27.26
Matthew Heskes - 217 Wkts @ 19.86
Leigh James - 244 Wkts @ 19.75
Craig Brown -166 Wkts @ 14.78
Shane Underhill (12th Man) -180 Wkts @ 20.81

The Basin Cricket Club
The Greatest Best of the Rest Team 1988 - 2018
Glenn Bunker - 3553 Runs @ 26.92
Stephen Porch (VC) - 2802 Runs @ 32.21
Matthew Whalan - 2378 Runs @ 28.65
Darren Lee - 3034 Runs @ 30.34
Matthew Stickland- 2179 Runs @ 27.94
Leigh Cook (WK) - 2786 Runs @ 39.24
Daniel Evans (C) - 4143 Runs @ 20.21
358 Wkts @ 19.17
Craig James - 2060 Runs @ 17.02
185 Wkts @ 16.57
Rodney Close - 2217 Runs @ 19.97
296 Wkts @ 14.10
Colin Ewart - 224 Wkts @ 15.54
Alex Winters - 223 Wkts @ 19.19
Matthew Wallace (12th Man) - 5163 Runs @ 20.82

The Basin Cricket Club
1967/68 First Premiership Players
Frank Murphy, Alan Barry, Mal. Barklay,
Bruce Hardinge, Norm Parkinson (VC),
Albert English, Graham Murray, Paul James,
Bert Herwynew, Jack Wallace (C), Fred Davis,
Alan Murray

The Basin Cricket Club
Ferntree Gully District Cricket Association
Team Of The Year Under 17 2014-15
Joshua Begley Upper Ferntree Gully
Callum O'Connor Knox Gardens
Daniel Salan Ferntree Gully
James Trevenen Ferntree Gully
Liam Hunt Southern Tigers
Tyson Barrington Johnson Park
Shannon Fernandes Mazenod
Jessie Smyth Knoxfield
Joel Robertson Knoxfield
Connor Edwards The Basin
Damon Nicholson The Basin

Miller Park Tennis Club Honour Roll							
Office Bearers				Club Champions			
Year	President	Secretary	Treasurer	Men	Women	Boys	Girls
1986	J. Hall	B. White	A. Barden				
1987	C. Roberts	B. White	A. Barden				
1988	L. Briggs	P. Curwood	J. Folino				
1989	L. Briggs	C. Dalwood	B. Philp	D. Prendergast	A. Mitchell	D. Folino	S. McLaughlin
1990	G. O'Hare	G. Fearn	B. Philp	T. Steele	B. McLaughlin	D. Folino	S. McLaughlin
1991	G. O'Hare	T. Loomes	C. Paterson	D. Prendergast	B. McLaughlin	D. Folino	M. Skidmore
1992	C. Paterson	T. Loomes	J. Skidmore	P. Davis	A. Lees	P. Ellery	K. Shedden
1993	C. Patterson	V. Reeve	D. McLaughlin	P. Davis	A. Lees	B. Donnelly	K. Shedden
1994	D. Prendergast	G. Ellery	D. McLaughlin	J. Goggin		P. Ellery	K. Bunker
1995	W. Taylor	D. McLaughlin	J. Paterson			K. Bright	N. McCleery
1996	W. Taylor	D. McLaughlin	B. Toutoungi	J. Preston	E. Fox	B. Smith	B Allen
1997	R. Radtke	D. McLaughlin	W. Taylor			K. Bright	N. McCleery
1998	R. Radtke	K. Taylor	D. McLaughlin	P. McSpadden	R. Fergus	D. Lavender	V. Heller
1999	S. Reid	K. Taylor	D. McLaughlin				
2000	S. Reid	A. McIntyre	B. McSpadden			A. Holmes	S. Brooke
2001	S. Reid	C. Wynne	D. McLaughlin				
2002	J. Chirnside	C. Wynne	D. McLaughlin			D. Bottel	A. Van De Velden
2003	J. Chirnside	L. Honey	D. McLaughlin	D. Folino			
2004	D. Inglis	N. Klep	S. Putman	C. Reid		C. Miller	A. Van De Velden
2005	D. Inglis	D. Wagner	S. Putman	C. Miller		D. Thorne	G. Martin
2006	D. Inglis	D. Wagner	B. Toutoungi	Not Played		Not Played	Not Played
2007	B. HemBurrow	D. Wagner	B. Toutoungi	Not Played	Not Played	R. Bennetts	B. Smith
2008	B. HemBurrow	C. Gibby	K. Radtke	D. Thorne	M. Biedrzycki	T. Thorne	Not Played
2009	J. Chirnside	C. Gibby	K. Radtke	Not Played	Not Played	Not Played	Not Played
2010	J. Chirnside	D. Wagner	W. Wright	D. Green	S. Patrick	T. Thorne	Not Played
2011	L. Cheetham	D. Wagner	W. Wright	C. Williams	Not Played	T. Thorne	S. Patrick
2012	L. Cheetham	D. Wagner	W. Wright	Not Played	Not Played	Not Played	Not Played
2013	L. Cheetham	D. Wagner	D.McLaughlin	T. Thorne	S. Patrick	B. Nugent	Not Played
2014							
2015							
2016							
2017							
2018							
2019							
2020							
2021							
2022							
2023							

Miller Park Tennis Club Life Members Honour Roll			
D. McLaughlin 1999	J. Chirnside 2006	B. Fitzgerald 2018	

Miller Park Tennis Club Premiership Flags (2 pages)

Eastern Metropolitan Region Lawn Tennis Association (E.M.R.L.T.A.)
1987 ? Boys Section ?
1987/88 Summer Boys Section ?
1987/88 Summer Girls Section ?
1988 Winter Boys Section 11
1988 Winter Girls Section ?
1988 Winter Girls Section 7
1989 Winter Mens Section 6
1989 Winter Boys Section 10
1989/90 Summer Senior Mixed Section 16?
1989/90 Summer Senior Mixed Section 18?
1989/90 Summer Junior Mixed Section 10
1989/90 Summer Midweek C.9 Grade
1990 Winter Midweek C.2 Grade
1990 Winter Midweek C.2 Grade
1990 Winter Midweek C.2 Grade
1990 Winter Midweek D.2 Grade
1990 Summer Midweek C.7 Grade
1990/91 Summer Junior Mixed Section 25
1990/91 Summer Junior Mixed Section 15
1990/91 Midweek Summer C.7 Grade
1991/92 Summer Junior Mixed Section 11
1992/93 Summer Boys Section 10
1992/93 Summer Senior Mixed Section 13
1993 Winter Mixed Juniors Section 14
1994 Winter Junior Mixed 18
1994/95 Summer Senior Mixed Section 8
1994/95 Summer Senior Mixed Section 9
1994/95 Summer Junior Mixed Section 23
1995 Winter Senior Mixed Section 17

Midweek Eastern Metropolitan Region Ladies' Tennis Association (M.E.M.R.L.T.A.)
1993 Winter D.2 Grade
1993 Winter D.2 Grade
1993 Summer D.1 Grade

Ferntree Gully and District Ladies Wednesday Tennis Association (F.T.G. & D.L.W.T.A.)
1989 Season 2 Section 19 Thursday Division
1990 Season 2 Section 17 Thursday Division
1990 Season 2 Section 18 Thursday Division
1991 Season 2 Section 19 Thursday Division
1992 Season 1 Section 22 Division ?
1992 Season 1 Section 22 Thursday Division
1992 Season 1 Section 22 Division ?
1994 Season 1 Section 17 Division ?
1994 Season 1 Section 17 Division ?
1996 Season 2 Section 15 Division 15

Lilydale & District Night Tennis Association (L&D.N.T.A.)
2013 Season 3
2014 Season 1

Knox District Night Tennis Association (K.D.N.T.A.)
1990 Season 1 Wednesday Mixed Section 1
1990 Season 1 Wednesday Mixed Section 2
1990 Season 2 Thursday Mens Section 5
1990 Season 2 Wednesday Mixed Section 3
1991 Season 2 Wednesday Section 1
1992 Season 2 Monday Mixed Section 5
1992 Season 1 Wednesday Mixed Section 9
1992 Season 1 Wednesday Mixed Section 1
1992 Season 2 Wednesday Mixed Section 6
1992 Season 2 Monday Mixed Section 12
1993 Season 2 Monday Section 5
1993 Season ? Thursday Section 2 Check
1994 Season 2 Monday Section 3
1995 Season 1 Monday Section 9
1996 Season 1 Thursday Mixed Section 2
1997 Season 1 Thursday Mixed Section 2
1997 Season 1 Thursday Mens Section 4
1998 Season 2 Monday Section 10
1998 Season 2 Monday Section 14
1998 Wednesday Section 2?
1998 Season ? Wednesday Section 5
1999 Season 2 Monday Section 4
1999 Season 1 Monday Section 12
1999 Season 1 Wednesday Section 6
2000 Season 1 Wednesday Section 2
2001 Season 1 Monday Mixed Section 11
2002 Season 2 Monday Mixed Section 10
2003 Season 1 Thursday Singles Section 5
2003 Season 1 Monday Mixed Section 11
2003 Season 2 Monday Mixed Section 4
2004 Season 1 Thursday Mens Section 10
2004 Season 1 Thursday Mens Section 4
2004 Season 2 Thursday Singles Section 8
2005 Season 1 Wednesday Mixed Section 5
2005 Season 2 Thursday Mens Section 8
2005 Season 2 Monday Mixed Section 5
2005 Season 2 Monday Mixed Section 9
2006 Season 1 Thursday Mens Section 8
2006 Season 1 Wednesday Mixed Section 3
2006 Season 2 Monday Mixed Section 10
2006 Season 2 Thursday Mens Section 8
2006 Season 2 Monday Mixed Section 11
2007 Season 2 Monday Section 9
2008 Season 1 Thursday Singles Section 7
2008 Season 1 Thursday Singles Section 8
2008 Season 2 Thursday Singles Section 7
2009 Season 1 Thursday Singles Section 5
2009 Season 1 Wednesday Mixed Section 3
2009 Season 2 Thursday Singles Section 3
2010 Season 1 Thursday Singles Section 9
2010 Season ?? Wednesday Mixed Section 3 Check
2010 Season 1 Thursday Singles Section 5
2010 Season 2 Thursday Mens Singles Section 4
2010 Season 2 Thursday Mens Singles Section 2
2010 Season 2 Monday Mixed Section 5
2011 Season 2 Thursday Singles Section 5
2011 Season 2 Monday Mixed Section 4
2012 Season 2 Thursday Singles Section 6
2012 Season 2 Wednesday Mixed Section 4

Knox District Night Tennis Association (K.D.N.T.A.) (Cont)
2013 Season 1 Wednesday Mixed Section 2
2013 Season 1 Wednesday Mixed Section 4
2013 Season 2 Wednesday Mixed Section 4
2013 Season 1 Monday Mixed Section 8
2015 Season 2 Wednesday Mixed Section 2

Eastern Region Tennis Inc
1996 Winter Junior Mixed Section 9
1996/97 Summer Junior Boys Section 14
1997/98 Summer Junior Mixed Section 14
1997/98 Summer Junior Boys Section ?
1997/98 Summer Junior Mixed Section ?
1998 Winter Junior Mixed Section 24
1998 Winter Junior Mixed Section 12
1998/99 Summer Junior Mixed Section 12
1999 Winter Junior Boys Section ?
1999 Winter Junior Boys Section ?
1999/00 Summer Junior Girls Section 14
2000/01 Summer Junior Boys Section ?
2004 Winter Junior Boys Section 8
2004 Winter 2005
2005 Winter Junior Boys Section 10
2007 Season 2 Monday Section 9
2008 Season 2 Wednesday Mixed Section 3
2008 Season 2 Thursday Singles Section 6
2008 Winter 2008 Junior Girls Section 9
2009 Winter Junior Mixed Section 16
2009 Winter Junior Mixed Section 6
2009/10 Summer Junior Mixed Section 12
2009/10 Summer Junior Girls Section
2010/11 Summer Boys Section 15
2010 Winter Junior Mixed section 11
2010 Winter Junior Girls Section 3
2011 Winter Junior Mixed Section 7
2011 Winter Junior Boys Section 18
2012/13 Summer Junior Girls Section ?
2013/14 Summer Junior Boys Section 14
2014 Winter Open Rubbers Section 9
2014/15 Summer Junior Boys Section 6
2015 Winter Open Rubbers Section 8
2015/16 Summer Junior Open Rubbers Section 13
2015/16 Junior Open Rubbers Section 8

Mountain Area Ladies Tuesday Tennis Association (M.A.L.T.T.A.)
? Section 5
1997 Season 2 Section 3
1999 Season 1 Section 2

Tennis Victoria
2012 Mens Grade 7 Section 1

Batterham Park Tennis Club Honour Roll (2 pages)							
Office Bearers				Club Champions			
Year	President	Secretary	Treasurer	Men	Women	Boys	Girls
1972	I. Parton	C. Macmillan	P. Smith				
1973	L. Pacey	M. Young	W. Sutherland				
1974	L. Pacey	B. Tate	M. Young	L. Saddler	M. Comer		
1975	L. Pacey	B. Tate	M. Young	T. Blaze	M. Stephens		
1976	L. Pacey	B. Tate	M. Young	L. Mottin	M. Comer		
1977	H. Macmillan	L. Elsey	M. Young	L. Mottin			
1978	H. Macmillan	L. Elsey	A. Harvey	L. Mottin	M. Comer		
1979	L. Lacey	D. Keast	A. Harvey	D. Ponton	J. Thiele		
1980	L. Elsey	D. Keast	A. Harvey	P. Coxhill	J. Thiele		
1981	L. Elsey	A. Guger	F. Johnston	D. Ponton	J. Dobson		
1982	D. Schultz	A. Guger	M. McCarthy	D. Ponton	G. O'Hare		
1983	D. Schultz	J. Draper	M. McCarthy	P. Coxhill	S. Lambert	G. Kendall	M. Pacey
1984	D. Schultz	P. Kelly	M. McCarthy	G. Kendall	H. Schultz	D. O'Hare	S. Powlesland
1985	D. Schultz	P. Kelly	G. O'Hare	D. Ponton	H. Schultz	J. Sehler	H. Schultz
1986	D. Schultz	D. Ponton	E. O'Brien	D. Ponton	K. Hickleton	P. Kelly	H. Schultz
1987	D. Schultz	D. Ponton	E. O'Brien	D. Ponton	H. Schultz	B. Herbert	E. Davey
1988	G. Stanley	J. Brydon	F. Schultz	D. Ponton	H. Schultz	M. Livic	C. Guger
1989	G. Stanley	J. Brydon	E. Schultz	L. Adams	K. Hickleton	M. Stillgo	K. Beachley
1990	G. Stanley	N. Elsey	J. Stewart	G. Stanley	H. Schultz	M. Stillgo	K. Beachley
1991	D. Husband	N. Elsey	J. Stewart	L. Adams	K. Beachley	M. Lambert	C. Guger
1992	D. Husband	M. Smith	J. Collis	L. Adams	K. Beachley	M. Lambert	R. Wait
1993	W. Lewington	M. Smith	J. Collis	L. Adams	H. Schultz	M. Lambert	M. Cross
1994	W. Lewington	M. Smith	J. Collis	S. Welsh	J. Collis	D. Mason	M. Cross
1995	H. Kwadijk	M. Smith	J. Collis			R. Condron	M. Cross
1996	H. Kwadijk	J. Crowe	R. Davey				
1997	R. Davey	B. Ozols	H. Kwadijk				
1998	R. Davey	M. Smith	H. Kwadijk				
1999	R. Davey	M. Smith	P. Veen				
2000	C. McManus	H. Willis	P. Veen				
2001	C. McManus	H. Willis	P. Brewster				
2002	C. McManus	H. Driver	P. Brewster				
2003	C. McManus	H. Driver	P. Brewster				
2004	B. Wiltshire	H. Driver	P. Brewster				
2005	B. Wiltshire	H. Driver	P. Brewster				
2006	B. Wiltshire	F. Veen	P. Brewster				
2007	B. Wiltshire	F. Veen	R. Smith				
2008	R. Smith	F. Veen	B. Phillips				
2009	R. Smith	F. Veen	J. Collis				
2010	R. Smith	F. Veen	J. Collis				
2011	R. Smith	F. Veen	J. Collis				
2012	R. Smith	F. Veen	J. Collis				
2013	R. Smith	F. Veen	J. Stewart				
2014	R. Smith	F. Veen	J. Stewart				
2015	R. Smith	F. Veen	J. Stewart				

Batterham Park Tennis Club Honour Roll (2 pages)							
Office Bearers				Club Champions			
Year	President	Secretary	Treasurer	Men	Women	Boys	Girls
2016	R. Smith	F. Veen	J. Stewart				
2017	R. Smith	F. Veen	J. Stewart				
2018	R. Smith	F. Veen	J. Stewart				
2019	R. Smith	F. Veen	J. Stewart				
2020							
2021							
2022							
2023							

Batterham Park Tennis Club Life Members Honour Roll	
1979	H. Macmillan, L. Pacey
1981	B. Tate
1983	C. Macmillan
1985	J. Isherwood
1991	D. Schultz
1992	L. Elsey
1994	J. Davey
1998	H. Kwadijk
2000	M. Smith

Batterham Park Tennis Club Life Members Honour Roll	
2001	R. Kennedy
2009	J. Jones
2013	J. Collis
2015	F. Veen

Batterham Park Tennis Club Junior of the Season Honour Roll	
Summer 1985/86	Fiona Davey
Winter 1986	Craig Murray
1987	Milan Livic
Summer 1987/88	Cameron Comer
Winter 1988	Terry Feruglio
1989	Brett Murray
1990	Brett Murray
1991	Mark Lambert
1992	Madeleine Kwadijk
1993	Ryan Condron
1994/95	Megan Cross
1995/96	Ryan Condron
1996/97	Michael Jones
1997/98	Michael Jones
1998/99	Guy McManus
1999/00	Guy McManus
2000/01	Alison McCoy
2001/02	Peter Jones, Josh Crowe
2002/03	Josh Crowe, Peter Jones

Batterham Park Tennis Club Junior of the Season Honour Roll	
2003/04	Rachel Curtis
2004/05	Rachel Curtis
2005/06	Shaun Palmer
2006/07	Tayla Robins
2007/08	Tayla Robins
2008/09	Matthew Yeske
2009/10	Mitchell Arbrew
2010/11	Sam Baker
2011/12	

The Basin Basketball Club Life Members Honour Roll	
1992	Joy Wallace, Dick Thomas
1997	Laurie Hellier, Andy Sweet
1999	Margaret Sweet, Michelle Hellier, Norma Thomas
2000	Graeme Ivey, Justin Walton, Karen Kupinic
2001	Barrie Curwood, Errol Kennedy
2007	Geoff Jones, Peter Asquith, Peter McCoy

The Basin Basketball Club Life Members Honour Roll	
2010	Warren Chalmers
2017	Tony Davidson
2018	Terry Marshall
2019	
2020	
2021	
2022	
2023	

The Basin Basketball Club Awards						
Year	Celebration Services Sportsmanship		Peter O'Callaghan Memorial		Junior Encouragement	
	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl	Boy	Girl
2012					Koby Ferriggi	Sarah Monk
2013					Felix Seymour	Amy Hamlin
2014					William Hartelt	Alana Clemow
2015	Evan Cribb	Simone Martin	Jordan Gialelis	Brittany Bourke	Harry McGorm	Kaitlyn Mayfeild
2016	Andrew Martin	Payton Airs	Isaac Williams	Olivia Heinan	Shaun Massie	Kate Bourke
2017	Hayden Landy	Madeline Vlek	Jacob Taylor	Rebecca Withers	Max Nicoll	Chloe Schaller
2018	Harry McGorm	Rosemary Sykes	Reece Walsham	Rylee Hummel	Riley White	Millicent Coverdale
2019						
2020						
2021						
2022						
2023						

The Basin Basketball Club Awards				
Year	**Gillian Bottell Outstanding Player**	**Shane Nicolaou Outstanding Player**	**Kyle Vassil**	**Justin DaCosta Memorial**
1999	Megan Curwood	Ben Coleman		
2000	Sally Aspinall	Gerrard Leonard		
2001	Bree Fowler	Brad Vey		
2003	Erin Dupuy	Mitch Kennedy		Travis Perkins
2004	Allison McCoy	Shane Dunstan		Frank & Linda Rooy
2005	Alicia Landsell	Daniel Billsborrow		Tony Davidson
2006	Eleanor Kennedy	David Bottel		Glenda McAlpine
2007	Danielle Lansdell	Michael McCoy		Darren Tait
2008	Darcie Quinn	Nathan Tait		Warren DaCosta
2009	Kaya Boersma	Brenton McAlpine		Peter Asquith
2010	Melissa Tonkin		Jesse Taripo	Caleb Hornstra
2011	Katie McRae	Mitchell Fisch	Jaimie Thompson	Jennifer McRae
2012	Mel Cameron & Aimee Maywald	Tom Conway	Jordan Gialelis	Daniel Passingham
2013	Rebekah Kelly	Sam Crofts	Madison Walters	Angela Lach
2014	Isabelle Taylor	Daniel Sumsion	Lachlan Wright	Kirsty Ferriggi
2015	Kayla Gialelis	Jaylen Chown	Mia Heinen	Tory Tilley
2016	Lucy McLennan	Brent Patterson	Adam Barnes	Jason Clemow
2017	Talia Zalmoumis	Cameron Blease	Martha Bone	Justin Huttig
2018	Madison Walters	Joshua Ciccone	Christian Poe	Penny Hartelt
2019				
2020				
2021				
2022				
2023				

The Basin Basketball Club Jayco Coaches Award. Recognition of Contribution	
2015	Gavin Fox
2016	Tony Davidson
2017	Leigh Ellis
2018	Michael McGorm
2019	
2020	
2021	
2022	
2023	

Mountain District Netball Association Awards				
Year	**Division/No**	**Team**	**Award**	**Recipient**
2002	Under 13/6	Bullets	Fairest and Best	Jaimee Lana
2003	Under 13/3	Beauties	Fairest and Best	Jaimee Lana
2004	Under 15/4	The Basin Rockets	Best conducted team	
2004	Open 5	Comets	Fairest and Best	Carolyn Fuerst
2006	Under 15/6	Sparks	Fairest and Best	Rebecca Ratcliffe
2008	Open 5	Open 5	Fairest and Best	Chloe Wright
2008	Under 17/5	Bullets	Fairest and Best	Jazmyn George
2008	Under 15/7	Bears	Fairest and Best	Rachel Lana
2009	Under 17/3	Ladybirds	Fairest and Best	Rebecca Ratcliffe
2010	Open 5	Bullants	Fairest and Best	Jessica McNeill
2010	Under 15/4	Beetles	Fairest and Best	Angelina Tuituiohu
2010	Open 5	Bullants	Runner up Fairest and Best	Esther Allen
2011	Under 15/5	The Basin Possums	Fairest and Best	Angelina Tuituiohu
2011	Under 17/4	Turtles	Fairest and Best	Jamie-lee Owens
2012	Under 13/5	The Basin Dolphins	Fairest and Best	Bradley Keats
2012	Open 5	The Basin Ducks	Runner up Fairest and Best	Chantel McNeill
2013	Open 6	Open 6	Fairest and Best	Rebecca Ratcliffe
2013	Under 11/3	The Basin Ladybugs	Best Club Team	
2014	Open 6	Open 6	Fairest and Best	Rebecca Ratcliffe
2014	Under 11/3	The Basin Ladybugs	Best Club Team	
2016	Under 23/3	The Basin Foxes	Fairest and Best	Josephine Saltalamacchia
2017	Under 13/2	The Basin Seahorses	Fairest and Best	Kate Kruger
2018	Under 13/3	The Basin Bobcats	Fairest and Best	Adelina Bloomfield
2019	Under 15/2	The Basin Lions	Fairest and Best	Kate Kruger
2019	Under 23/3	The Basin Panthers	Fairest and Best	Amy Roncali
2020				
2021				
2023				
2024				

The Basin Netball Club Life Members Honour Roll	
1990's Lyn Shepherd	1990's Kerry Tate

Lilydale Bowmen Club Life Member Honour Roll	
1982	Ian Marshall
1988	John Harris
1992	Neil Rodda
1997	Ali Rodda, Phillip Day

Lilydale Bowmen Club Life Member Honour Roll	
2000	Lindsay Harris
2011	Bill Clinton, George Toivenen
2012	Richard Diston

Lilydale Bowmen Club Member of the Year	
1979	Ian Marshall
1980	John Harris
1981	Ilse Gosper
1982	Leone Scudamore
1983	Margaret Fry
1984	John Galley
1985	Darryl Goulding
1986	Ali Rodda
1987	Bill Gibson
1988	John Vanner
1989	Paul Rodda, Theresa Lyford
1990	Linda Vanner
1991	Axel Rosmalen
1992	Max Rathbone
1993	Roger Mason
1994	Wayne Womersley

Lilydale Bowmen Club Member of the Year	
1995	Rodney Thompson
1996	Wayne Whitehead
1997	Max Rathbone
1998	
1999	
2000	
2001	
2002	
2003	
2004	
2005	
2006	
2007	
2008	
2009	
2010	

Lilydale Bowmen Club Member of the Year	
2011	
2012	
2013	
2014	
2015	
2016	
2017	
2018	
2019	
2020	
2021	
2022	
2023	
2024	

Lilydale Bowmen Honour Roll		
Year	**President**	**Secretary**
1979	S. Edwards	J. Edwards
1980	S. Edwards	J. Edwards
1981	S. Edwards	M. Galley
1982	R. Rosaia	M. Galley
1983	R. Rosaia	L. Vanner
1984	J. Vanner	L. Vanner
1985	J. Vanner	L. Vanner
1986	S. Polglase	L. Vanner
1987	J. Vanner	L. Vanner
1988	R. Day	L. Vanner
1989	J. Vanner	L. Vanner
1990	A. Jones	A. Rodda
1991	A. Jones	A. Rodda
1992	A. Jones	A. Rodda
1993	B. Kellett	A. Rodda

Lilydale Bowmen Honour Roll		
Year	**President**	**Secretary**
1994	B. Kellett	M. Michell
1995	B. Kellett	M. Michell
1996	B. Kellett	M. Michell
1997	P. Mitchell	M. Michell
1998	P. Mitchell	E. Arnold
1999	G. Robinson	E. Arnold
2000	G. Robinson	D. Lavarenne
2001	G. George	C. Oliver
2002	G. George	C. Oliver
2003	L. Harris	C. Oliver
2004	L. Harris	P. Collins
2005	L. Harris	P. Collins
2006	L. Harris	P. Collins
2007	D. Mitchell	P. Collins
2008	D. Mitchell	P. Collins

Lilydale Bowmen Honour Roll		
Year	**President**	**Secretary**
2009	D. Mitchell	P. Collins
2010	D. Mitchell	D. Lavarenne
2011	S. Georgiou	B. Thorp
2012	D. Mitchell	B. Thorp
2013	W. Rathbone	B. Thorp
2014		L. Harris
2015	R. Sticht	L. Harris
2016	R. Sticht	
2017	R. Sticht	
2018		
2019		
2020		
2021		
2022		
2023		
2024		

Lilydale Bowmen Club Adult Champions (2 pages)						
Year	**Discipline**	**Freestyle**	**Bowhunter**	**Unsighted**	**Recurve**	**Longbow**
2005	ABA	Shaun Pratt	Dean Hawkey	Chris Henry	Bruce McIver	John Harris
	IIFA	Shaun Pratt	Wayne Rathbone	David Jarman	Bruce McIver	
	3D	Shaun Pratt	Dean Hawkey	Mark Spencer		John Harris
	Indoor	Shaun Pratt	Scott Waedle	Mark Spencer	Clem Sedgman	
2006	ABA	Shaun Pratt	Dennis Scantlebury	Brad Kellert		
	IIFA	Shaun Pratt	Dean Hawkey	Chris Henry		
	3D	Shaun Pratt	Dennis Scantlebury	Brad Kellert		
	Indoor	Shaun Pratt	Dean Hawkey	Colin Campbell		
2007	ABA	Kaye Sticht	Dennis Scantlebury	Brad Kellert	Graham Skinner	Les Shortis
	IIFA	Kaye Sticht	Lindsay Harris	Rick Sanders		
	3D	John Galley	Dean Hawkey	Rick Sanders	John McColl	Tony Snushall
	Indoor			Mark Spencer		
2008	ABA	John Galley	Duane Wans	Rick Sanders	David McDonald	Tony Snushall
	IIFA	Dave Shannon	David Mc Donald	Chris Henry		
	3D	John Galley	Dennis Scantlebury	Rick Sanders	Marg Angus	John Harris
	Indoor	John Galley		Mark Spencer		
2010	ABA	Dean Hawkey	Mark Hynes	Chris Henry	Graham Skinner	Wayne Rathbone
	IIFA	Brett Horwood		Bill Jones	Graham Skinner	Tony Justice
	3D	Dean Hawkey	John McColl	Bill Jones	Graham Skinner	Wayne Rathbone
	Indoor	Brett Horwood	Jon Hawkins		Stephen Georgiou	
2011	ABA	Dean Hawkey	Mark Hynes	Greg Towers	Graham Skinner	John Harris
	IIFA	John Galley	Zacc Nyhuis		David Melville	Wayne Rathbone
	3D	Duane Wans	Mark Hynes	Bill Clinton	Marg Angus	Stephen Georgiou
	Indoor					
2012	ABA	John Galley	John McColl	Greg Towers	Paul Williams	John Harris
	IIFA	John Galley		Greg Towers	David Melville	John Harris
	3D	John Galley	Mark Hynes	Barry Cridland	Paul Williams	Wayne Rathbone
	Indoor	John Galley	Dean Hawkey		Paul Williams	
2013	ABA	Shaun Pratt, Lindsay Harris, Jon Hawkins	Tony Brezic	Tony Schoenmakers	Paul Williams	John Harris
	IIFA	Shaun Pratt	Paul Langton	Greg Towers	David Melville	John Harris
	3D	Shaun Pratt	Tony Brezic	Tony Schoenmakers	Paul Williams	Wayne Rathbone
	Indoor	Shaun Pratt	David Star		Samuel Murray	Wayne Rathbone
2014	ABA	Shaun Pratt, Jon Hawkins	Tony Brezic	Ryan Diston	Anthony Hamilton	John Harris
	IIFA	Shaun Pratt	Joe Borg	Barry Cridland	Paul Williams	Wayne Rathbone
	3D	Shaun Pratt	Dirk Went, Tony Brezic	Barry Cridland	Anthony Hamilton	Tony Justice
	Indoor	Brett Horwood	Joe Borg		Paul Williams	

Lilydale Bowmen Club Adult Champions (2 pages)						
Year	**Discipline**	**Freestyle**	**Bowhunter**	**Unsighted**	**Recurve**	**Longbow**
2015	ABA	Shaun Pratt	Tony Brezic	Gary McGrath	Anthony Hamilton	Mark Eastman
	IIFA (Cancelled)					
	3D	Shaun Pratt	Tony Brezic	Gary McGrath	Anthony Hamilton	Wayne Rathbone
	Indoor	Shaun Pratt	Joe Borg			Julian Woods

Lilydale Bowmen Club Junior Champions						
Year	**Discipline**	**Freestyle**	**Bowhunter**	**Unsighted**	**Recurve**	**Longbow**
2005	ABA			Sam McIntyre		
	IIFA		Rhys Dowler	Shannon Spencer		
	3D		Rhys Dowler	Sam McIntyre		
	Indoor		Rhys Dowler	Shannon Spencer		
2006	ABA		Sam McIntyre			
	IIFA		Sam McIntyre			
	3D		Sam McIntyre	Matt Turner		
	Indoor		Sam McIntyre	Matt Turner		
2007	ABA		Geoff Woodgate	Ryan Sanders		
	IIFA			Ryan Sanders		
	3D		Geoff Woodgate	Ryan Sanders		
	Indoor					
2008	ABA			Nathan McColl		
	IIFA					
	3D			Nathan McColl		
	Indoor					
2010	ABA		Jordan Andrews	Tom Dolheguy		
	IIFA					
	3D		Zac Nyhuis			
	Indoor					
2011	ABA		Ben Nyhuis			
	IIFA					
	3D		Ben Nyhuis	Danielle Wendt		
	Indoor					
2012	ABA		Ben Nyhuis			
	IIFA		Ben Nyhuis			Patrick Allison
	3D		Ben Nyhuis			Patrick Allison
	Indoor	Ben Nyhuis	Jeremy Fiske			Patrick Allison
2013	ABA		Cameron Wendt			
	IIFA					
	3D		Cameron Wendt	Liam Elliot	Josh Smeed	
	Indoor		Ben Nyhuis	Jeremy Fiske		Patrick Allison
2014	ABA	Ben Nyhuis	Cameron Wendt			
	IIFA					
	3D	Ben Nyhuis	Cameron Wendt			
	Indoor	Ben Nyhuis	Jordan Ammann			
2015	ABA	Zara Langton		Connor Sticht	Cody McDonald	
	IIFA (Cancelled)					
	3D	Zara Langton		Marshall Williams		
	Indoor	Zara Langton		Connor Sticht	Cody McDonald	

Lilydale Bowmen Club CUB Champions					
Year	**Discipline**	**Limited**	**Unsighted**	**Recurve**	**Longbow**
2005	ABA	James Bell	Michael Spencer		
	IIFA		Michael Spencer		
	3D		Michael Spencer		
	Indoor		Michael Spencer		
2006	ABA		Michael Spencer		Ben Campbell
	IIFA		Michael Spencer		
	3D	Nathan Klinger	Michael Spencer		Ben Campbell
	Indoor		Michael Spencer		
2007	ABA		James Tampoline		
	IIFA				
	3D				
	Indoor				
2008	ABA		Corey Dolheguy		
	IIFA				
	3D				
	Indoor				
2010	ABA	Taylor Andrews	Corey Dolheguy		
	IIFA			Joshua Smeed	
	3D	Cameron Wendt			
	Indoor				
2011	ABA	Cameron Wendt			
	IIFA				
	3D	Cameron Wendt			
	Indoor				
2012	ABA				
	IIFA				
	3D				
	Indoor			Jimmy McIntyre	
2013	ABA	Robert Tabone	Connor Sticht	Talia Langton	
	IIFA	Robert Tabone	Mason Stitch	Jimmy McIntyre	
	3D	Robert Tabone	Connor Sticht	Jimmy McIntyre	
	Indoor	Zara Langton		Talia Langton	
2014	ABA	Jimmy McIntyre	Connor Sticht	Talia Langton	
	IIFA	Jimmy McIntyre	Mason Stitch	Talia Langton	
	3D	Jimmy McIntyre	Connor Sticht	Jipsie McDonald	
	Indoor	Jimmy McIntyre		Jipsie McDonald	
2015	ABA		Mason Stitch	Jipsie McDonald	
	IIFA (Cancelled)				
	3D	Stephanie Williams	Mason Stitch	Jipsie McDonald	
	Indoor			Jipsie McDonald	

Doongala Pony Club Life Members Honour Roll			
Gordon & Nooreen Miller	Gary Hertigan	Margaret Domican	Noel & Pam Steel
Iris Dawson	John, Shirley and Mark Anderson	Andrew Martin	Diana Chaplin
Bob and Pat Chipperfield	Brian Lowe	Geoffrey Hudson	

Doongala Adult Riding Club Presidents Award	
1989	Pauline Streatfield
1990	Walter Tooth
1991	Judy Holdsworth
1992	Leigh Howes
1993	Pamela Allen
1994	Bronwyn Walburg
1995	Barbara Mitchell
1996	Michelle Barnett
1997	Ian Reynolds
1998	Ann Ring
1999	Jody Cunliffe
2000	Meagan Harrison
2001	Rhonda Petrie
2002	Wendy Savis
2003	Ann Ring

Doongala Adult Riding Club Presidents Award	
2004	Kim Ticehurst
2005	Gail Boxell
2006	Jenny Sasse
2007	Louise Elsworth
2008	Nina Lewis
2009	Narrelle Forbes
2010	Ann Ring
2011	Rachel Rushby
2012	John & Jenny Sasse
2013	Karen Raymond
2014	Tahlia MacNab
2015	Michelle Wintle
2016	Kellie Robinson
2017	

Doongala Pony Club Johnny Reb Memorial Jumping Competition Past Winners	
1971	Debbie Rawlinson with Manning
1972	Jenny Parlevliet with Tamborine Lass
1973	Howard Ward with Big Ben
1974	Felicity Brennan with Allegro
1975	Glen Bishop with Chubasco
1976	Debbie House with The Exhibitionist
1977	Andrew Garret with Ash
1978	Paul Buckland with Romany Nomad
1979	Lee Davis with Just Peter
1980	David Strapp with Della
1981	Tanya Werna with Corncob
1982	David Joyce with Roly Poly
1983	Phillip Johnston with Circle J Jason
1984	Sarah Bray with Tudor Park Prophet
1985	Lori Hicks with Scooby Doo
1986	Sally Heeps with Wilmalong

Doongala Pony Club Johnny Reb Memorial Jumping Competition Past Winners	
1987	Daralyn Hodge with Hustler
1989	Brook Dobbin with Cha Cha
1990	Brook Dobbin with Take A Risk
1991	Brook Dobbin with Esso
1992	Caroline Quilty with Columbia
1993	Anna-Jane Stevens with Supper Balaria Boy
1994	Tara Prendercast with Mirror Quest
1995	Sophie Hughes with Supper Cooper
1996	Rebecca Allen with Donlun
1997	Amanda Eltringham with Excavators Illusion
1998	Colleen Waddell with Khan Coban
1999	Amberley Thorpe with All American Boy
2000	Leigh Shera-Jones with Fair Dinkum
2001	Kristy Lee Pettifer with Wenloch Cuchlain

Chapter 10 Voluntary Organisations

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Summary

The Basin Progress Association was formed in 1926 and had an enormous influence in development of The Basin. It was originally formed to represent the interests of The Basin residents, and to manage and maintain The Basin Progress Hall for use by the local community. It was disbanded in 2004.

The Basin Children's Hospital Auxiliary was formed in 1930 and until its closure in 1973, it is estimated the Auxiliary raised over $10,000 for the hospital.

The Basin Red Cross was formed in 1938 and until its closure in 1984, it had raised money for the first ambulance in the hills, provided numerous blood donations and helped in many emergencies.

The Basin Theatre Group was officially formed in 1957 but began productions in 1954 with Edna Chandler as the driving force. The company first held productions in The Basin Progress Hall, then a small building called "*The Hut*" in Doongalla Road. In 1973, a new building was constructed on donated land in Doongalla Road and this building was extended in 1989.

The Basin Elderly Citizens Club began operation in 1965 as The Basin Pensioners Association and formed to look after the social and welfare needs of elderly residents in The Basin area. The Association operated from the Progress Hall until Knox Council constructed Club Rooms on The Triangle in late 1972. In 2025, the club no longer operates.

The Basin Community House began in 1987 as the idea of two local women who saw a need to organise a program of activities and services to help meet some leisure, educational and social needs of the community.

The Basin Junior Field Naturalist' Club was formed in 1983 by Ray and Jan Brown to satisfy the high level of interest in natural history amongst children in the local community.

The Basin Neighbourhood Watch scheme was formed in 1986.

The Rotary Club of The Basin was formed in 1990 and became an active community based service club participating in a diverse range of projects. It ceased operation on 30th June 2002.

The Basin Food is Free Project and Community Garden was formed in 2017-18 by local food gardening and beekeeping identity Michael Johnson and aims to boost local food security.

Distinguished Resident

Edna Chandler

In 1954, Mrs. Fergus Chandler returned to The Basin with her husband Fergus to live. Her in-laws had an outstanding record of service to the community, but Edna was to gain renown in her right by exploring and developing previously untapped talent in The Basin. As Director-Producer of the Theatre Group she has guided this organisation from a modest beginning to a highly successful and self-sufficient unit. It did not happen by chance, as Edna, with previous formal training and experience with various amateur theatrical organisations knew what was required.

As President, she was a leading light in the establishment of The Basin Kindergarten, a feat accomplished in the remarkable span of only 2 years. Notably, it was also during Edna's term as President of The Health Centre Committee, the centre was actually built.

Edna paid high tribute to her husband Fergus for his untiring assistance in the running of the Theatre Group. In fact this interest became almost a way of life for Fergus and Edna. Those connected with The Theatre know how long and hard they worked to make the Company so successful. Edna won many awards for directing and producing shows over 35 years. These include three Moomba awards, two Kyneton Festival awards, and awards from the Ballarat Festival and the Victorian Drama League Festival.

Edna's most distinguished award is an MBE in 1978 for services to the community and to The Basin Theatre. Fergus Eric Chandler passed away in 1995. Edna Louise Barrett Chandler passed away in 2003.

The Basin Welcoming League

Formed in 1919 to provide support and entertainment for soldiers who returned from WW1. Little is known about the league except from entries in Janet Dobsons diary:

"***Tuesday October 7 1919***. *There is to be a meeting tomorrow afternoon of The Basin ladies Welcoming league to talk over having the wounded soldiers up again.*"

"Wednesday October 8 1919. *Jean and, I were at the meeting this afternoon. Most of the league were there we are going to entertain about 100 soldiers on Saturday.*"

"***Saturday October 11, 1919***. *Jean and I went up to the school about o'clock and most of the League were there, we cut a great many Ham and Tongue sandwiches, cut cake etc , spread the tables and decorated the rooms with boughs, flowers and flags. When all was finished the rooms looked very pretty and cool. There were 100 soldiers they seemed to enjoy themselves and asked to come again.*"

"***Tuesday October 14 1919***. *Jean and I went to a League meeting to settle up after the Soldiers. There were not many there, it was very windy and cold. They did not collect any money this time as they had some in the bank, it more than paid expenses and I think there will be about £2 over to go towards the next entertainment. At the meeting it was decided to give the local soldiers a welcome home and Jean and Girty Henderson are to collect to give them a present either a framed certificate or a medal.*"

"***Wednesday October 22 1919.*** *There was a meeting of the league this afternoon there were not many there, they decided to give the soldiers a tea on the 31st of this month and present each with a gold medal. There are about 8 soldiers to get them.*"

"***Wednesday November 19 1919***. *Jean and I were at a meeting of the Women's Welcoming League this afternoon to settle up after the tea meeting and concert that we gave to the local soldiers about 3 weeks ago, we paid all expenses and had 3/6 over. They gave it to Mrs Vass? for cleaning the Church after the concert.*"

The Basin Anti Liquor League

Prohibition was an issue in Australia throughout the 1920s, in part a result of societal problems following World War I. Alcohol was depicted as the enemy of a sedate home life, encouraged following the upheavals of World War I. Australia's Prohibition Laws were repealed in 1928.

Local option voting commenced in Victoria in 1920 in attempts to create "*Dry*" areas. An Anti Liquor League was formed in The Basin as described in Janet Dobsons diary:

"***Tuesday July 19 1920.*** *In the afternoon I went up to the church to an Antiliquor League meeting. They formed a branch of the league at The Basin. Mr H. R. Chandler was elected President and Jean Secretary. Mr Little was at the meeting. Captain Dobbie spoke and explained things. There were not many there, 3 or 4 came from Kilsyth.*"

"***Monday August 9 1920.*** *Bob and Walter Burden took the Anti Liquor League petition round again yesterday afternoon. They got several more names.*"

"***Thursday October 21 1920.*** *Today is election day. We all went to vote. Jim drove us, we did not go till after School because of Jean. Emily went with us. I do hope they get "No Licence" but I am afraid we won't. Mrs H. Chandler and Mrs Henderson and Mr Falconer were at the polling booth all day and several others drove and brought voters.*"

"***Friday October 22 1920.*** *We are very disappointed there were only 2 districts voted "No Licence" and 71 reduction. Our district of Scoresby got reduction, so did Evelyn.*"

The Basin Progress Association

Formation

In 1926, The Basin was progress conscious. A new Primary School had been built, Smith's Store was in operation, many new estates were opening, and the population was growing. Many of the residents, old and new, felt the sanctity of "*His Majesty's Mail*" was in jeopardy because of the insecurity of the "*loose mail bags*" (they were hessian bags tied to a post). These were used between Bayswater Post Office, and the receiving Post Office, the home of Mrs. A. M. Dickson in Mountain Highway. Wreford Chandler, then a junior teacher at The Basin Primary School, spent many afternoons circulating a petition calling on the Postmaster General to establish a full Post Office at The Basin.

In May that year, hundreds of residents from an area bounded by One Tree Hill, to the limit of housing in the area, Hazel Dell, the Dandenong Creek, Colchester Road, Albert Avenue and Forest Road (roughly the area from which pupils came to The Basin Primary School) met at The Basin Primary School to prepare the petition for presentation to the Postmaster General.

Frank Goodwin suggested at the meeting that the enthusiasm generated should be continued in the formation of a Progress Association. The suggestion was enthusiastically received by all present. A resolution was passed:

"*One month from date ... a meeting be held to consider the inauguration of a Progress Association for The Basin*."

Accordingly, at another meeting one month later in June 1926, The Basin Progress Association was duly inaugurated. The first President was Mr. Frank Goodwin, Mr. Wreford Chandler was Secretary and Mr Bob Dobson Treasurer. No membership fee was set at first, but members present contributed a few pence for

stationary and postage.

In September 1926, meetings were moved from the State School to the Vestry of the Methodist Church and meetings continued to be held there until the Progress Hall was finished in 1931.

A constitution was prepared in various stages, but the final constitution was not implemented until a mortgage was raised with the Commercial Banking Company in 1929 (discharged in May 1934) to help finance construction of a Progress Hall. The Bank Manager insisted a valid constitution was a requirement of the loan, so he offered a draft which was implemented. The guarantors for the loan were Mr. H. Beaumont, Mr. R. B. Smith, Mr. Kirkman, Mrs. Dickson and Mr. Ankers.

In 1944, a meeting was held, and a document signed, declaring:

"*…that all The Basin Progress Association books and records prior to that date were lost and that no documentary information was available*" (or words to that affect).

The Basin Progress Hall

Building

After operating for a short while, The Basin Progress Association decided to build a hall for meetings and social functions. Two sites for the hall were considered, one near The Basin Primary School and the present site. A ballot was held to decide the site, and as we know, the present site won the vote.

The selected site was owned by Robert William Stanley Chrystal Bingham of 15 Villeroy Street Hampton, Salesman, who purchased lot 12 in the Chandlers Hill Estate on 6th November 1930 for 25 pounds as shown in instrument number 1469955. The Basin Progress Association approached Bingham, and he agreed to sell the land. R. B. Smith, The Basin shop storekeeper, paid Bingham 60 pounds. Three members of The Basin Progress Association paid R. B. Smith 100

Entrants in The Queen Competition held in 1929 to raise funds for building The Basin Progress Hall.
L-R Edna Greenwell, Dorothy Thompson, Eileen Clarke (Winner), ? Blakey, Mrs Dewar.
Photo: courtesy Knox Historical Society

pounds, and Bingham agreed to transfer title to the three trustees described below. The transfer was dated 6th November 1930 as shown in instrument number 1469956.

Title regulations did not allow a land title to be in the name of an Association, so three members of The Basin Progress Association acted as "*trustees*" and the title was in their names as tenants in common. A trust deed signed by all trustees stated the trustees held the land for the Association and the Hall was owned by residents of The Basin. The trust deed was held in a solicitor's office in Boronia.

Accordingly, in November 1930, the joint proprietors of the land became Reginald Thomas Charles Kirkman (Plumber), Ada Maud Dickson (Post Mistress) and Herbert Henry Langdon (Tailor).

The hall, built almost entirely by voluntary labour, commenced in 1930 and was erected in two stages. The first stage officially opened by Sir George Knox in 1931. An honorarium was paid to Mr Bill Ankers who drew up the plans and directed operations. This first stage did not include a stage, kitchen or toilets. The official opening was a roaring success. Everyone in The Basin turned up and the dancing went on till 3.00 a.m.

Stage two of the hall building occurred around 1940, when a stage and a kitchen were added; the latter forming an annex to the stage and partly exposed to the weather.

The late 1940s saw the hall used for functions to raise funds for the Miss Dandenong Quest and. Nancy Campbell represented The Basin, Betty Moulton represented Boronia, Betty Prohasky and Gwen Mapperson represented Bayswater. The hall was also used for regular dances organised by The Bayswater Football Club with transport arranged to and from Bayswater Post Office.

In 1959, new trustees were appointed. These were Edward George Mortiboy (Publican), Richard Guy Turner (Accountant), Leslie Harold Edwards (Storekeeper), William Joseph Wright (Storekeeper) and Arthur Ernest Cooper (Carpenter).

During the 1960s around 3,000 pounds was spent on improvements. These included the addition of a foyer and toilet block in 1963, modernising the stage in 1964, a new kitchen in 1966, new floor and ceiling, exterior painting and indoor decorations.

Shortly after the 1968 bushfires in the Dandenongs there was some criticism of the Progress Hall and its bad condition at a Ferntree Gully Shire meeting. Reporters from the "*Knox News*" newspaper decided to investigate the "bad condition" of the hall and found the opposite to be the case. Their visit corresponded with a dance in progress and in their newspaper the next week under a photograph of the hall, a caption read:

"*Does this hall look very bad*."

The report stated:

"*This was the happy scene at The Basin Progress Hall last Saturday night. It is tastefully decorated and well lit. Everyone appears to be enjoying themselves. The hall is a functional asset for the people of The Basin. A property in good repair around which social life of the area is centred*."

The Basin Progress Hall was originally owned and run by the people of The Basin, having vested management to The Basin Progress Association. Up to 2004, the hall was the only one in the City of Knox not privately owned or run by the Council. In 1950, a move was made to have the Fern Tree Gully Shire take over the hall, but this did not happen.

All monies received through rental were used to keep the hall at a high standard. With a high annual turnover, it was indeed an asset for the people, utilised on a permanent and casual booking basis, and occupied most days of the week.

Ownership

In 2003, ownership of the Hall land was transferred to The Basin Progress Association. Previously, ownership had been held in the names of 5 trustees who held the title in trust for the Association. When the hall was first built, it was impossible to hold a title in the name of an Association.

For the ownership to change, the original trust deed had to be located as well as the 5 trustees. After a long search, the trust deed was located at a solicitor's office in Boronia, but only one of the 5 trustees was still alive. However, once proof of deaths and a signature from the surviving trustee was obtained, this enabled the change of ownership to proceed.

In the few years leading up to 2002, income from The Basin Progress Hall dropped dramatically, and major capital works were required to maintain the standard of the Hall. The Basin Progress Association had difficulty managing the hall. As an experiment, The Basin Community House managed the hall for about a year with some council support. They improved many facets of the hall and increased its usage. However, they were unable to raise enough funds for the required capital works.

In 2004, The Basin Progress Hall and land were sold to The City of Knox for $1.

In 2005, The City of Knox upgraded the hall kitchen, and in 2007 new toilets were added and the

Hall Repairs

Over the Christmas period of 1961, The Basin Progress Hall Committee installed a new floor in the hall.

In January 1962, the day after completing the floor, a major bushfire broke out and the hall was used as a base for the firefighting operations. Imagine the dismay of the Committee when they came back the next day and found a 3 yards square by one yard high pile of ice in the centre of the floor!

exterior repaired and repainted. Other minor upgrades occurred in 2008 and 2010.

In 2015, the stage and surrounding walls were removed and rebuilt. The rebuild included a new stage, and an entrance and windows facing towards a new pavilion.

Entertainment

R. B. Smith, who opened the first store in The Basin in 1924, added a barn to the rear of his store in 1926. In the same year, The Basin Progress Association was formed and shortly after members decided to build a hall for their meetings and social functions. Smith provided the barn rent-free to The Basin Progress Association for both entertainment and to raise funds for construction of The Basin Progress Hall.

In 1929, to help raise funds to purchase land and build the hall, a Queen Competition was held. Competitors included Edna Greenwell, Dorothy Thompson, Eileen Clarke, Blakey, Mrs Dewar, Miss Eileen Clarke, Miss May Dickson, Miss Lil. Ferguson, Nancy Harris and Doris Langdon. Miss Eileen Clarke (later Mrs. Eileen Turner) was the winner. The "*Crowning Ceremony*" was held on the vacant site for the hall. See photo on page 273.

The barn was cleared of produce on Saturday afternoons, cleaned ready for the Saturday night dances and members restored it to its original conditions on Sunday mornings. Weather permitting, dances were weekly from 8 pm to 11.45 pm and the charge for admittance was 1 shilling or donation. Mr. Smith donated milk and tea for suppers and some novelty dance prizes. Crockery etc. was provided by members and ladies brought a plate of food.

Later, dance music was provided by a player piano (pianola) delivered to Mr Smith's barn and later transferred to The Basin Progress Hall on completion of the first stage. Ballroom dancing was the order of the day (old time and modern) with novelty dances included. Fancy dress balls were also held.

As a result of an inspection by the Department of Health, dances were stopped at Smith's barn. They moved to the Boronia Progress Hall and were held there fortnightly until The Basin Progress Hall was finished. Private cars and trucks provided free transport from The Basin to these functions.

During the 1930s, successful and well attended dances were held in the new The Basin Progress Hall. People came from as far afield as Footscray because of the excellent dance floor. During 1935 and for a time afterwards, folk danced to the music of Mr. Hector Carricks orchestra. On other occasions, and in the years when attendances were small, Mrs. Hingham (piano) and occasionally Mr. Mat Ferguson (concertina) provided the music.

In the 1930s, The Basin Progress Association ran "*Carols by Candlelight*" at "*Chandler's Como*" for many years.

At the end of World War II, The Basin Progress Association, Red Cross and members of the community extended a warm "*Welcome Home*" to local members of the fighting services.

The first Carols by Candlelight to be held in The Basin Progress Hall occurred on December 1950 and was an outstanding success.

Towards the late 1950s the hall fell into disrepair, mainly due to low rental prices. Consequently, there was little money to spend on its upkeep. It was suggested the Shire be asked to take over running of the hall from The Basin Progress Association, but this did not receive support. Changes in management took place and the trustees of the hall decided to strictly supervise functions, particularly when a license to serve alcohol was issued. Rents were made more realistic, and The Basin Progress Association commenced a monthly cabaret, which raised hundreds of pounds over the next few years. The cabaret took on various themes, but one night during the football season, league jumpers were sported and in a spot of frivolity one woman "*shirt fronted*" another.

Over the years, The Basin Progress Hall was a centre of The Basin community, serving as a meeting place for organisations, a venue for indoor sport, a convenient place to hold dances and balls (the first debutante ball was held in the hall in 1963), family celebrations (the first wedding in the hall was between Chris Hall and Sarah Clarke on 29th June 1992), theatrical productions (the Basin Theatre had their early productions in the Hall) and concerts (the Victorian Banjo Club held annual concerts there. Mr Campbell was in charge of the Banjo Club). Almost all local organisations owe their inception to plans made, and money raised, in the hall. The hall's "*finest hour*" came during the bush fires of 1962 when it was available around the clock for the use by fire fighters and people in distress.

Role

Electricity, water, and garbage collection have been the subjects of constant pressure on the authorities by The Basin Progress Association. Other improvements sought have been better roads and drainage, footpaths, streetlights, traffic signs, road name changes, parking facilities, bicycle tracks, bus services, telephone, mail services, doctors and police facilities.

The first public toilets erected in 1967 in The Basin were the result of pressure from The Basin Progress Association. The toilets were erected on land purchased by the Shire of Knox from the Salvation Army for $1,800 as shown in instrument number C721706.

In 2010, new toilets were erected on The Triangle by Knox City Council and the old toilets demolished.

Dobson Creek was named after an approach to The

Basin Progress Association from the Dandenong Valley Authority in 1967. Originally known as Blind Creek or Littel Blind Creek, The Basin Progress Association suggested Dobson Creek, and it was accepted.

As early as 1952, the idea of severance from the Shire of Fern Tree Gully was discussed, members thought such a step was in the best interests of The Basin.

It was at The Basin Progress Association meetings The Basin Rural Fire Brigade, The Basin Pre-School Centre and the Doongala Pony Club had their inception. Members of Parliament, Councillors, candidates for Council and speakers on topical subjects addressed The Basin Progress Association meetings at various times. Public meetings were called informing local residents more fully on issues affecting them, to present appeals for worthy causes, and to allow the airing of grievances. Over the years, there were many contentious issues where public meetings were called, and large numbers of people attended.

The Basin Progress Association once stood as a local interest group to voice opinions of residents of The Basin whenever matters arose which could affect their community or quality of life.

Notable Issues

The Basin Name Change

At the 2nd meeting of the newly inaugurated The Basin Progress Association in July 1926 at The Basin Primary School, it was suggested the name "*The Basin*" might be changed to something more in keeping with its location in the Dandenong Ranges.

However, the kerosene lamp at the school was dry. Wreford Chandler provided a radio battery equipped with a small globe to make a storm lantern. The battery had been charged by a generator running off a water wheel in the Dandenong Creek at "*Trewell*", the home of Harry Chandler.

This was the only time a public meeting in The Basin was lit by power generated from the Dandenong Creek.

A motion was put, supported by guest house proprietors and some who had weekend cottages to let, to change the name of the district because of its "*ludicrous nature*".

The motion was opposed by the Chandlers and Dobsons, pioneer families for whom the name had its roots in family traditions. Those favouring the name claimed it had "*distinction*". The names of "*Eurimbla*", "*Echo Valley*", "*Eigenia*","*Veronica*", "*Lower Sassafras*" and "*South Sassafras*" were suggested. The motion was lost by a narrow margin.

Land Rating System Change

In early 1960s, the Progress Association called a public meeting to discuss changing the rating system from Net Annual Value (NAV) to Site (Land Market Value) rating. The debate continued late into the night with discussion becoming so heated blows were exchanged. The meeting voted narrowly in favour of NAV. The rating system was later changed to Site rating.

The Triangle

The area of land known as "*The Triangle*" is the land bounded by Forest Road, Mountain Highway and Church Street. It was created in 1915 as part of Chandler's Hill Estate (see page 61). Twelve blocks were created and a few homes and shops were built.

The creation of this area of land established The Basin township centre. A few houses were erected on The Triangle but over time they were purchased by the council.

A Mr Scott had a property on the Triangle, and purchased two W Class trams located behind The Glideaway and made them into a house. Somehow, a seat out of one of the trams ended up out the front of Smith's Store.

There was also a property in the 1940s on Church Street with a cable tram built into it. The tram number (53) was mounted on the front gate.

Other owners of property on The Triangle were Battersby and Gretton.

The Basin Progress Association fought for many years to have this area declared and converted to a "*passive park*".

In the late 1960s, word spread that a speculator had made offers to buy all the properties on The Triangle as he intended building a supermarket on the site. At the public meeting called to discuss the issue in The Basin Progress Hall, the then Shire secretary Neville Haines, was present along with Councillors of the day. Local residents and The Basin Progress Association members thought active development of The Triangle should not occur, and that Council should convert the Triangle into passive park by buying back the properties and not allowing any further development. It is reported the Council agreed to do this, but the agreement was never recorded. Due to enormous public pressure, the supermarket proposal was squashed.

The Basin Progress Association voiced opposition to building The Basin Fire Brigade Station on The Triangle in 1967 but this was ignored.

In 1968, due to The Basin Progress Association pressure, the land on The Triangle was rezoned by the Council to "*passive park*" and over the next few years a

"Paw Response"

The roll call at The Basin Progress Association meetings during winter months was not always high, but it reached an all-time low when a dog was called in to make up a quorum. It is believed there was a "*paw*" response to most votes taken that night.

Life Membership

For a person to be eligible for Life Membership of The Basin Progress Association, they must have given outstanding service in the interests of the Association, or extensive assistance in some other capacity, or given outstanding service in the interests of the Association, or extensive assistance in some other capacity.

Life members are listed in the Appendixes.

few properties on The Triangle were acquired by the Council. The Basin Progress Association members saw this as the first steps to preventing any further buildings on The Triangle.

In 1972, Council decided to erect The Basin Elderly Citizens building on The Triangle and The Basin Progress Association was not asked for their opinion or told of this decision. The Basin Progress Association voiced its disapproval of this proposed new building on The Triangle, but it was ignored.

From 1972 onward, Council purchased more properties on The Triangle (including the old "*Glideaway*" hall, demolished in 1979) and in 1978 the Council prepared a report on possible uses and plans for The Triangle. The Basin Progress Association was asked to comment on the report. The Council's concept was to categorise The Triangle into active and passive. Active uses included the existing Progress Hall, Elderly Citizens Hall and the Fire Station, and passive uses included yet to be provided children's playground, bowling green, car parking and grass area. Passive usage would be encouraged to adopt a "*village green*" atmosphere. The Basin Progress Association was generally happy with the concept as it implied there would be no more buildings on The Triangle.

In 1974, the Mountain Highway end of Church Street was closed after a suggestion to Council from The Basin Progress Association.

In 1980, The Basin Progress Association was informed of plans to erect a Scout Hall on The Triangle. The Basin Progress Association members were outraged, and over the next year instigated many meetings between Council, the Scout Group, and local residents trying to prevent erection of the building. The Basin Progress Association even considered taking out an injunction against the Council. Suggestions of a management committee for The Triangle were rejected by Council who were of the view that they owned the land, and would make the final decision on its use.

In 1981, the Scout Group were offered 2 other sites on Army Road, Boronia but rejected them as unsuitable. After extensive debates in Council about the matter, it was decided by Council in March 1981 to offer the Scout Troop a site on The Triangle.

In 1983, a car park was constructed with a path beside it covered by a pergola. Other areas were attractively landscaped and included children's play equipment, barbecues and seating.

In 2010, the last remaining dwelling on The Triangle reverted to Council ownership and was demolished. A children's playground was erected along with a new public toilet block. The old public toilet block on Mountain Highway was demolished.

In 2014, a permanent pavilion was erected on the Triangle. Previously, temporary pavilions were used for events such as the Christmas carols and the music festival.

In 2022, Council presented to the community a draft The Basin Triangle Masterplan. Response to the plan was fruitful. The most contentious issue was a plan to replace the in 2025 playground with a "*nature based playground*". The majority of respondents suggested retaining the existing playground.

Symbol

In 1971, after extensive investigation by George Grumont, The Basin Progress Association adopted as their symbol a small blue native flower; Brunonia Australis, commonly known as Blue Pincushion. It is protected under the Wild Flowers and Native Birds Protection Act of 1958. This little blue flower used to "*carpet the ground*" between The Basin and Bayswater. Like most other native flora, it suffered the effects of urban expansion and all but disappeared in the area.

The name "*Brunonia*" commemorates Robert Brown, famous botanist with Captain Matthew Flinders on the "Investigator" and discoverer of the flower at Port Phillip in January 1804.

Disbanded

In 2004, after The Basin Progress Hall and land was sold to The City of Knox, The Basin Progress Association disbanded.

The Basin Children's Hospital Auxiliary

This organisation, like the Red Cross, never sought publicity, but its work was most admirable since it was formed in 1930. Many local ladies served this deserving cause. Among them were Mrs. A. Chandler, President for 21 years, Mrs. James, Mrs. H. Chandler, Mrs Allen, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs Stevens, Mrs Gower and Mrs James, the last four awarded Life Governorships. Mrs Gilbert, Mrs. Gower, Mrs. Lees, Mrs. Booth, Mrs. Freeman, and Mrs. Dobson, were awarded Long Service Badges for 21 years of service.

Various functions were run over the years to raise funds for the Hospital, ranging from Pleasant Sunday Afternoons to Banjo Shows, from Crazy Whist to Street Stalls and garment making. In later years, an opportunity shop helped with fund-raising. It is estimated the Auxiliary handed over $10,000 to the hospital over its lifetime.

Incalculable voluntary help in many areas was given

by members. Other donations were made to deserving local charities. All the members over the years deserved great credit for their efforts carried out in such an unpretentious way.

The Basin Children's Hospital Auxiliary ceased operation in 1973.

The Basin Red Cross

The Basin Red Cross was formed in 1938 with Mrs. H. Chandler President, Mrs. Pickett Secretary, and Mr. H. Henley Treasurer. The organisation had staunch workers in Mr. & Mrs. H. Jewell and Mrs. A. Macauley.

In the early 1940s, Mrs. H. Chandler and others felt the need to do something about the urgent need for an ambulance service in the Hills area. They managed to raise enough funds to buy a chassis and build an ambulance. The ambulance was built by C. King and J. Wrigley and was on the road by 1942, with Mrs. H. Chandler as its driver. At one time up to 60 calls a month were made. Harry Jewell and Charlie Cahill were also well known drivers.

During the 2nd. World War, funds for war relief, were raised at regular Red Cross Dances at The Basin Progress Hall. Members were on call for any emergency work and in 1942 were prepared to receive evacuees from Melbourne. Red Cross workers were quickly on the scene in case of fires. Members frequently gave blood for emergency situations. Mrs. H. Chandler, Branch President until 1965 and Commandant of Dandenong Ranges Region for over 35 years, was awarded a medallion for 50 donations of blood.

The Basin unit provided entertainment to many patients from hospitals. For example, as reported in the "*Free Press*" on 16th November 1950:

"*The Basin branch Red Cross entertained 40 patients from Heidelberg Hospital at 'Como' Mrs Chandler's resident on Thursday, November 9. A big gathering of members were present to entertain and help with refreshments and distribution of tobacco and cigarettes. It being a beautiful day, everybody had a thoroughly pleasant time and the patients expressed their appreciation to all who helped. The basket raffled in aid of funds was won by Mrs Pan, of The Basin.*"

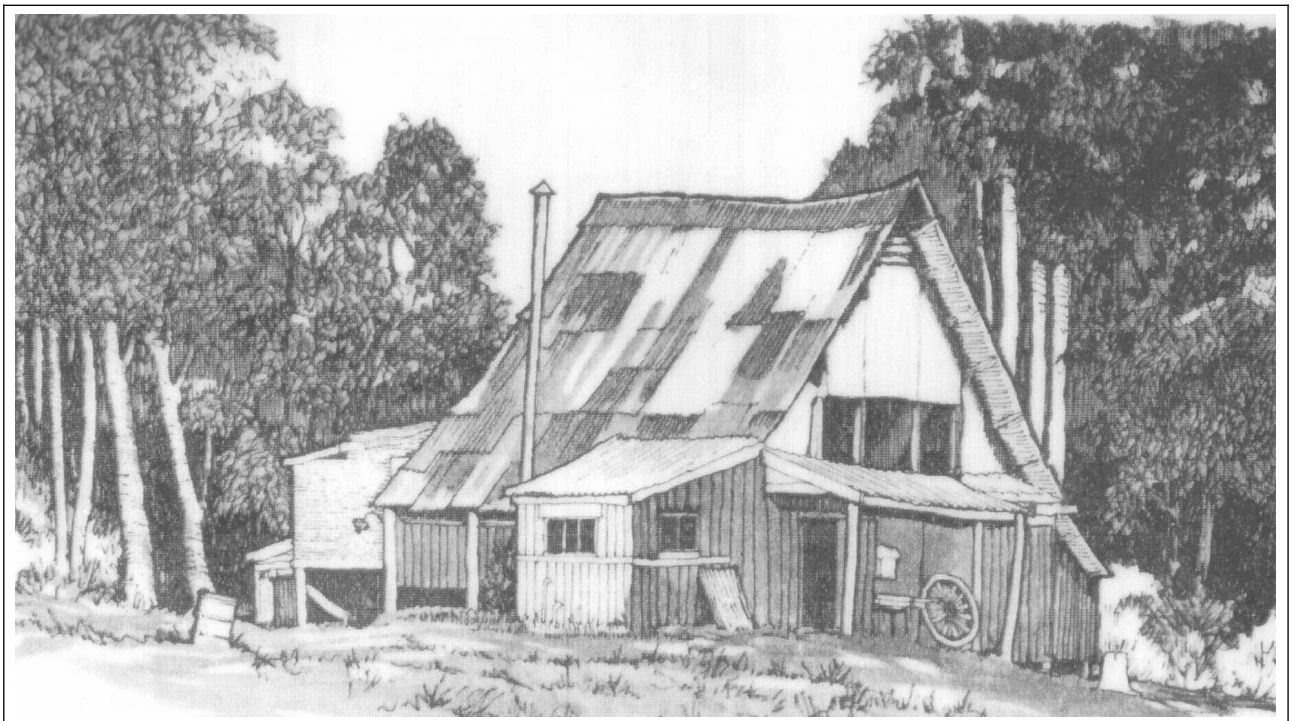
In the early 1960s, a transport company was formed within the Region and up to 100 patients a week were driven to and from hospital. Among the 56 drivers on the roster were The Basin Red Cross Members.

The Basin Red Cross unit officially closed in 1984, but Mrs. H. Chandler continued working with the Wantirna unit until her health deteriorated.

The Basin residents should be proud and appreciative to have had residents serving such voluntary organisations as the Red Cross.

The Basin Theatre Group

In 1954, a small group of friends met in Edna Chandler's lounge room at "*Noweenth*" in Doongalla Road and work on a play, intending to perform it in public. The play was the charming English comedy "*Quiet Week End*" by Esther McCracken. It was performed that year on October 22nd in The Basin Progress Hall. Edna directed the play and Fergus Chandler was the set



The Hut. The Basin Theatre Groups first theatre.

designer.

The performance success encouraged its repetition in Boronia the same year. This success led to the performance of further plays by "*The Basin Dramatics Group*", with the players manufacturing their own settings and properties, and gradually compiling equipment. Regular members of these early casts were Tony Poole. Barry Cummings, Lorna Goodwin, Lucy Bond, Betty Turner, George Grumont, and Fergus Chandler in plays which were recalled enthusiastically by regular members of the audience.

The movement became so strong in 1957, that a constitution was drawn up, and office-bearers elected. Led by Edna Chandler as Director/Producer, "*The Basin Theatre Group*" settled to a scheme of three major productions a year.

Plays were all performed in The Basin Progress Hall except for once in The Boronia Progress Hall (1954) and once at The Boronia Primary School (1956). Rehearsals were conducted in the home of Edna and Fergus Chandler, as well, monthly acted-play-readings were introduced for workshop purposes and social enjoyment.

By 1962, the Group had outgrown the facilities of the Director/Producer's (Chandler) home and needed more space and a home base in which to rehearse and perform. A building affectionately known as "*The Hut*" was then erected nearby by voluntary labour. The Hut was an A frame "*barn*" with two tree trunks supporting the roof. It provided an environment of rustic charm for rehearsals and Group meetings. (see picture on page 278).

The purchase of a piano led to the musical productions "*Puss in Boots*", "*Salad Days*" and "*Love Rides the Rails*". The new home meant easier storage, and a workshop where sets were prepared by designer Fergus Chandler and other members, before the final setting up in The Basin Progress Hall, the venue of the Group's productions.

Interest grew in competitive Festival work, resulting in several early successes including:

- Best One Act Play — "*Disclosure Day*" (Ferntree Gully Festival — 1957).
- Regional Award (Launceston Drama Festival — 1961).
- The Launceston Players Torch Best Actor — Trevor Robinson in "T*he Farce of M Pierre Pathelin"* (Tasmanian Festival — 1963).
- Best Producer — Edna Chandler for "*The Farce of M Pierre Pathelin"* (Victorian Drama Festival — 1963).
- Best Actor Award — Graham Fly in "*The Bet"* (Moomba Drama Festival — 1966).

There were also honourable mentions for various members. Favourable press reports indicated a sustained high standard, and the Group was compared with leading metropolitan Groups.

Hon. Secretaries who helped to further the Group in the early days were Lorna Goodwin, Sally Lowther, Dorothy O'Connell and Midge Beesley. Councillor Guy Turner was an untiring Hon. Treasurer for many years and was followed by Tibor Bedohazy.

In 1966, in honour of the forthcoming The Basin centenary celebrations in 1967, the Group presented a play devised by Edna Chandler titled "*1866 And All That*".

Up to 1974, Edna Chandler was the director and Fergus was the set designer for most productions.

The Basin Progress Hall continued as the main performance venue. During this time, The Hut was improved to performance standard. By 1969, the Group brought all its productions to The Hut and for the next 4 years it served as the centre for all rehearsals and productions.

With the continuing success of the Group came the need for a permanent home. The requirement was for an intimate theatre with good facilities. The Group membership included a strongly motivated workforce prepared to voluntarily support the effort and in 1967 a Theatre Building Fund was created. The quest for a permanent theatre in no way affected stage productions which continued in parallel with the intensive drive to raise funds.

The theatre was to be built on land purchased from Fergus Chandler in Doongalla Road on the fringes of the Dandenong Ranges State Forest. Member architect, Ian Cole, commenting on the style the theatre should take, observed:

"*Everyone connected with The Basin Theatre Group was familiar and enchanted with the A frame rehearsal room erected in earlier days. It had character, rustic ruggedness and dramatic volume.*"

In 1920, Bert Chandler subdivided the land between Simpsons Road and Doongalla Road creating 11 blocks. Sales were poor. The first blocks sold in 1934. One buyer was Richard Bartlett Smith, The Basin storekeeper. He purchased block 1, on the corner of Doongalla and Simpsons Roads on 10th November 1934 as shown in instrument number 1563185. His executor sold it to Fergus Chandler on 30th September 1959 as shown in instrument number A825948. On 27th October 1971, Fergus sold it to the trustees of The Basin Theatre Group for $500 as shown in instrument number E204157. The trustees were Tibor Bedohazy, Edith Violet Beesley, Fergus Eric Chandler and Eric Gordon Fly.

Knox Council had previously rezoned the land on the corner of Doongalla and Simpsons Roads from Rural A to Special Uses A, in preparation for the new theatre.

It was this appeal which everyone wanted to be captured in their new building. The new theatre was to be a result of these factors blended; simple gable shape portal frames, concrete floors throughout, rough sawn

timber ceilings painted with homemade paint, rough sawn Oregon fascia's, hand adzed timbers in handmade doors to entrances, beamed sloping ceiling to foyer and native landscaping amongst logs and rocks around the car park and the building.

Group members were enthusiastic in fund-raising efforts for the new theatre. Money was raised to pay for building materials from walkathons, garden parties, balls and even chair donations where people donated money to have their name inscribed on a plaque attached to a seat in the building. Group members volunteered their labour each weekend to help construct the building and after a huge community effort, the new theatre was officially opened in April 1973. It had raised seating for 126, underfloor heating, a foyer, backstage dressing rooms, work space and a lighting control room.

The Basin Theatre Group was the first amateur theatre in the Commonwealth to build its own theatre without the aid of government funding. The first performance in the new venue was "*Royal Hunt of the Sun*".

A home for the Group's activities made possible a considerable growth in production skills, particularly in the technical skills of lighting and set design. The working space designed in the theatre greatly increased the scope of set building, enhanced by the capacity to construct sets onsite. It also enabled refreshments for patrons to be provided at interval and after performances where patrons could meet the performers.

The theatre thrived, performing four programs yearly, with a panel of four producers, a working membership of 130, 20 associate members and subscriber membership of 550 playing to around 2,000 patrons at each production.

More land was needed, and in 1977, the trustees purchased block 2, adjacent to block 1, for $17,250. Both blocks were transferred to The Basin Theatre Company Pty. Ltd. in 1979 and consolidated into one block in 1983.

Subscriber membership commenced in the 1970s. Membership was free and provided members with advance notification of productions and preferential booking arrangements.

Tickets to productions were first available by telephone with tickets mailed. In later years, the option of internet bookings (with seat selection) was introduced.

The Knox News reported on 29th April 1975:

"*The Basin Theatre celebrated its 21st birthday.*"

In 1984, The Basin Theatre Group was registered as an incorporated association.

Since 1989, extensions have been added to increase the foyer size, another wing added for a workshop and storage area. Facilities have been improved for stage lighting, special equipment procured for backstage projection and the kitchen extended to twice its size for preparation of refreshments. A shelter portico has been added to the front entrance for the convenience of patrons.

The popularity of the theatre is reflected in sellout performances for every season. The practice of donating the proceeds from the opening night of each season has been of considerable benefit to many local charities. The Group is proud of its independence and regards itself as part of a community to which it has contributed so much since 1954.

In 2004, The Basin Theatre Group celebrated its 50th anniversary.

The Group has won many awards over the years performing in numerous interstate and country venues.

The Victorian Drama League (VDL) was formed in 1952 to support the amateur theatre world in Victoria, Australia. Awards commenced in 1997. The Group has also won many VDL runners-up awards.

The Edna Chandler Memorial Trophy is awarded annually by the VDL for Best Director of a Drama Production and is donated by The Basin Theatre Group.

The Lyrebird Awards were established in 1992 to encourage participation in performing arts and talent in the outer eastern region.

The Basin Theatre Group has three internal awards.

- Instituted in 1998, the Edna Chandler Award is for the most outstanding performance and awarded by members each year.
- Instituted in 1998, the Fergus Chandler award is for a member who has made an outstanding contribution to the Group's activities and is awarded by the committee when appropriate (not every year).
- Instituted in 2007, the Group judges award is for male and female lead and support roles when appropriate (not every year).

The various The Basin Theatre Group Awards are listed in the Appendixes.

In 1993, Edna Chandler was inducted into the Lyrebird Awards Hall of Fame.

The involvement of Edna Chandler in The Basin Theatre Group and other voluntary organisations in The Basin makes her one of the towns "*Distinguished Residents*". Her profile is detailed on page 271.

Productions included modern tragedies, comedies with significant social themes, comedy/dramas and merry melodrama providing a wide range of entertainment for patrons.

Social media provides a convenient means to advertise and promote the activities of the Group and is

Copperplate Handwriting

Councillor Guy Turner will long be remembered, not only for his community work, but for his beautiful copperplate handwriting which decorated the pages of The Basin Progress Association minute books. What a pity we do not learn to write like that in these modern times

used extensively.

Since 1954, the Group has performed at least one production every year, with four productions most years except for pandemic in 2020 and 2021. A list of all The Basin Theatre Productions is listed on page 291.

The Basin Elderly Citizens Club

The Basin Elderly Citizens Club began operation in 1965 as The Basin Pensioners Association.

The objective of the Association was to look after the social and welfare needs of the members in The Basin area.

The Association operated from The Basin Progress Hall until Knox Council constructed Clubrooms on The Triangle in late 1972. The official opening took place on 31st March 1973.

Building clubrooms on The Basin Triangle was controversial because The Basin Progress Association already had an agreement with Knox Council that the Triangle would be used for passive recreation.

Activities provided to members were indoor bowls, bingo, cards and regular trips. Consequently, a high level of fellowship existed.

In 1979 weekly meetings were changed to monthly and Knox Council began providing hot meals on Wednesdays at lunchtime.

Except for a brief period in early 1980, the Club was a happy and enjoyable place. During this brief turbulent period, some local members objected to residents from other parts of Knox joining the Club. At one stage, the feeling was so strong, ten members, including four committee members, resigned. However, the Club rallied and continued successfully.

In 1983, the Club changed name from the Pensioners Association to the Elderly Citizens Club and the joining age lowered to 55.

In 1990, the club registered as an incorporated association called "*The Basin Senior Citizens Inc*".

In 2018, the club was disbanded.

In 2025, the clubrooms are used by many other community and private groups with bookings organised by The Basin Community House. The high demand for facility use is testament to the previous efforts of the Club and Knox Council in keeping the facilities at a high standard.

The Basin Community House

The Basin Community House began in 1987 as the idea of two local women, Anne Fitzpatrick and Anne Taylor. They felt the people of The Basin, particularly young mothers like themselves who were at home with children, could benefit from having a place to meet. They could share ideas and experiences and organise programs of activities and services to help meet some leisure, educational and social needs of the community.

From the early 1970s Community Houses (sometimes called Neighbourhood Houses) have appeared in municipalities throughout Victoria. Their goal was set out:

"*…to enable individuals and groups to participate in the organisation and development of their community and provide support for individuals and families in the community.*"

Generally, they are run by a committee of management made up of local people. They receive some funding from various government departments, but depend heavily on volunteer input for the day to day running of the house and employ at least one paid worker as a coordinator for between ten and twenty hours per week.

A community house is a place where everyone is welcome. Men, women and children can come along to join a class or group, carry out some volunteer work, share their own skills or learn new ones. It seemed a good idea to have such a place in The Basin community.

Word soon spread, and by early 1988 a group of enthusiastic women began meeting. The members of this original group were: Anne Taylor, Anne Fitzpatrick, Wendy Smith, Yvonne Foster, Mandy Cranwell, Debbie Pearton, Annette Onions, Julie O'Callaghan and Nella Sandham. Later in the first year they were joined by Gil McFadyn, Ros Mortimore, Mieke De Vries and Paula Gullion. The group began meeting once a week at St Mary's Hall.

All these women had at least one child and most were pre-schoolers. The children had plenty of room to play, and the women could talk about the idea to establish a community house in The Basin. The big question was how could they manage to turn such a great idea into reality? They were without any funds, equipment or a permanent base from which to operate, and had no experience in getting these things.

They applied for grants, worked towards becoming an incorporated body (a legal necessity), clarified their aims and objectives, and sought feedback from the local community on the activities and programs they would like. The women drew on the experience of established Community Houses and to find a whole network of information and advice for newcomers. They received funding to employ a coordinator for 10 hours a week and Anne Taylor was appointed. As the "*Community House without a house*" they started to run classes and groups out of local halls and members' homes.

With the impending sale of St Mary's Church and hall and the ongoing difficulties in providing safe child care, the need for a permanent home became urgent. The best chance seemed to be the former teacher's residence next to The Basin Primary School in Mountain Highway.

It had been empty for several years and, although structurally sound, it had been repeatedly vandalised and would need extensive renovations to become habitable. Anne Fitzpatrick had been negotiating with The Basin

School Council for several years for the house to be made available for community use. They decided to intensify the campaign to use the property. Besides the work they were already involved in, they started lobbying local politicians and public servants as well as raising thousands of dollars for renovations. This was the beginning of a long, long process. They still never doubted The Basin would have its own Community House.

Because of their lobbying, late in 1989 Knox Council entered into negotiations between the Ministry of Education, The Basin Primary School Council and the group. The outcome was the property at 1221 Mountain Highway would be transferred to the Knox Council for community use. This was the group's first victory. With the support of Council, they began renovating the house in 1990. Councillor Geoff Dempster officially opened the doors of the completely renovated house on 1st July 1991.

During this period the group received enormous support from many, many individuals and groups both within and outside the local community. Councillor Geoff Dempster, the local ward councillor and later Mayor, was a good friend to The Basin Community House. Councillor Dempster supported the group when they first approached the Knox Council for help and continued to look after their interests for many years in their dealings with the Knox Council.

Council allowed The Basin Community House Group to operate from the house rent-free and helped with renovations and maintenance. Local service clubs including The Rotary Club of The Basin, The Footmen Club of Croydon and The Rotary Club of Boronia all helped with some major renovation tasks. The Basin Primary School Principal Ian Green and members of the School Council offered support and encouragement.

In 2001, the House added extensions to the property to cater for an increase in its services.

The Group had always been on the lookout for larger premises. The refurbished residential house had several constraints including accessibility and only six parking spots to cater for more than 50 people who attended daily. With an increasing range of courses offered, more room was needed.

In 2010, a State Government Community Planning Grant funded a joint study between Knox City Council, The Basin Community House and the then Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to access the feasibility of developing a multipurpose facility in The Basin.

In 2016, the State Government committed $2,000,000 for the development of a new Community House on the grounds of The Basin Primary School. Construction began in February 2018.

Knox Council committed $600,000 to the fitout, maintenance, and renewal of the new building and manage it for the State Government to ensure accessibility to the broader community. Council also agreed to provide annual partnership funding to support ongoing programs and services.

The new Community House officially opened 1st April 2019 with facilities including:

- Flexible training rooms that can be converted into a large function room.
- Training kitchen with classroom space.
- Computer lab.
- Meeting space.
- Kitchenette for students.
- Several office spaces.
- Large outdoor space for community activities.

The new centre also allowed the Community House to offer more courses and better cater for people with a disability and the elderly.

During the group's short history, they achieved a great deal through hard work and sheer persistence. What started out as a good idea had become a reality. They never doubted it would.

The Basin Community House offers a broad range of activities and programs. Children are well catered for in playgroups, three-year-old kinder and child care programs — including a successful Before and After School Hours Program. Adults can take part in computer courses, relaxation and yoga classes, and many one day workshops covering everything from hairdressing to astrology. The group is home to a sole parent and low income support group and hope to encourage more support and self-help groups to get started. The group once held monthly art and craft markets at The Triangle.

In 2025, the group also manages hiring of The Basin Senior Citizens Clubrooms, The Basin Progress Hall and Boronia Progress Hall.

Thousands of people have come through the doors to take part in the various programs and classes, to find out what happens at The Basin Community House or simply to find out who we are. Many of these people have stayed and started groups, joined the Management Committee or helped with office work and child care. With their help The Basin Community House will continue to grow and develop and remain a significant place in The Basin.

The Basin Junior Field Naturalist' Club

Ray and Jan Brown formed The Basin Junior Field Naturalist' Club because of the high level of interest in natural history amongst children in the local community.

The Club held its inaugural meeting on 8 March 1983, with the help and encouragement of Bruce Führer, a well known natural history photographer and author of many books. Bruce ran The Ringwood Junior Field Naturalists Club for 16 years. Ray and Jan "*ferried*" children from The Basin across to his meetings once a month, in The Basin Fire Brigade's bus. Bruce felt there

were enough children from the area to start a club called The Basin Junior Field Naturalists' Club.

The first meeting held in The Basin Primary School Library attracted wide interest. Numbers soon grew as the Club became known. Within a few meetings, membership rose to 60. The Club catered for children of all ages (and their families) and looked at natural aspects of The Basin area and beyond. It encouraged an appreciation of the local flora and aimed to help develop the skill and knowledge needed to expand and maintain this area of interest.

The Club affiliated with The Victorian Field Naturalists' Club and was a "*charter*" member of the Friends of Ferntree Gully National Park. It was also a member of The Gould League and therefore had access to their many wonderful publications, charts, etc. Many prominent speakers gave talks on an array of interesting topics too numerous to list!

Andrew Wegner, a well known local naturalist, had enormous input into the organising of field trips and weekends away to places of interest. The Club charged a tiny annual fee and was self funding. The office bearers were all children, with an adult member as an assistant. Meetings held on the third Tuesday of each month, at The Basin Primary School, in the Senior Staff Room, from 7.00 pm. to 8.30 pm. Regular field trips arranged, and at least once a year the Club went away for a weekend to explore wildlife, etc., and to have fun together.

In the late 1980s, Andrew Wegner took over the running of the group from Ray and Jan Brown.

In 2025, the club no longer operates.

Chandlers Hill Parkcare Group

The Chandlers Hill Parkcare Group is a small group of dedicated individuals who are interested in caring for the environment in and around Chandlers hill. They cover about 1,000 hectares in the southern part of the greater Dandenong Ranges National Park.

The group formed in 1990, and is registered as a volunteer group in Parknet, a Parks Victoria initiative for people to be involved in environment issues with National Parks.

The group meet regularly in the park to search for and remove environmental weeds. Not only weeds on and beside tracks, but in the bush. Thousands of weeds have been removed invading the park from neighbouring suburban gardens, carried by wind, animals, people and even vehicles. Lingering remnant plants from former house sites in the Park were also a problem, but most of these have been removed. The most evasive weeds located in the park are pittosporum and agapanthus The group has key access to the Park and are permitted to bring vehicles into the Park.

No historical remnants have been located, but volunteers once found someone living in the park.

Parks Victoria provides material help to the group, such as tools and weedkillers, as well as training and social functions with other volunteer groups. They also collect bags of weeds for disposal.

In 2015, the group celebrated 25 years of service with congratulations to Ray Cowling as the longest serving member of the group. In 2025, the group is still operating

The Basin Neighbourhood Watch

At a meeting held at The Basin Primary School in October 1986, hundreds of residents voted in favour of the commencement of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in The Basin.

Ray Brown was elected the first area coordinator with Brian Lawrence as assistant. The first meeting was held in The Elderly Citizens Hall and continued to be held there for several years.

The Basin Neighbourhood Watch area was bounded by Mountain Highway, Miller's Road, Mount View Road, The Basin-Olinda Road, Wicks Road, Clevedon Road, Nyora Avenue and Bayview Crescent. The area was divided into 62 zones. Each zone had a Zone Leader whose task was to distribute a monthly newsletter, work with residents and the coordinator and to attend monthly meetings.

Ray Brown served for two years and was followed by David Apps for two years. Bryan Cranwell served for one year and in 1992 Cheryl Amess was the coordinator.

In 1991, The Basin Neighbourhood Watch celebrated its fifth birthday. Cheryl Amess had the pleasure of awarding certificates to those residents who had made a special contribution to Neighbourhood Watch. Twenty five-year certificates and 29 two year certificates were awarded to local residents. Special awards to Bert McAulay for his tireless dedication and to Norman Solomon for the most attendance at monthly meetings.

In 1996, The Basin Neighbourhood Watch celebrated its tenth birthday. Ten-year awards were presented to Jan Jonker, Neville Perry, Bert McAulay, Norm Solomon and Rhonda Fergus.

In 2001, several 15 year awards were to be made, but the lack of a sponsor postponed the ceremony.

In 2025, The Basin Neighbourhood Watch no longer operates.

The Rotary Club of The Basin

Formation of The Rotary Club of The Basin began as a discussion in the bar of the Knox Club following a Boronia Rotary Club meeting on Tuesday 5th September 1989, between three old friends; Bill Wright, Jack Wallace and Ted Robertson.

Neil Whittorn was the then postmaster of The Basin

Post Office, and a member of The Rotary Club of Boronia. He was asked by Jack Wallace to draw up a list of prospective members for a Rotary Club in The Basin. Within three days, Neil came up with a list of 38 names. Jack spoke to many people and gained the interest of enough numbers to hold an interest meeting on 2 May 1990, at the Eastwood Golf Club, Liverpool Road, Kilsyth.

This meeting, attended by 33 prospective members, was unique when 12 Rotarians from Boronia were each invited to give a five-minute segment on different aspects of Rotary. Although possibly overwhelming, it succeeded in gaining the interest of most people and two weeks later the Provisional Rotary Club of The Basin was born, with 23 members.

Appointments to office resulted in Clive Rust emerging as Charter President and Peter Van Zeyl as Treasurer. Secretary Ray Bolduan and Sergeant-at-Arms David Oreagan were included in the first Board of Directors. Official charter of The Rotary Club of The Basin was registered on 8th November 1991, and the Club became the 50th in Rotary District 981.

The Rotary Club of The Basin was an active community based service club. It participated in diverse projects ranging from an Annual Golf Day to sponsoring exchange students to and from overseas countries. Fellowship within the Club was a major factor in its success, resulting in a solid core of members who worked hard to promote Rotary ideals. The Club met weekly and was always keen to encourage new members and undertake new projects which enabled club members to achieve real happiness by helping others. The club built a rotunda on The Basin Triangle for use by the community.

The Rotary Club of The Basin ceased operation on 30th June 2002 and was officially deregistered on 6th March 2003.

The Basin Food is Free Project and Community Garden

Formed in 2017-18 by local food gardening and beekeeping identity Michael Johnson from The Basin Backyard. The project operates on Salvation Army land behind No. 2 Liverpool Road. Its aim is to boost local food security and includes:

- A volunteer run free food garden where locals can harvest what they need.
- A children's garden.
- For-rent garden plots to raise funds for the free garden.
- Backyard harvest swaps.
- Information sessions on food growing topics.
- A free seed outreach via local cafes and shops.

The project receives funding from Knox Council, the State Government, and support from local businesses.

In 2022, Michael won a Victoria Day Award for service to the local community which includes 25 years of CFA volunteering.

Bens Place Pantry

In 2020, Liz Bullen, established the pantry in honour of her son, Ben, who was sadly lost to suicide several years ago.

Volunteers picked up produce from local supermarkets and initially delivered it to Liz's house in the ravine and later to the Elderly Citizens Hall in The Basin. Other volunteers sorted fruit, vegetables and bread when it arrived, setup and packed away tables and cleaned the venue

Over 400 households visited the pantry every week, including pensioners, people with disabilities, veterans, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, families with young children and homeless people. Ready-made meals were also provided to people in palliative care and to school breakfast clubs.

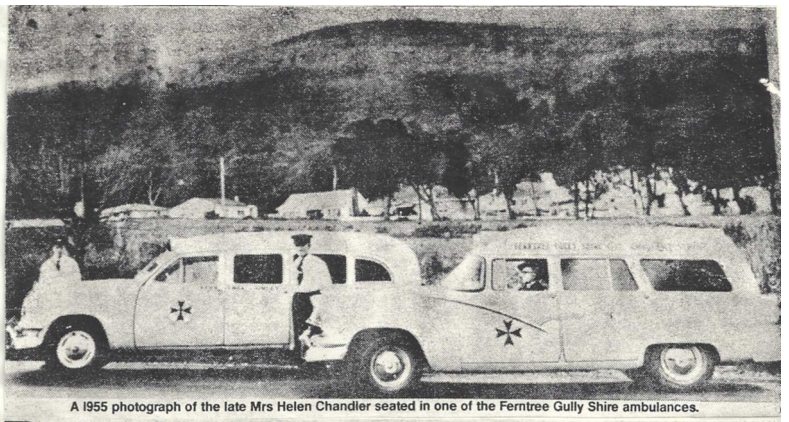
In 2024, Ben's Place won the Tilly Aston Community Award in the category of Mental Health and Wellbeing.

Since its inception, "*Ben's Place*" pantry has grown to become a lifeline for countless individuals and families facing financial hardships, providing them with access to nutritious food and essential supplies.

Sadly, the pantry closed in 2025.

Sources of Information

- "*The Basin Centenary Booklet*" by Ron Ikin.
- "*Fire on the Hill, Flowers on the Valley*" by Rick Coxhill.
- Residents at the time of writing and former residents. In particular, Albert McAulay and Norman Solomon for Neighbourhood Watch information. Jim and Barbara Stephens for general information.
- The Basin Theatre 40-year commemorative programmes for production information and history.
- The Basin Progress Association 50th Anniversary Souvenir for information on The Basin Progress Association and The Basin Progress Hall.
- The Basin Progress Association Minute Books for information on Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers and the Progress Association.
- The Boronia & The Basin Community News.
- Members of The Basin Theatre Group and "*A History of The Basin Theatre Group 1954-2019*".
- Michael and Meredith Johnson for in formation on The Basin Food is Free and Community Garden.
- Facebook for information on Bens Pantry.



A 1955 photograph of the late Mrs Helen Chandler seated in one of the Ferntree Gully Shire ambulances.

Betty's drive was legendary

By ANN ISAACS

A TIRELESS worker for the Knox community, Mrs Helen Elizabeth (Betty) Chandler, has died at Glengollan Village.

Mrs Chandler, the widow of Bert Chandler, had just turned 93.

She was awarded an MBE in 1970 for her services to the community, particularly for her work as a volunteer ambulance driver.

Mrs Chandler will also be remembered for her work with Red Cross and Glengollan Village.

She began her community work as an air raid warden for Boronia and Ferntree Gully during World War 2.

Mrs Chandler later became a driver for the Red Cross, involved in transporting handicapped children to hospitals.

At the same time, she pushed for an ambulance service for the former Ferntree Gully Shire.

Through a Government grant, the shire was able to provide its own ambulance service.

Mrs Chandler was again behind the wheel as a volunteer driver.

She worked with the local ambulance service through the 1950s and early 1960s until the Victoria Ambulance Service came to the area.

Mrs Chandler was a very determined woman whose patients were her uppermost concern.

One favorite story tells of when Mrs Chandler was driving a very sick child into the city with a police escort.

She evidently thought the police were a hindrance rather than a help and evaded the escort to race ahead.

The ambulance reached the hospital first while the police searched for a "lost" driver.

Mrs Chandler was Dandenong Ranges Red Cross Region commandant, a divisional council member and later, a life member of the organisation.

She was involved with Glengollan for 30 years and in September of last year, was admitted to its hostel.

Among the many tributes paid to Mrs Chandler were those from the Knox mayor, Cr Marie Wallace, and former Knox mayors, Cr Wally Tew, and Mr Bernie Seebeck and Dandenong Ranges Red Cross secretary, Mrs Noreen Barry.

"Gee, that was a bonzer night!" said Jack to Keith, I'm going every Saturday night."

"Yes, and if you are looking for a good night, YOU, too, should go to The Basin's Progress Association's

BIG DANCE

THE BASIN HALL

EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT

Novelties :: Tasty Supper

ADMISSION 1/6 (no tax)

THE BASIN PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Return Night to the President

There was a good attendance at the Return Night to the President, Mr. E. G. Mortiboy. Music was provided by Art Franklin's band.

The novelty of "Mr. Basin" was won by Mr. L. Clarke. The judging was very difficult, having defined the dancers down to four couples, it was necessary to call another judge. Eventually, Mr. L. Clarke, dancing to beautiful waltz time, won very narrowly from Mr. Harrison.

Presentations were made by Councillor King to:

Mr. E. G. Mortiboy, President.
Mr. L. Clarke, winner of "Mr. Basin."
Mrs. Harris, an old member of the Progress Assn.
Mrs. Collier, who joined the Progress Assn. about 20 years ago.
Mrs. Freeman.

It was also stated that the Social Committee, during the last three years, have raised nearly £150.

It was the 21st birthday of the Basin Progress Assn. and Mr. Langdon, a trustee, had the privilege of cutting the cake.

All had an enjoyable time when supper was served. Dancing continued till midnight.

RESIDENTS UPSET OVER LAND DEAL

Discontent is brewing among residents of The Basin over what some claim is a 'mishandling of a land deal' by the Knox City Council.

The land was originally acquired for parkland four years ago, but it is now being used for an Elderly Citizens' Club.

The council is providing $25,000 towards financing the club.

The area involved is the three acre triangle bounded by Mountain Highway, Forest Rd. and a back road connecting the two.

The Basin Fire Brigade and the Progress Hall are the two public buildings already on the site.

A number of houses are still there, but these are now owned by Knox Council.

The idea of the natural parkland was commenced by The Basin Progress Association late in 1968.

Moves were initiated to have the land set aside for natural parkland to retain a bush setting flavor in the area for the future.

The Association held some heated meetings at the time, with people living on the land "fighting tooth and nail" to stop the planned development.

These people, however, eventually agreed with the scheme and the last of them was bought out by council about six months ago.

Mr. Bill Wright, the President of the Progress Association at the time, told The News that when the householders on the land decided to sell, they were required to do so to Knox Council.

He is a bit surprised that council has gone-ahead with an elderly citizens' club when the original intention understood by the Progress Association was to leave the area in its natural state.

Mr. Fergus Chandler, a strong member of the association at the time, told The News the association requested council to buy the land as a natural park.

"In my opinion what council has done is quite wrong.

SET ASIDE

"I have nothing against the elderly citizens and, in fact, they are overdue to get a building, but this land was set aside as a permanent

Continued on Page 4.

$30,000 CLUBROOM

KNOX Council is to compulsorily acquire land needed to build a senior citizens club in The Basin.

Tenders will be called for in about six weeks' time by council for the construction of the building at an estimated cost of $30,000.

The land to be acquired is an area behind The Basin Hall.

Knox Council owns other land in the vicinity.

In addition to an area for the holding of meetings, the new clubrooms will have a kitchen, reading room and office.

The Basin Progress Association Honour Roll			
Year	**President**	**Secretary**	**Treasurer**
1926	Frank Goodwin	Wreford Chandler	Bob Dobson
1927-1928	R. B. Smith	Wreford Chandler	Bob Dobson
1929	R. B. Smith	Reg Kirkman	Bob Dobson
1930-1931	R. B. Smith	Reg Kirkman	Mrs. Dickson
1932-1933	R. B. Smith	Reg Kirkman	Mrs. Dickson
1934	Jack Parr	Reg Kirkman	Mrs. Dickson
1935-1938	R. B. Smith	Reg Kirkman	Mrs. Dickson
1939	Bert Chandler		
1944	Bert Chandler	E. Mortiboy	B. Puddy
1945-1949	E. Mortiboy	B. Puddy	B. Puddy
1950	J. Chandler	Mrs. Moran	Mrs. Moran
1951	J. Chandler	F. Eaves	A. Cooper
1952	Bill Wright	J. Chandler	A. Cooper
1953	Bill Wright	Guy Turner	A. Cooper
1954-1956	Mr. A. Petrie	Guy Turner	A. Cooper
1957	Mr. A. Petrie	N. Thomson	A. Cooper
1958	Mr. Dobson	N. Thomson	A. Cooper
1959	Guy Turner	Mrs. G. Turner	A. Cooper
1960	Guy Turner	Mrs. G. Turner	A. Cooper
1961	Mr. A. Petrie	Mrs. Petrie	A. Cooper
1962	Bill. Wright	Ron Ikin	Mrs. R. Ikin
1963	Bill Wright	Mrs. R. McGuigan	Mr. R. Evans
1964-1966	Bill Wright	Mrs. R. McGuigan	Mr. H. Domelow
1967	Bill Wright	Mrs. E. V. Beasley	Mrs. L. Tweedale
1968-1969	Bill Wright	Mrs. R. Robinson	Mrs. L. Tweedale
1970-1972	Kevin Gale	Mrs. R. Robinson	Mrs. L. Tweedale
1973	Kevin Gale	Mrs. R. Robinson	Sue Trotter
1974	Roy Ritchie	Mrs. J. Stewart	Mr. J. Hannon
1975	Roy Ritchie	Mrs. H. Swanson	Mr. J. Hannon
1975-1979	Roy Ritchie	Mrs. H. Swanson	Mr. J. Hannon
1980	Roy Ritchie	Mrs. H. Swanson	Mrs. Stancombe
1981	Roy Ritchie		Sue Trotter
1982	Roy Ritchie		Sue Trotter
1983	Clive Rust		Sue Trotter
1984-1992	Clive Rust		
1993-1998	Graham Goudie	Linda Dickson	Graham Linaker
1999-2004	Alan Dickson	Linda Dickson	Graham Linaker

The Basin Progress Association Life Members Honour Roll		
Mrs. E. Turner, 1928	Mr. W. Ankers, 1945	Mr. A. Cooper, 1971
Mrs. M. Moran, 1928	Brig. J. B. Puddy, 1945	Mrs. B. Turner, 1972
Mrs. L. Jackson, 1928	Mrs. A. Harris, 1949	Mr. L. Edwards, 1972
Mrs. D. Fountain, 1928	Mr. B. Chandler, 1949	Mr. G. Grumont, 1972
Mr. H. Beaumont, 1944	Mr. Ingers, 1949	Mr. K. Gale, 1974
Mrs. A. M. Dickson, 1944	Mrs. D. Langdon, 1949	
Miss L. Ferguson, 1944	Mr. B. Wright, 1969	

The Basin Theatre Group Honour Roll (2 pages)			
Year	**President**	**Secretary**	**Treasurer**
1954-1955	Edna Chandler		Guy Turner
1956	Rod Travis	Lorna Goodwin	Guy Turner
1957	Eileen Hartley	Lorna Goodwin	Guy Turner
1958	Rod Travis	Lorna Goodwin	Guy Turner
1959	Eileen Hartley	Sally Lowther	Guy & Tibor Bedohazy
1960	Eric Newbigin	Dorothy O'Connell	Guy Turner
1961-1962	Eric Newbigin	Dorothy O'Connell	Tibor Bedohazy
1963	Eric Newbigin	Dorothy O'Connell & Midge Beesley	Tibor Bedohazy
1964	Eric Newbigin	Midge Beesley	Tibor Bedohazy
1965	Alan Morton	Midge Beesley	Tibor Bedohazy
1966-1968	Eric Newbigin	Midge Beesley	Tibor Bedohazy
1969	Eric Newbegin	Shirley Brewer	Tibor Bedohazy
1970-1974	Eric Fly	Brenda Overton	Tibor Bedohazy
1975	Eric Fly	Betty Cole	Tibor Bedohazy
1976-1977	Midge Beesley	Betty Cole	Tibor Bedohazy
1978	Midge Beesley & Gerald Overton	Margaret Fly	Tibor Bedohazy
1979-1982	Gerald Overton	Margaret Fly	Tibor Bedohazy
1983	Gerald Overton	Margaret Fly	Jon Chandler
1984-1985	Gerald Overton	Chris Trussler	Jon Chandler
1986	Gerald Overton	Margaret Sanders	Jon Chandler
1987	Gerald Overton	Brenda Overton	Eric Fly
1988-1989	Graeme Young	Brenda Overton	Eric Fly
1990	Graeme Young	Don Harrod	Eric Fly
1991-1996	John Noonan	Don Harrod	Eric Fly
1997	Graham Goudie	Don Harrod	Peter Dalwood
1998-1999	Graham Goudie	Margaret Fly	Peter Dalwood
2000	Gerald Overton	Margaret Fly	Peter Dalwood
2001-2003	Gerald Overton	Margaret Fly	Peter White
2004	Gerald Overton	Dru Bartlett	Peter White
2005	Gerald Overton	Graham Fly	Peter White
2006-2007	Dru Bartlett	Graham Fly	Peter White
2008-2009	Dru Bartlett	Don Harrod	Sabrina Putman
2010	Dru Bartlett	Don Harrod	Felicity Wightwick
2011	Dru Bartlett	Don Harrod	Peter Dalwood
2012-2013	Alison Minty	Brenda Overton	Peter Dalwood
2014	Alison Minty	Sally Larwood	Peter Dalwood
2015	Alison Minty	Dru Bartlett	Peter Dalwood
2016	Alison Minty	Dru Bartlett	Sabrina Putman
2017-2019	Alison Minty	Peter Dalwood	Sabrina Putman

The Basin Theatre Group Honour Roll (2 pages)			
Year	**President**	**Secretary**	**Treasurer**
2020	Alison Minty	Susan Carty	Sabrina Putman

The Basin Theatre Group Life Members Honour Roll			
Year Inducted	**Name**	**Year Inducted**	**Name**
1976	Midge Beasley, Edna & Fergus Chandler, Sally Lowther	2007	Jenny & Neil Absolom, Drucilla Bartlett, Don Harrod, Peter White
1978	Eric Newbigin, Dorothy O'Connell	2008	Isobel McGibbon, Barry O'Neill
1982	Tibor Bedohazy	2010	Tom Bedohazy
1984	Hilda Prickett	2014	Peter Dalwood
1985	Eric Fly	2017	Alison Minty
1988	Gerald Overton	2018	Peter Bartlett
1990	Margaret Fly, Brenda Overton	2019	Brian Amos
1993	Apollo Papps, Drew Wadsworth	2020	Sabrina Putman
1998	Maggie Brown, Betty Davis, Graham Fly, Graham Goudie, Bruce McLachlan, Richenda Papps, Fran Wadsworth, Graeme Young		
2004	Jon Chandler		

The Basin Theatre Group Local Productions 1954-2025 (4 pages)				
1954	Quiet Weekend			
1955	Without the Prince	Four One-Act Plays. Elizabeth Refuses, The Old Bull, The Artist, The Man In The Bowler Hat		
1956	Rookery Nook	Hay Fever	The Late Christopher Bean	
1957	See How They Run	Lace on Her Petticoat		
1958	My Three Angels	Ladies in Retirement	Rookery Nook (repeat)	
1959	All for Mary			
1960	We Must Kill Toni	Down Came a Blackbird		
1961	Will any Gentleman?	Blithe Spirit		
1962	Dry Rot	Puss in boots (pantomime)		
1963	The Man Who Came to Dinner	Man Alive	Angels in Love	
1964	Salad Days (musical)	One Wild Oat		
1965	Love Rides the Rails (melodrama)	The Ring of Truth	The Vigil	Festival Fare (one act plays) The Laboratory, The Bet
1966	Family Album	1866 and all That	The One Day of the Year	
1967	Goodnight Mrs Puffin	The Remarkable Mr Pennypacker		
1968	A View from the Bridge	Separate Tables	Lady Audley's Secret (melodrama)	Autumn Crocus
1969	Arsenic and Old Lace	The One Day of the Year (repeat)		
1970	The Crucible	Sweeney Todd the Barber	Dry Rot (repeat)	
1971	Something to Hide	Critic's Choice	When We are Married	
1972	Night Must Fall	The Hasty Heart	Dark of the Moon	
1973	The Royal Hunt of the Sun	The Golden Legion of Cleaning Women	Look Homeward, Angel	
1974	My Three Angels	One act plays. Black Comedy and White Liars	The Ballad of Angel's Alley	
1975	The Odd Couple	The Constant Wife	The Rainmaker	The Playboy of the Western World
1976	The Vigil (repeat)	Breakfast with Julia	Death of a Salesman	The Fantasticks (musical)
1977	Philadelphia, here I Come!	What the Butler Saw	One act plays. Gallows Humour and The Public Eye	Roar Like a Dove and Cinderella (pantomime)
1978	The Little Foxes	Abelard and Heloise	Birds on the Wing	Period of Adjustment
1979	Equus	One act plays. The Bet, The Laboratory, Family Album	Play It Again, Sam	The Fan
1980	Wait Until Dark	Mary, Mary	A Man For All Seasons	You Know I Can't Hear You When the Water's Running (one act set). The Shock Of Recognition, The Footsteps Of Doves, I'll Be Home For Christmas, I'm Herbert

1981	The Birthday Party	She Stoops to Conquer	The Glass Menagerie	Dark of the Moon
1982	Night Watch	A Streetcar Named Desire	Count Dracula	Festival Fare (one act plays). Master Pierre Pathelin; The Private Ear; Hello; Out There
1983	Habeas Corpus	Summer of the Seventeenth Doll	Travelling North	Three in One (one act plays). The Bear, The Proposal, The Faithful Widow of Ephesus
1984	Barefoot in the Park	Come Back, Little Sheba	Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?	Same Time, Next Year
1985	Ballad of Angel's Alley	Winter Trio (one act plays). Toby, Fairy Tale, The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds	One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest	
1986	Talley's Folley	Absurd Person Singular	The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie	
1987	The Visit	Butley	The Legend of King O'Malley	Last of the Red Hot Lovers
1988	84 Charing Cross Road	The Real Thing	A Day in the Death of Joe Egg	The Rainmaker
1989	Love Ride the Rails	The Diary of Ann Frank	The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswoman's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of Macbeth	
1990	A View From the Bridge	Deathtrap	Lovers (one act set). Winners, Losers	The Elephant Man
1991	A Majority of One	The Secret Affairs of Mildred Wild	The Dresser	The Prisoner of Second Avenue
1992	Top Silk	Absent Friends	Agnes of God	A Tomb with a View
1993	The Hasty Heart (repeat)	Death of a Salesman	One for the Road	The Glass Menagerie (repeat)
1994	When We are Married	Rose	Away	Butterflies are Free
1995	An Evening with Ayckbourn, Austin and Carlino (one act plays). Mother Figure, Monday To Friday, A Talk In The Park, Snow Angel.	Don's Party	The Golden Age	Noises Off
1996	The Enquiry	Death and the Maiden	Nightmarkets	The Importance of Being Ernest
1997	Hotel Sorrento	Blithe Spirit (repeat)	Straight and Narrow	Educating Rita
1998	Sleuth	An Evening of Crime and Punishment (one act plays). An Englishman Abroad, Remains To Be Seen, Master Dudley	Habeus Corpus	An Inspector Calls

1999	Steel Magnolias	Nuts	A Month of Sundays	California Suite (one act set). Visitor From New York, Visitor From Philadelphia, Visitors From London, Visitors From Chicago
2000	Morning Sacrifice	It's My Party (And I'll die if I want to)	The Herbal Bed	Do Not Disturb
2001	The Dining Room	Corpse	On Golden Pond	Someone Who'II Watch Over Me
2002	Dancing at Lughnasa	Shirley Valentine	The Farndale Avenue Townswoman's Guild Dramatic Society Murder Mystery	Run For Your Wife
2003	Ghosts (production cancelled). The Stanley Parkers	Face To Face	Solid Gold Cadillac	Secret Bridesmaids Business
2004	Three plays from Deckchairs. Early Blight, Short Changed, and Theatrical Digs. Gosforth's Fete	Rough Crossing	Rebecca	Life After George
2005	Fallen Angels	Look Back In Anger	Terra Nova	Lipstick Dreams
2006	Relatively Speaking	The Cemetery Club	Silhouette	How the Other Half Loves
2007	Speaking In Tongues	Don't Dress For Dinner	The Beauty Queen Of Leenane	The Odd Couple (Female Version)
2008	Two Weeks With the Queen	Bedfellows	Gaslight	Over The River And Through The Woods
2009	The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townwomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of "*Macbeth*"	Playing Sinatra	Sandcastles	The Drawer Boy
2010	Prelude To A Kiss	Mary Stuart	Disposing Of The Body	Wedding Games
2011	Butterflies are Free	Natural Causes	The Lion in Winter	Jigsaws
2012	Tuesdays with Morrie	Bullshot Crummond	Out of Order	Over My Dead Body
2013	Murdered to Death	The Woman in Black	Kid Stakes	Lend Me a Tenor
2014	Quartet	The Diary of Ann Frank	The Other Place	My Three Angels
2015	I'll Be Back Before Midnight	Nobody's Perfect		Accomplice
2016	One act season (My Brilliant Divorce, Snow Angel)	Sleuth	Dangerous Corner	Moon Over Buffalo
2017	Outside Edge	Forget-Me-Knot	A Happy and Holy Occasion	Australia Day
2018	It's Never To Late	Night, Mother	Burke's Company	Bombshells
2019	Murder by Natural Causes	A Man for All Seasons	Boeing Boeing	Blithe Spirit
2020	Death Knell	Pandemic Restrictions. No Productions.		
2021	Pandemic Restrictions. No Productions.			

2022	Photograph 51	It's Now or Never	The Lady in the Van	Love … and Other Stuff
2023	Two and Two Together	Same Time, Next Year	The 39 Steps	Belles

The Basin Theatre Group Victorian Drama League Gold Awards (2 pages)			
Year	**Award**	**Awardees**	**Production**
2002	Best director of a drama production. The Edna Chandler Memorial Trophy	Richenda Papps	Dancing at Lughnasa by Brian Friel
	Best costume design in a comedy or a drama	Judy Dingley and Celia Dance	Run for Your Wife
	Best supporting actress in a drama	Sharyn Mullens	
	Best actress in a drama	Susan Carty as Shirley	Shirley Valentine
2003	Best actress in a minor role in a comedy	Nicky Pearce as "*variety roles*"	The Solid Gold Cadillac by H Teichmann and George S Kaufman
2010	Best sound design in a comedy or a drama. The Victorian Drama League Perpetual Trophy. Donated by V F Trainor Trophies	Barry O'Neill	Mary Stuart by Peter Oswald
	Best costume design in a comedy or a drama. The Russell Johnson Perpetual Trophy. Donated by Sonia and Eddy Jager	Brenda Overton	
2013	Best set design in a comedy or a drama. Donated by Beaumaris Theatre	Gerald Overton and Justin Stephens	The Woman in Black. Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt, from the book by Susan Hill
	Best lighting design in a comedy or a drama. The Frank Donahue Perpetual Trophy. Donated by The 1812 Theatre	Peter Dalwood	
	Best sound design in a comedy or a drama. The Victorian Drama League Perpetual Trophy. Donated by V F Trainor Trophies	Justin Stephens	
	Best actor in a drama The David Perkins Perpetual Trophy Donated by David Perkins	Kieran Tracey as Kipps	
	Best director of a drama production. The Edna Chandler Perpetual Trophy. Donated by The Basin Theatre Group	Justin Stephens	
	Best drama production. The Victorian Drama League Perpetual Trophy. Donated by V F Trainor Trophies		
2014	Best set design in a comedy or a drama. The Victorian Drama League Perpetual Trophy. Donated by Beaumaris Theatre	Barry O'Neill	The Other Place by Sharr White
	Best sound design in a comedy or a drama. The Victorian Drama League Perpetual Trophy. Donated by V F Trainor Trophies	Peter Bartlett and Barry O'Neill	
	Best supporting actress in a drama. The Yvonne Manley Perpetual Trophy. Donated by Sherbrooke Theatre Company	Melissa New as "*The Woman*"	
	Best actress in a drama. The Victorian Drama League Perpetual Trophy. Donated by Waverley Theatre Company	Sharon Corbier as "*Juliana*"	
	Best drama production. The Victorian Drama League Perpetual Trophy. Donated by V F Trainor Trophies		
2016	Best set design in a comedy or a drama. The Victorian Drama League Perpetual Trophy. Donated by Beaumaris Theatre	Chris Shaw	Sleuth by Anthony Shaffer

The Basin Theatre Group Victorian Drama League Gold Awards (2 pages)			
Year	**Award**	**Awardees**	**Production**
	Best properties design in a comedy or a drama. The Victorian Drama League Perpetual Trophy. Donated by V F Trainor Trophies		
	Best director of a drama production. The Edna Chandler Perpetual Trophy. Donated by The Basin Theatre Group		
	Best lighting design in a comedy or a drama. The Frank Donahue Perpetual Trophy. Donated by The 1812 Theatre	Peter Dalwood and Shaun Mcilfactrick	
	Best drama production. The Nicky McFarlane Perpetual Trophy. Donated by Nicky McFarlane		

The Basin Theatre Group Adult Lyrebird Awards (2 pages)			
Year	**Award**	**Awardees**	**Production**
1993	Judges award for excellent programme notes		Death of a Salesman and Glass Menagerie
	Best set drama		Death of a Salesman
1994	Best costumes drama		Rose
	Best set drama	Cliff Overton	
	Best light and sound drama		Away
1995	Best costumes drama		Don's Party
	Most outstanding production		Noises Off
	Best set drama	Cliff Overton	
	Best set overall		
	Best female lead	Maggie Browne	
	Most outstanding performance		
1996	Judges award for special effect of gold-framed proscenium		The Importance of Being Earnest
1997	Best lighting design drama	Peter Dalwood	Educating Rita
1998	Best one-act play		An Englishman Abroad
1999	Judges award for dramatic approach to programs for all 1999 productions		
	Judges award for FOH, foyer display, refreshments and courtesy for all 1999 productions		
2000	Best production comedy		It's My Party (And I'll Die If I Want To)
2001	Best female lead drama	Margaret Fly	On Golden Ponds
	Best director drama	Charles Dance	Someone Who'll Watch Over Me
	Best production drama		
	Judges special award for courage in choice of play		
2002	Best director comedy	Charles Dance	Run For Your Wife
	Best production comedy		
	Best production drama		Shirley Valentine
	Judges award for those responsible for the shifting sands	Stage crew	
	Judges award for special effects meant to go wrong	Stage crew	Farndale Avenue
2003	Best production drama		Face to Face
	Judges award for consistent creation of themed programmes and foyer displays		
2005	Best set comedy/drama	Cliff Overton	Terra Nova
	Best Production drama		
	Judges award for reveal of the sled from the dining table		
	Judges award for informative program / FOH display		
2007	Judges award for innovative FOH displays		
2008	Best set comedy/drama	Christine Grant and Peter White	Over the River and Through the Woods
2009	Judges award for evocative program design	Nicola Baker and Sally Larwood	The Drawer Boy
2013	Best Lighting design Drama	Peter Dalwood	The Woman in Black
2014	Judges award for realistic AV design	Willian Cusack	The Other Place

The Basin Theatre Group Adult Lyrebird Awards (2 pages)			
Year	**Award**	**Awardees**	**Production**
2016	Best costume Comedy	Eileen Ervine, Janet Francis and Marion Armitage	Moon over Buffalo
2018	Judges award for stylistic choices to represent the characters' worlds		Bombshells

The Basin Theatre Group Edna and Fergus Chandler Awards		
Year	**Edna Chandler**	**Fergus Chandler**
1998	George Thompson in "*An Englishman Abroad*"	Peter Saunders
1999	Dianne Kelly in "*Nuts*" and Amanda Pile in "*California Suite*"	Donna Exon
2000	Frank Schrever in "*Do Not Disturb*"	
2001	Keith Hutton in "*Corpse*"	Bree Thomas and Aron Deuchar
2002	Susan Carty as Shirley in "*Shirley Valentine*"	Bob Dingley
2003	Apollo Papps in "*The Shirley Parkers*" and Brenda Overton in "*The Solid Gold Cadillac*"	Brenda Overton
2004	Brenda Overton in "*Gosforth's Fete*"	Sharon Rust
2005	Frank Schrever and Keith Hutton in "*Terra Nova*"	Peter Bartlett and Simon Mitchell
2006	Aaron Baker in "*Silhouette*"	
2007	Betty Davis and Sharon Corbier in "*The Beauty Queen of Leenane*"	
2008	Rowan Thompson in "*Two Weeks with the Queen*"	
2009	Aaron Baker as Norman in "*Playing Sinatra*"	Maggie Browne and Barrie O'Neill
2010	Sharon Corbier in "*Mary Stuart*"	
2011	Isobel McGibbon in "*Jigsaws*" and Robyn Pollock in "*The Lion in Winter*"	Alan Thompson
2012	Nick Martin as Morrie Schwartz in "*Tuesdays with Morrie*"	Jan West, Eileen Ervine and Natalie McKinna
2013	Chris McLean as the Actor in "*The Woman in Black*"	Gerald Overton
2014	Sharon Corbier as Juliana in "*The Other Place*"	Peter Bartlett
2015	Chris Shaw as George in "*I'll be Back Before Midnight*" and Elise D'Amico as Melinda, Harley and Elsie in "*Accomplice"*	Gregor McGibbon and Gary Bott
2016	Di Kelly as Angela Lipski in "*My Brilliant Divorce*"	Peter Bartlett and Peter Dalwood
2017	John Putman as Wally Stewart in "*Australia Day*"	
2018	Di Kelly as Thelma Cates in "*Night, Mother*"	

The Basin Theatre Group Best Male Lead and Support Role Awards		
Year	**Male Lead**	**Male Support**
2007	Alastair Rice as Pato Dooley in "*The Beauty Queen of Leenane*"	Alan Thompson in "*Speaking in Tongues*"
2009	Aaron Baker as Norman in "*Playing Sinatra*" and Chris Hodson as Angus in "*The Drawer Boy*"	Richard Foster as Phillip in "*Playing Sinatra*"
2012	Nick Martin as Morrie Schwartz in "*Tuesdays with Morrie*"	Chris Shaw as the body in "*Out of Order*"
2013	Chris McLean as the Actor in "*The Woman in Black*" and Kieran Tracy as Kipps In "*The Woman in Black"*	Adam Lofthouse as Tito in "*Lend me a Tenor*"
2014	George Thompson as Joseph in "*My Three Angels*" and Frank Schrever as Otto Frank in "*The Diary of Anne Frank*"	John Putman as Jules in '*My Three Angels*"
2015	Steve Carroll as Man, Jon, Brian and Paul Del Gato in "*Accomplice*"	Chris Shaw as George in "*I'll be Back Before Midnight*"
2016	Chris Shaw as George Hay in "Moon Over Buffalo"	Steve Saul as Paul in "Moon Over Buffalo"
2017	Nigel Leslie as Brian Harrigan in "*Australia Day*" and Kirby Chenhall as "*Tocky*" Keating in "*A Happy and Holy Occasion*"	Aaron Baker as Robert Wilson in "*Australia Day*" and John Putman as Wally Stewart in "*Australia Day*"
2018	Matt Philips as King in "*Burke's Company*"	Matthew Ducza as Thomas John in "*It's Never Too Late*" and Zane Kelly as Brahe in "*Burke's Company*"

The Basin Theatre Group Best Female Lead and Support Role Awards		
Year	**Female Lead**	**Female Support**
2007	Sharon Corbier as Maureen Folan in "*The Beauty Queen of Leenane*"	Janet Withers as Vera in "*The Odd Couple (Female Version)*"
2009	Angela Ellis as Sandra in "*Playing Sinatra*"	Alison Minty as Mother in "*Sandcastles"*
2012	Bec Gooley as Rosemary Fenton in "*Bullshot Crummond*"	Ange Ellis as Gladys in "*Out of Order*"
2013	Tina Bono in "*Kid Stakes*"	Jessica Fernando as Maggie in "*Lend me a Tenor*"
2014	Sharon Corbier as Juliana in "*The Other Place*"	Jackie Hutchison as Mrs van Daan in "*The Diary of Anne Frank*"
2015	Sarah King as Janet, Erica and Sarah in "*Accomplice*"	Asja Sarajic as Dee Dee in "*Nobody's Perfect*"
2016	Di Kelly as Angela Lipski in "*My Brilliant Divorce*"	Sarah Brighton as Olwyn Peel in "*Dangerous Corner*"
2017	Janine Evans as Helen McInnes in "*Australia Day*"	Susan Carty as Cecilia O'Mahon in "*A Happy and Holy Occasion*"
2018	Di Kelly as Thelma Cates in "'*Night, Mother*" and Jen Bush as Jessie Cates in "*'Night, Mother*"	Kylie Rackham as Tiggy Entwistle in "*Bombshells*", Denise Kuchmar as Winsome Webster in "*Bombshells*" and Mindy Fyfe as Theresa McTerry, in "*Bombshells*"

The Basin Theatre Group	
Year	**Honorable Mention and Special Encouragement Awards**
2009	Honorable mention. Nicola Baker in "*Sandcastles*", Alistair Rice as Morgan in "*The Drawer Boy*" and Kieran Tracey as Miles in "*The Drawer Boy*"
2014	Special encouragement award. Loni Carr as Anne Frank in "*The Diary of Anne Frank*"
2015	Special encouragement award. Sarah Brighton as Jan in "*I'll be Back Before Midnight*"
2016	Special encouragement award. Kerrie White as Rosalind in "*Moon Over Buffalo*"
2017	Special encouragement award. Daniel McCulloch as Chester Lee in "*Australia Day*"

Chapter 11 Events

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Summary

The first The Basin Picnic and Baby show was held in 1959 and was the first major gathering of The Basin people for an event of this type.

The largest event ever held in The Basin was the 1967 Centenary Celebrations commemorating 100 years since the foundation of The Basin. Planning commenced in 1964 for a week of celebrations held in February 1967.

The centenary of The Basin Primary School was held over a weekend in December 1980.

The Claremont cup commenced in 1986 and was held until the late 1990s.

Celebrations to commemorate 125 years since the foundation of The Basin were held over a weekend in November 1992. On the following weekend, Clevedon celebrated 100 years of establishment in The Basin with an Open Day.

The Basin Primary School reunion was held in October 2011 for former students who finished Grade six between 1978 and 1985

The first The Basin Music Festival was held on the weekend of 18-20th March 2005 and has been held every year since then.

Distinguished Resident

Jim Stephens

Jim Stephens lived in The Basin for over 60 years and was probably the best known of our bus drivers as he spent 30 years behind the wheel. He told many incidents of the earlier days such as driving a bus load of people down Boronia hill when the brakes failed, and rushing over the Boronia rail crossing at 50 mph, unable to stop. This would be deadly nowadays but was achieved safely by good luck and good driving. Jim felt the bus lines had a remarkable safety record, considering the state of the roads in earlier times.

Jim was an original office bearer of The Basin Football Club and served many years as Secretary/Treasurer, goal umpire, timekeeper, gatekeeper etc., and was also with the Cricket Club and The Basin Progress Association.

When he retired, he was a dedicated worker with the Knox Historical Society, with particular interest in The Basin History. Over many years, he built up an almost complete collection of The Basin School class photographs, with names of teachers and students. This is no mean feat considering the long history of the school. The Basin school photo collection was the foundation of an extraordinary collection of 20,000 photographs from 60 schools in Knox. These are held by Knox Historical Society and the collection is believed to be unique in Australia, and possibly the world.

Much of The Basin history in this book was collected by Jim and I am honoured to publish the information in his memory.
Jim passed away in February 2009.

The Basin Picnic and Baby Show

The inaugural The Basin Picnic and Baby Show was held in April 1959 at Batterham Park.

Representatives from The Basin Progress Association, The Basin Fire Brigade, The Basin Scouts, The Basin Football Club and Batterham Park worked tirelessly to make the event hugely successful. Many firms donated goods or prizes and shopkeepers from The Basin and Boronia also gave support.

Three student doctors from the Women's Hospital judged the Baby Show with the winner Colin Thoren, aged 6½ months, with a total of 3138 points.

An entertaining game of football between The Basin Ladies Football team, and The Basin men's team saw the Ladies winners.

The Basin and Upwey Fire Brigades battled out some events and held a series of demonstrations.

In the intervals, the crowds were entertained by a group of Highland dancers from Mitcham with pipe bands.

The Basin Scouts and Cubs ran the hot dog stall, the wishing well and the lucky dip.

Children's races and competitions were popular with both competitors and spectators.

Overall, a successful show,

The Basin Centenary Celebrations

In 1964, a meeting of all local organisations in The Basin was called to form a committee to organise suitable celebrations for the town's centenary, which would be February 11th 1967. A committee was set up with Bill Wright as chairman and representatives from seventeen organisations. Each put in $10 to start an organising fund. Midge Beesley from The Basin Theatre Group took on the position of secretary and Jean Pritchett treasurer.

One of the first decisions was to accept Ron Ikin's offer to write a short history of The Basin, beginning with the first purchase of land by William Peverill Watson on 11th February 1867. The purpose of the book was not only to provide a record of the town's history, but publicise the proposed celebrations. Despite several early problems, Ron's book was an outstanding success and even the centenary committee were surprised by how quickly it sold out. The centenary committee were appreciative of Ron's contribution, and the technical "*know how*" and advice provided by George Russell in printing the book.

An old school bus in The Basin Primary School Centenary Parade in 1980 passing through The Basin.
Photo courtesy Colin Hart

Besides the centenary book, pennants and post cards promoted the celebrations and raised funds. Functions held throughout the year included open days at Doongalla, a Pop Concert at the Boronia Theatre, The Basin Badminton Club Tournament, The Basin Kindergarten open day and Carols by Candlelight.

An inaugural dinner opened the celebrations attended by the Minister of Agriculture the Hon. G. L. Chandler and many other distinguished local identities and parliamentary representatives.

The official opening of the new Country Fire Authority fire station at The Basin took place on Saturday, 11th. The opening followed by an informal social evening; the success of this function due, in no small way, to the efforts of The Basin Fire Brigade Captain Don Maguire and his many helpers.

A thanksgiving service held in the Salvation Army Home grounds on Sunday February 12th graced by the presence of the Dean of Melbourne, the Rev. Tom Thomas, and representatives of all local organisations. A large crowd attended, and music was provided by the Salvation Army Band.

An Early Citizens dinner held on Friday February 17th attended by many local citizens who played a long and prominent part in the development of the district, and by former residents who had provided significant contributions in years gone by.

Peoples Day on Saturday February 18th, saw a huge influx of visitors from outside the district, including many from interstate. The Lieutenant-Governor, Lieutenant General Sir Edmund and Dame Mary Herring were guests of the centenary committee at an informal luncheon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fergus Chandler on this day. Nominated representatives of local organisations were guests of the centenary committee at this function and also attended by the Shire President and Councillors.

Peoples Day commenced at 11.00 am with a floats procession through the main streets of Boronia, proceeding up Forest Road to The Basin Progress Hall and then to the school. The procession, was led by six Police Troopers followed by a timber jinker pulled by sixteen bullocks. Twenty-five floats, bands from Southern Command, Nunawading Pipe Band, Marching Girls, many novelty entries and vintage cars made a spectacular parade. Many appreciative letters and comments received by the centenary committee testified to the success of the parade.

Entertainment was provided throughout the afternoon, concluding with three parachutists landing in The Basin Primary School. On the same day as the parade, the School Committee held a "*back to school*" and People's Day concluded with an open-air concert followed by open-air dancing.

Several four-day exhibitions were staged with the Centenary celebrations. These included a historical exhibition and displays of historical models, antiques, stamps, Latvian craft, art and international dolls. Banks in Boronia also staged displays to coincide with the centenary and Messrs R. Brewer, Bert Chandler and Son, G. Chandler and N. Perry opened their properties for public viewing.

As a permanent reminder of The Basin Centenary, a small Cairn, with a suitably inscribed plaque, was erected on a piece of land, generously donated by the Salvation Army to "*The Mayor, Councillors and Citizens of The City of Knox*" for a Centenary garden, opposite The Basin Progress Hall. The land is called "*The Basin Centenary Garden*" and was officially transferred on 13th July 1973 as shown in instrument E932390.

The plaque was unveiled by Bert Chandler on the night of the dinner, and he planted a cedar tree to provide a living memento of 100 years of The Basin history and perhaps to provide a link with The Basin Bi-centenary in 2067. The plaque is inscribed:

"CEDRUS DEODARA AUREA
THIS TREE WAS PLANTED
TO COMMEMORATE THE CENTENARY
OF THE BASIN AND THE TAKING UP OF LAND
BY WILLIAM REVERILL WATSON
ON 5TH FEBRUARY 1867
PLANTED BY MR. BERT CHANDLER
RESIDENT OF THE BASIN SINCE 1880
FEBRUARY 1967"

Enclosed in the cairn brickwork, inside a bottle, was a copy of The Basin centenary handbook, written to mark the occasion. Allan Toole, the 12-year-old son of The Basin postmaster, placed the handbook inside a bottle, among the brickwork.

A second cairn was erected by the Chandler Family under the great "*Chandler*" oak tree in Sheffield Road. Legend has it this tree was planted by William Chandler in 1875 to commemorate the birth of his son Archibald. The Shire President, Councillor Arthur Kleinert, whose forebears were neighbours of the Chandlers unveiled the cairn.

Knox Council kindly donated $400 towards the centenary celebrations, and generous personal donations were received from Cr. Kleinert and Cr. Ernholm. All organisations received a 300% profit on their shares.

Several people contributed to the success of the Centenary, but the efforts of the entire centenary committee particularly Chairman Bill Wright, the Secretary Midge Beesley, the Treasurer Jean Pritchett and Jim and Barbara Stephens deserve special mention. The contribution of those who opened their gardens was greatly appreciated as was the input from countless others without whose co-operation the Hon. Gilbert Chandler would not have been moved to state:

"*This is possibly the best function conducted in the Eastern Suburbs*."

The Basin Primary School Centenary

Heavy rain and poor weather did not dampen the enthusiasm and pleasure of the hundreds of people who joined in the festivities to celebrate The Basin Primary School's Centenary held over the weekend of 12, 13 and 14 December 1980. One hundred years was condensed into the weekend as many past students and teachers returned to share their laughter and memories.

The festivities started on 12th (Friday) with a presentation of centenary medals to present pupils and staff. This was followed by a grade six luncheon in The Basin Progress Hall and, later, a family barbecue at the school. A twilight sports meeting followed and in the evening films of old school camps shown.

On Saturday, the school was open all day for visitors. The historical display was popular, particularly by former students returning to the school and reliving old memories. Of particular interest was the slice of an old pine tree cut down recently with each yearly growth ring tagged with that year's historical significance to the school. Many old school photographs were on display, causing many former students plenty of head scratching in working out the names of their old classmates. The school photographs on display were the start of a huge collection dating from 1892. Over one hundred years of school children in over 500 photographs with most children named. This collection was held by local resident Jim Stephens, and later by the Knox Historical Society.

At 1.30 pm., a procession from The Basin Progress Hall to the school was watched by many hundreds of people. The procession included the many forms of transport used by children travelling to the school over the years; a horse and cart, and old school bus generating much interest. Marching Girls, local organisation members and people in period costume all joined in the procession.

At 3.00 pm. the Centenary celebrations were officially opened by the Minister for Education, Mr. A. J. Hunt when he unveiled a commemorative plaque at the school. In attendance at the plaque unveiling, was Miss Kitty Chandler, 93, the oldest returning pupil at the celebrations. Her name is on a list of pupils in 1893. Other former students and teachers travelled from all over Australia to attend the celebrations.

Later in the day, the Assistant Minister for Education, the Hon. Norman Lacy, was involved in a tree planting ceremony. The school choir performed an item, and a dance and gymnastic display closed the days celebrations at the school.

In the evening, The Basin Progress Hall was the venue for a foot tapping old time bush dance entertaining parents, pupils, and teachers late into the night.

On the Sunday, an ecumenical church service was the highlight of the day. The school was again open all day for visitors.

Lachlan and Briony Armfield, who attended the school in 1980, were direct descendants of Mr. William Chandler, one of the first settlers in The Basin.

Melinda Dobson and Catherine Smith, who also attended the school in 1980, were fourth generation pupils at The Basin School. Their great-grandmother, Janet Wicks, attended the school when it opened. She married Robert Dobson, and their son Robert John Dobson attended the school from 1907 to 1916. He was a member of the school committee for 20 years, and a memorial playground was erected in recognition of his work. He married Kathleen Burden, who first attended the school in 1914, and taught at the school in 1923. Their children, James, Joyce, Lois and, Alison attended the school between 1940 and 1951.

President of The Basin School Council, Mr. Bob Cole, summarised the success of the school over the past 100 years in part of his speech

"Many of our children have achieved greatness in both local and State affairs and each child, in his/her own way has taken something of The Basin to enrich their lives."

The Claremont Cup

Held in honour of the Melbourne Cup on the first Tuesday in November, residents of Claremont Avenue in The Ravine in The Basin held their own event — The Claremont Cup.

Mounted on skateboards, the residents of the street, young and old, held a series of races in which the overall winner got their name inscribed on an aluminium cup.

First held in 1986, the event continued into the late 1990s. Daniel Norton was the first winner of the race.

The Basin 125 Year Celebrations

Superb weather contributed to the success of the focus of the 125-year celebrations held on the weekend of November 7th and 8th 1992 at The Basin Primary School. Over 3,000 past and present residents of The Basin joined in the celebrations.

The idea of staging 125-year celebrations had been considered for some years before the event. At The Basin Progress Association meeting in November 1991, a decision was made to hold the celebrations and planning commenced early in 1992. The theme for the festivities was to be "*Back To The Basin*". A program of events between October 1992 and February 1993 was planned with the focus on the weekend of 7th and 8th of November.

Local resident Rick Coxhill volunteered to edit a book entitled "*Fire on the Hill — Flowers in the Valley — The Basin 125 Years*" to be published with the celebrations in November. The book was to expand on the Centenary Booklet edited by Ron Ikin.

A balloon launch, held at The Basin Primary School on Saturday 7th November 1992, officially launched the

125-year celebrations. Students of The Basin Primary School and St. Bernadettes Primary School joined to release hundreds of helium filled balloons. Each balloon was tagged inviting the finder to attend The Basin 125-Year Celebrations and/or advise the school where the balloon landed.

A cocktail party held at The Basin Progress Hall on the 29th November 1992 to launch the book was successful with over 100 people in attendance. The organisers were privileged to have Mrs. Eileen Turner, "*Queen of The Basin*" in 1930, involved in the official launch of the book. Also in attendance was His Worship, Colin Tidball, Mayor of The City of Knox, and Ron Ikin, author of the Centenary Book.

A 50/50 dance organised by The Basin Fire Brigade and held on Friday 6th November at The Basin Progress Hall, attracted over 100 people and was a fitting start to the weekend celebrations.

Celebrations on the weekend of the 7th and 8th of November were focused at The Basin Primary School and consisted of continual entertainment and included the following:

- Displays by The Basin Fire Brigade.
- Billy Tea and Damper provided by The Basin Scout Troop.
- A monster Fête on the Saturday at The Basin Pre-School Centre.
- Community clay paver making.
- Extensive historical displays.
- A twilight Bush Dance on Saturday between 5.00 pm and 7.00 pm attended by over 200 children and adults.
- Tractor rides all day Saturday and Sunday between The Basin Primary School and The Salvation Army Home.
- A Sunday Ecumenical Service held on Sunday at The Salvation Army Home.

A highlight of the weekend celebrations were free conducted bus tours of some of The Basin's scenic & historic sites. Three mini-buses leaving from The Basin Primary School at hourly intervals, gave over 1000 people enthralling one hour historical tours of The Basin.

A "*Farm to Forest*" run on Sunday attracted over 150 entrants. Two courses were offered, a 9 km and 3 km run. Both commenced at The Basin Primary School with the 9 km run winding through the Salvation Army Home and Doongalla Forest Reserve.

The Basin Theatre, The Salvation Army Home and Bert Chandler Gardens held open days over the weekend where visitors were welcome at any time.

The final 125-year celebration event occurred on Saturday 6th February 1993 when Clevedon celebrated 100 years of establishment in The Basin with an open day.

Many individuals, traders and community groups contributed to the success of the 125-year celebrations. For the organisers of the event, over nine months of planning came to successful fruition.

The Basin Music Festival

Local resident John Mortimore had been saying for years someone should organise a music festival in The Basin. Musical gatherings have had a long history in the neighbourhood so taking the next step to having a Musical Festival seemed perfectly natural.

Those early ambitions of John were realised on the weekend of 18-20th March 2005 when the first festival of live entertainment and original music was held in The Basin.

Organised by The Basin Music Festival Association, the event was an outstanding success with folk, acoustic, jazz, pop, blues, country, bluegrass, Celtic and a hint of reggae sounds featured across several stages in restaurants and around The Basin Progress Hall and Park.

After Friday's opening night acts, Saturday was the Festival's main day with Sunday featuring a village fair and Picnic in the Park.

Music could be found throughout the indoor and on the free stage in the park. The festival included exhibitions and displays by community groups and organisations, including The Basin Fire Brigade who also shared in the profits, with activities for kids and a laid-back country village atmosphere.

Successful events have also been held every year since. Except for the first year, local resident John Allan has been the host for the event.

Associated with the music festival is the popular "*The Basin Big Break Youth Stage*" for performers under the age of 18 and 25 years. For the years up to 2011, this event was held during the yearly festival in March. In 2012, the event had its own dedicated weekend in July and was an outstanding success.

In later years, in the months before the main event, a series of free summer music concerts have been held in the Triangle.

The Basin Primary School Reunion

Inclement weather did not dampen the spirits or smiles of those who attended The Basin Primary School reunion in October 2011. Former students who finished Grade six between 1978 and 1985 and one ex-teacher gathered to reminisce.

Tales were told of how the big dent in the face was made; shelter shed liaisons and weddings; how long it took to get a pen license; who spent lunchtime inside after venturing into Dobson's orchard during play; how cold was the pool at the Salvation Army Boys Home across the road; and which teachers gave the strap.

Time Capsule Recovery

In 1967, a time capsule was placed in a cairn covered with a memorial plaque, and a tree planted beside it. It

was due to be opened in 2017.

Time passed, and it was forgotten, until resident Lynette Hayhurst read my earlier publication, and realised it was due to be opened in 2017.

Nobody knew if the cairn contained a time capsule, prompting Lynette to locate a 1967 Free Press article confirming it did contain a capsule. Allan Toole, the twelve-year-old son of the Post Office proprietor, had placed a capsule in the concrete as the cairn was being constructed.

On Sunday 30th January 2022, a group of people gathered to investigate removal of the time capsule. Present was Lynette Hayhurst, Barbara Stephens (Knox Historical Society), Rick Coxhill (book author), and Jude Dwight (local councillor) and others. It took several evenings to remove the plaque, bricks and locate the time capsule.

The cairn was rebuilt and the plaque restored by a bricklayer a few months later.

On Sunday 6th February, in preparation for a picnic to show the time capsule contents, a cleanup day was organised.

Residents of all ages, the Knox Historical Society, the Knox Environmental Society and local council joined the cleanup. Thirty plus bags of rubbish were collected in the areas around and including The Basin Triangle and halfway up the road up to Sassafras. Community spirit was at its best with laughter and lively conversation. Local businesses generously donated goods for the volunteers including The Basin Pantry, The Basin Bakery, Wilson's Milk Bar and The Acorn Bar and Restaurant.

As a wonderful finish, The Acorn Bar and Restaurant opened up their doors and invited everyone for a free light and delicious lunch and drinks. A local blues group formed especially for the occasion: The Valley Blues, with Bob Telford on drums, Justin Cox (from Radio Eastern 98.1) and Phil Mcguire on guitar.

On Sunday 27th February, a picnic was held at The Basin Triangle with Alan Small as MC. The capsule contents and historical photographs of The Basin were on display. Speeches by various people including Allan Toole were highlights of the evening.

Many people assisted in making the event an historic occasion including Lynette Hayhurst (organiser), Barbara Stephens (historical photos), Meryll Williams (Rainy Day Books), Joseph Napoli, John Mortimore and local businesses.

The recovered capsule was placed in a cabinet for permanent display at The Basin Community House. The cabinet was donated by Barry Plant real estate Boronia.

2024 Time Capsule

On Sunday 21 January 2024, The Basin Triangle hosted a picnic to see organiser Lynette Hayhurst place historical items inside a PVC pipe and then sealed. It will be opened in 2042 on the 175th anniversary of the town.

The idea for a new time capsule came from John Mortimore; a former Mayor of Knox.

Around 20 contributors to the capsule included businesses, local community groups, talented local artists, local teenagers, primary schools and the Dobson and Chandler famlies. A copy of Rick Coxhill's Fire on the Hill, Flowers in the Valley: The Basin 1868 – 1992 was also placed in the capsule.

The capsule is a large PVC pipe with caps on either end. Lois Dobson volunteered her time to paint ferns and butterflies on the capsule body, gold on the caps with Aboriginal symbols.

Local FEX band entertained. The Basin's unofficial mayor Allan Small was MC. City of Knox Mayor Jude Dwight, Peter Dobson and Lynette Hayhurst gave speeches.

The capsule will be stored in the current The Basin Fire Brigade building.

Sources of Information

- "*The Basin Centenary Booklet*" by Ron Ikin.
- Residents for information on The Basin Primary School Centenary information.
- The Free Press newspaper for information on The Basin Picnic and Baby Show and time capsule.
- Boronia and The Basin Community News for information on The Basin Music Festival, The Basin Primary School reunion and time capsule picnic.
- Various newspapers for other information.
- Free Press for information on the time capsule.

FUN RUN

The Basin prepares for 125th birthday

A cross country fun run will be held as a part of The Basin's 125th year celebrations on Sunday November 8.

Called the 'Farm to Forest Fun Run', it has been mapped out to take in the paddocks and bushland which dominate the surrounding landscape.

Starting at The Basin Primary School at the corner of Liverpool Road and Mountain Highway, the course winds its way through the paddocks of the Salvation Army Farm and then into the Doongalla Forest Reserve.

The return journey will utilise little-used tracks through the forest and then back through the Salvation Army Farm to the finish at the primary school.

The distance of the run is an undulating nine kilometres with a very testing uphill section along the Doongalla Road past Como Nurseries and The Basin Theatre.

A shorter run of three kilometres, from the school through the farm and back has been included for the younger age groups and the less energetic.

Categories have been included to cover a variety of age groups from Under 14 to veterans, walkers and family groups.

Trophies will be presented to the winners of all categories and all contestants will be eligible for the many spot prizes.

Registration forms are available from various traders in The Basin and competitors are also welcome to register on the day from 8.30am.

An entry fee of $2 will be applied to adults with a charge of $1 for children under the age of 15 (parental consent required) or $5 for a family of two adults and two children.

Further enquiries can be made by calling 762 8362 or 751 1061.

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knox *happenings*

Kinder fete for Back to Basin

THE Basin Pre-school Centre will hold a fete between 9am and 4pm at 385 Forest Rd on Saturday, November 7.

It will coincide with the Back to The Basin celebrations and will include a display of children's work and memorabilia from past years.

Shops spree

Celebration events

THIS weekend The Basin celebrates its 125th birthday. Some of the events organised are:

- A 50-50 Super Dance at The Basin Progress Hall on Friday (November 6) at 7.30pm;
- The Basin Pre-School fete and open day on Saturday and Sunday, (November 7 and 8);
- A twilight bush dance at The Basin School on Saturday (November7) between 5 and 7pm;
- A craft market at The Basin Community House on Sunday (November 8) and;
- A Farm to Forest fun run at 10am on Sunday (November 8).

The main 'Back to The Basin' 125 year celebrations will be held over the weekend at The Basin Primary School with entertainment for all age groups.

KN 2-11-92

Chapter 12 Miscellaneous

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Summary

The "*Chandler*" oak tree in Sheffield Road was planted from an acorn by early settlers William and Kate Chandler in 1875. Legend claims it was planted to celebrate the birth of their fourth son, Archibald, who they thought was the first white child born in the district.

Many prominent people have lived in, or had an influence on The Basin and some of these are described.

Many proposals involving The Basin never eventuated and some of these are described here.

The “*Chandler*” Oak Tree

This famous oak tree in Sheffield Road was planted from an acorn by early settlers William and Kate Chandler in 1875. Legend claims it was planted to celebrate the birth of their fourth son, Archibald, who they thought was the first white child born in the district. However, in 2025 it is known that Louisa, daughter of William and Margaret Turner, was the first white child born in the district. Tragically, Louisa died at the age of 17.

The tree is beside Dobsons Creek in Sheffield Road, near the corner of Sheffield Road and The Basin-Olinda Road. William and Kate Chandler built their first house on the flat near the tree.

The tree is one of the oldest and finest specimens of English Oak (Quercus Robur) growing in Australia and is approximately 30 metres high and 25 metres across.

As part of The Basin Centenary Celebrations in 1967, a stone cairn was erected by the Chandler family under the oak tree, and a suitably inscribed plaque affixed to the cairn. The plaque reads:

“*QUERBUS ROBUR—ENGLISH OAK*
ONE OF THE FIRST TREES KNOWN
TO BE PLANTED IN THE BASIN
PLANTED AS AN ACORN
BY WILLIAM AND KATE CHANDLER
SOON AFTER THEY SETTLED HERE IN 1873
HAVING ARRIVED FROM ENGLAND IN 1851
THE NEAREST PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO THE BASIN
THEN BEING THE RAILWAY AT HAWTHORN
THIS IS ONE OF THE FINEST SPECIMENS
OF THIS TREE IN AUSTRALIA
PLEASE HELP TO PROTECT IT”

The tree has special significance for the Chandler family, who held a reunion beneath the tree in 1975.

The tree has been pruned several times over the years and in 1982 steel cables were attached from the main trunk to support the weight of its massive limbs. On occasions, over enthusiastic pruning by Knox Council has led to the intervention of local residents.

In 1984, the tree was classified by the National Trust because of its size, form and historical significance.

The famous tree is cared for by the Knox Council. In 2025, the trees condition has deteriorated and requires management.

The Who’s Who of The Basin

Many famous, sporting, community minded and high achieving people have lived in, or been associated with, The Basin at one time or another.

“*Distinguished Residents*” are profiled at the beginning of some chapters. Other people are highlighted in various chapters for their contribution to the community.

Eddie Williams recalled his younger days in The Basin in the 1920s, and 1930s and the most significant people in the district were Mr. Smith, storekeeper, Mr. Clarke, butcher, Mrs. Dickson, post-mistress, Dick and Alf Thompson, coach-drivers, and Myra Collier, assistant at the store. The Thompson’s drove the horse coaches from The Basin to Boronia Railway Station before they had the hire car. These people were known to every resident of the district.

Danny Finley

Danny was the “*D*” and drummer of the pop group “*MPD Limited”* who made their fame in the 1960s. The M & P was Mike Brady and Peter Watson. Originally a member of the “*Sonics*” band, who played at local functions, Danny went from success to success after forming the band MPD Limited. Their record “*Little Boy Sad*” headed the hit parades for 8 weeks. Many other records followed.

Danny grew up in The Basin and lived in Arcadia Avenue. He worked at Dunlops in Mountain Highway for a while.

Jason Daniltchenko

Jason started playing at The Basin Football Cub and later played for the Australian Football League club North Melbourne.

Shane Flyne

Shane started playing at The Basin Football Cub and later played for the Australian Football League club Carlton.

Alfred Richard Baxter Cox

Alfred Richard Baxter Cox gained prominence as an architect, war historian and member of the Salvation Army. He designed and built “*Wychwood*” at 50 Old Coach road and lived there.

In 1933, with Mr R. Summerhayes, he designed the Science wing of the Perth University. He was member of the Victorian Housing Commission in the late 1940s and involved in a controversial proposal to build “*pre-cut*” houses for the Victorian Railways and the State Electricity Commission.

Closer to home, he designed the redevelopment of the Salvation Army No 2 Home in 1958.

C. J. Dennis

The wife of the famous Australian poet C. J. Dennis lived for some time in Forest Road. Mrs Dennis had vivid recollections of her husband’s friendship with Henry Lawson and told how her husband came to write of the now famous character “*Doreen*”. Dennis attended the Progress Association meetings in a small country town, and there the Secretary often broke off into lyrical descriptions of his friend Doreen. Dennis was so impressed he wrote this character into his poems.

Concern for the Trees

When the State Electricity Commission (SEC) commenced upgrading the power supply lines along Sheffield Road in the 1980's to cater for increased development in the Milleara Road and Simpsons Road area, they chose the wrong side of the road to run the power lines. Their route headed straight through the famous oak tree and they fully intended trimming branches to make way for the lines.

The vehement intervention of a local resident whose grandfather planted the oak soon changed the workers mind.

The lines were re-routed to cross over to the other side of the road.

Bob Irwin

The father of the famous Steve Irwin, Bob, once lived in The Basin and attended The Basin Primary School.

He worked at Locksley Textiles, the site of which later became Lowline and in 2025 is a housing estate.

It is rumoured he kept snakes and other reptiles in boxes under his bed. Naughty young children were threatened to be sent to his house for punishment.

Jean and George Hill

Jean and George Hill between them won over 60 local and international medals for commercial food preparation.

George, as a member of a team of four who represented Australia, won a gold medal in food preparation in the Culinary Olympics in 1980. In 1983, George was the recipient of the Australia Food Service Manufacturers Award or the "*Australian Caterer of the Year*". In 1988, he was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to study Hospitality Education in the USA and Canada. He was also the first recognised Australian International Cookery Judge in Work Skill in Austria. When George was head of the food department at William Angliss College, he organised thousands of meals for the firefighters during the Ash Wednesday bush fires.

Jean became renowned as a commercial food artist winning medals in many competitions including the Culinary Olympics and "*Food Asia*". In 1992, Jean became the greatest individual winner of Culinary Olympic awards when as a member of the Victorian team of chefs, she was awarded three gold and two bronze medals from five entries.

Both George and Jean resided in The Basin and were active members of the local community over many years. When involved with The Basin Primary School, they hosted many progress dinners (some which I attended) to raise funds for the school.

Steve Crabb

Steve Crabb was a minister in the Cain/Kirner Labor Government governing Victoria from 1982 to 1992. He was the MLA for Knox which included The Basin area. He held various ministerial positions whilst Labor was in office.

Steve resided in The Basin and conducted several Carols by Candlelight in The Triangle.

Sharon Blegg

Constable Sharon Blegg scooped the pool at the 1987 Victoria Police Games by winning 17 Medals. She won 12 gold, two silver and three bronze.

Deanna Blegg, sister of Sharon, was also a prolific athlete. In 1989, she was ranked as one of the three top women triathletes in Australia.

Kevin Gale

In 1971, Kevin Gale was awarded the Knox "*Citizen of the Year*". Kevin was a tireless volunteer for several organisations.

Kevin moved to Western Australia, and was appointed the Prince Regent of Hutt River Province in Western Australia by Price Leonard who originally established Hut River as an independent principality.

Matea Gluščević

Matea is a shoe designer and hand crafted shoemaker who moved to The Basin in 2021. She lived in Adelaide most of her life and studied shoe-making in 2010, but only started focusing on footwear in a serious way around 2019. She was awarded the Guildhouse catapult mentorship while in Adelaide, allowing her to apprentice under master shoemaker Eugenia Neave.

The bespoke part of her business is custom orders, which are made in The Basin in her studio. In the future, she will also design and sample everything in Australia, but get some styles factory made overseas.

She has won numerous awards. In the first footwear competition she entered, the 2024 Global Footwear awards, she won the overall sustainability category with "*in her shoes*" (Johnnie Walker project). She was also a winner (one of about ten) in the artistic category with her alien heels, and a winner (one of about ten) in the sustainability category with her forest stompers. She also handmade shoes for three Australian fashion week runways for three consecutive years, which nobody else had done.

Featured in Vogue magazine, she is referred to across the globe as a new "*it-girl*" in couture footwear.

In 2025, she operates under the brand Cakey Sportsman, creating garments and footwear.

Glenn Fogwill

In 2025, Glenn is the vocalist and co-songwriter of the hard rock band Shotgun Mistress. He moved to The Basin at age 11 to the Golden Grove area, and attended The Basin Primary School and Boronia Heights Secondary College. He has fond memories of playing in the orchards behind the water tank and The Basin waterfall.

His music career started from age 12-17 with

busking outside of Boronia Kmart, Caribbean Gardens and Croydon Market as a solo artist "*Glen Patrick*". From age 17-21 he performed at local venues including Ruby's Lounge in Belgrave (in 2025, The Sooki Lounge) and the Micawber Tavern in Belgrave with a band as "*Glen Patrick*". As he career progressed, he moved on to city venues but still played occasionally at the Sooki Lounge in Belgrave.

From age 25-35 he was a singer in the band Collegians who had members from Pseudo Echo, Tina Arena and John Farnham.

Shotgun Mistress formed in 2018 when Glenn was 34. The band has had local and international success.

In 2022, they toured Australia with Electric Mary.

In 2024, they toured the Australian East coast with Mammal.

They have played alongside Dirty Honey and The Poor in 2024.

They toured Japan in 2024.

Their sophomore album reached #27 on the ARIA Australian album chart in 2024.

The toured with Winger in 2025.

They played with Superjesus in Melbourne in 2025.

Lee Hartney

In 2025, Lee is a long term member of the Smith Street Band, formed in 2010. He plays guitar and is a backing vocalist. Lee was brought up in The Basin and attended The Basin Primary School and Boronia Heights Secondary College. He moved to Boronia for a while, but in 2025 lives in The Basin.

The band has had Australian and international success with numerous tours in Australia and overseas.

They were nominated for and won many Australian music awards.

The AIR Awards (2013, 2015 and 2018).

The EG Awards (2012 and 2017).

The J Awards (2017).

The NLMAs (2016).

They won the EG awards in 2015 (Best Live Band) and the NLMAs (Live Act of the Year) in 2016.

Lee was nominated in 2017 for the Live Guitarist of the Year in the NLMAs awards.

In 2020, their album, "*Don't waste your anger*" reached number 1 in the ARIA chart.

That Which Did Not Happen

Many proposals involving The Basin never eventuated. Some were controversial and did not proceed. Others were too advanced for the time.

Tramway Past The Basin

Around 1888, a proposal was put for a tramway to run from Bayswater to Olinda past The Basin. The scheme was to take advantage of the recent extension of the rail link to Ferntree Gully from Ringwood.

The rail link did not satisfy everyone. Not all locations would be served, and many considered a link from Dandenong would have served the area better. As expected, many schemes were soon announced to take advantage of the new extension to Ferntree Gully. One such scheme was to build a tramway from Macauly (Bayswater), running east, past The Basin to the north, and terminating at the State Forest boundary, roughly below Olinda.

The tramway was to have been electric or cable and used to help local rural and forestry activities and the tourist trade.

The promoters included many well-known and influential landholders and residents including James John Miller and Mr Bruce, owner of the retreat in The Basin known as "*Fernglen*" or "*The Basin Bower*". Considerable time and effort was expended in pursuance of the scheme. Mr Muntz, a surveyor of railway projects, submitted a favourable opinion of the project. Extensive publicity was given in the publication "*Visitors guide to the Upper Yarra and Fern Tree Gully Districts*".

Plans drawn up showed a detailed route, and the Shire of Berwick passed a motion, put by councillor Dobson, granting permission to build the tramway, but it never eventuated. At the time there was an act forbidding any person to operate a railway except the Victorian Railways. An exception was tramways were allowed, requiring the approval of the local municipality. Hence, the Shire of Berwick's involvement in the approval.

Funicular Tramway to One Tree Hill

Another scheme devised by John Martin (a local landholder) in 1888 was to build a funicular incline tramway from Fern Tree Gully part way up One Tree Hill. The collapse of the land boom a few years later squashed the proposal.

Ratchet Tramway to One Tree Hill

In 1925, the Railways Standing Committee was considering the best route for a railway from Oakleigh to Ferntree Gully. If the proposed railway was built, a private company was prepared to spend between 12,000 and 15,000 pounds in constructing a "*ratchet*" tramway to One Tree Hill. The railway line never eventuated.

Fox's Point Scenic Railway

Another railway scheme in the Dandenongs was the "*Fox's Point Scenic Railway*". Built by Neil Foxcroft in the early 1950s to carry building materials for his house from the Mt Dandenong Tourist Road up the hill to his house on Scenic Crescent, Kalorama. Trucks were unable to traverse Scenic Resent because it was steep and narrow. The railway had a gradient of one in one with a vertical rise of 110 feet and was designed and constructed by Mr. Foxcroft.

His land had magnificent views and around 1953, he opened the railway to tourists where he had a viewing platform with telescope, kiosk and museum. In the early

1960s, the railway was declared unsafe for passenger use and closed. The 1962 bushfires destroyed his house. In 1965, the railway was removed.

Ferndale School

In early 1983, the Kalinya Community School submitted a proposal to the relevant authorities to open a temporary school on Ferndale Road for 15 to 20 children.

The Kalinya Community had planned to occupy the old Ferny Creek School site, but the school had been destroyed by arsonists. The new proposal was to modify and use a residential building owned by Uniting Church on Ferndale Road. The residence was in block 313 in the grounds of the former Ferndale building burnt down in 1962.

The Health Department inspected the site and gave tentative approval subject to several building changes. It was noted the impact of recent bushfires (Ash Wednesday), the road conditions, and remote location were not ideal for a school location.

The proposal was squashed when The Shire of Sherbrooke advised the use of the property as a school was prohibited pursuant to The Shire of Sherbrooke planning scheme 1965.

Overall Development Plan

In 1992, The Basin Progress Association called a public meeting to discuss Knox Council's Overall Development Plan (ODP) which would allow land development along Mountain Highway. Over 250 people attended the meeting, one of the largest attendances ever. The proposal involved large scale development of land on the north side of Mountain Highway including a large amount of the Salvation Army, Dobson's and The Basin Primary School.

The plan was developed by the Council after a request from the Salvation Army to redevelop an eight hectare paddock. Council extended the area requested by the Salvation Army to see how the area could be developed in the future. Residents at the meeting said they were not opposed to the Salvation Army development, but to any further development made possible by the ODP. Knox Council was accused of "*cutting out the green heart of The Basin*".

Under extreme pressure from all sides, the council revised the development plan to what the Salvation Army had originally asked for — the redevelopment of an eight hectare paddock. The land was the area between the school and water tank and later developed as The Mountain Gateway Estate.

Grab For The Basin

In 1994, the Sherbrooke Shire Council revealed an application to include The Basin and parts of Ferntree Gully into its boundaries. The areas were then covered by the City of Knox. Sherbrooke believed The Basin should be part of the Council area that covered the Dandenong Ranges.

Residents of The Basin disagreed with the proposal. A petition circulating the township opposed the move on several grounds. In particular, the move would split the township and Sherbrooke rates were considerably higher than that of Knox.

The proposal hinged on discussions between the neighbouring councils with the City of Knox against the proposal.

Discussions broke down and the proposal never eventuated.

Fire Buffer Zones

In 1990, the State Government put forward a proposal to create a "*Fire Buffer Zone*" classification for properties in The Dandenongs. The concept involved the compulsory acquisition of properties for fire control. A few properties in The Basin would have been affected by the proposal.

The Government refused to identify a time frame for the identification and acquisition of classified properties, and to what degree residents would be compensated for the loss of their homes.

After a bitter battle with the Hills community, the Government relented and abolished the scheme in 1992. Any properties the Government wished to acquire in the future would need to be rezoned to permit the purchase.

Healing Centre

In early 2009, residents of Augusta Road in The Basin learned The Department of Human Services (DHS) had purchased a residence at 20 Augusta Road.

DHS lodged an application with the Knox Council to change the property from a dwelling to a place of assembly. The intention was to operate a:

"*healing centre.*"

that will:

"*prevent, reduce and respond to all forms of family violence to indigenous people who live in the eastern metropolitan region*."

A DHS spokesperson said Knox had the second-highest indigenous population in the Eastern Metropolitan Region, but:

"*no Indigenous services delivery site*."

About 40 families lived in the street. Some had been there for decades. All residents disapproved of the location for the centre and set up an "*Augusta Road Fighting Fund*".

Local politicians and councillors supported the concept but thought it was in the wrong place.

Knox Council considered the proposal in April 2009. The Council received 73 objections and no submissions in support. Council voted for the centre to go ahead, but only if it did not turn into a drop-in centre, crisis accommodation or halfway house.

Residents setup the "*Augusta Road Fighting Fund*", and appealed Knox Council's decision to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

The DHS also appealed because it wanted to use the centre for crisis accommodation.

After a two-day hearing in October 2009, VCAT ruled against the DHS centre. VCAT provided several reasons. In particular:

"*The incontrovertible value of the healing service does not, in our view, outweigh the direct amenity impacts the proposal would have on the abutting residential properties*."

In April 2010, the property at 20 Augusta Road was auctioned and sold. An alternative site for the healing centre had been proposed in Lilydale.

Trout Farm

In 2022, rumours spread that a trout farm would be established at the Retarding Basin. It quickly caught the attention of social media which was abuzz with excitement.

However, when Melbourne Fisheries and Water confirmed there were no plans for a farm or to stock trout there, the pranksters owned up. It was all a rouse. The Retarding Basin is only a temporary store of water to prevent flooding in the surrounding area. Trout would not survive in the water.

Contentious Issues

The Basin Solar Farm

In early 2025, a proposal was submitted to the Victorian Government for a Solar Farm on Salvation Army land in The Basin. The plans included an eight-hectare solar farm with approximately 11,000 solar panels on two to three-metre-high frames to allow the use of land underneath for sheep grazing and carbon farming. Objectors had until December 2025 to submit any objections.

The scheme took four years of planning and was approved in May 2025. The approval considered the views of all submitters and relevant agencies including Knox City Council, Country Fire Authority, Melbourne Water and the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. Considerations included Bushfire risk, Visual impacts, Biodiversity and Traffic and transport.

Residents noticed that before the project was approved all the required components for the farm were delivered to the site. In addition, the land was rezoned in anticipation of approval.

The Best Place To Live

The Basin of course! Many articles have appeared in local papers praising the attributes of living in The Basin. Headlines such as "*Basin brimming with friendliness*", "*Togetherness is still alive in the foothills*" are testament it is the best place to live.

The Best View

The western and northern slopes of the Dandenongs have magnificent views of the eastern suburbs and even to the Melbourne CBD skyline. At the base of the junction of these slopes is The Basin, and many houses have been erected to exploit the view.

One of the best views is towards the Melbourne CBD skyline with a forest canopy. James Griffiths was the first to exploit this view when he erected Ferndale. Later, the new owner of the land erected a modern building with its view aligned to the tallest building in the CBD.

The Haunted Shop

In the 1920s, Alfred Peter Thompson built a small shop on land opposite Church Street on Forest Road. Initially, the shop was a Real Estate Agency, and later a shoe repair business run by Mr Hall. Alfred later built a garage on the site.

It appears the Real Estate Agents office was the site of visitations and not the later garage. Initial suspicion centred on Gladys Thompson, youngest of the family, born in 1921. First hand reports identify the presence as that of a young girl aged seven or eight years. However, Gladys Thompson died in 1983, so it is unlikely her presence.

Another child named Annie White may have left a psychic marker in the shop. She was born in 1901 and died in 1913. Her lineage is unclear, but she is related to the family.

When the garage was demolished in 1984, and the underground fuel tanks removed, it was replaced with a row of speciality shops called The Basin Central.

The owners or tenants of not one, but several shops, have reported incidents that are disturbing. The sound of someone walking across the floor. Most interestingly, a distinct "*pole of cold*" exists in a corner of one shop. This spans only about a metre, the temperature drop is measurable, and is not related to the location of the shop's heating and cooling systems. Being near the windows, the spot in question should be subject to radiant heat on summer days, but the opposite applies. Examples of poltergeist behaviour, items being moved or thrown around, have also been reported.

Several mediums and psychic investigators have already been called in. All verified a "*presence*" in shops, but have failed thus far to persuade the spirit inhabitant to move on.

The Doctor

Dr Lorna Jones was the only Doctor in The Basin/Boronia area in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Originally, she used a horse and buggy to do her house calls but later moved up to a motor vehicle.

When she left the area in December 1953, a crowd of hundreds attended a farewell held in The Boronia Progress Hall.

In recognition of her services to the local community, Ferntree Gully Shire built and dedicated a playground behind the Methodist Church in Boronia. Later, the playground was moved to Maguire Park and upgraded to the status of a regional playground whilst still keeping the name of "*Lorna Jones Playground*".

With the building of the Boronia Junction shopping centre, the playground was again moved to a small area near the Boronia station. The name Lorna Jones was removed, and the playground downgraded to a few metal animals.

Sources of Information

- "*The Basin Centenary Booklet*" by Ron Ikin.
- "*Fire on the Hill, Flowers on the Valley*" by Rick Coxhill.
- Jim and Barbara Stephens for general information and help.
- Newspapers for information on the best place to live, the healing centre proposal, Overall Development Plan, Fire Buffer Zones and grab for The Basin.
- Ray Peace from the Knox Historical Society for information on the haunted shop.
- Thanks to the great-granddaughter of Alfred Peter Thompson for information on the haunted shop.
- Thanks to Matea Gluščević and Glenn Fogwill for information on themselves.

The 1971 winner, Kevin Gale, left, is congratulated by 1967 winner Bill Wright.

BASIN MAN IS CITIZEN OF YEAR

The Basin scored again last night when the Boronia Rotary Club nomination, Mr. Kevin Gale, was awarded the Knox Jaycees-Dunlop "Citizen of the Year" prize.

Mr. Gale, who accepted the award "with the deepest amount of respect," is the second Basin resident to win the award in its five years standing.

The first was local storekeeper and former president of The Basin Progress Association, Mr. Bill Wright, who won the first award in 1967.

Mr. Wright and other winners, Mr. Jack Callahan (Fern Tree Gully), 1968, Mr. David McInnes (Boronia), 1969, and Mrs. Vivian Parrant (Boronia), 1970, were present at last night's function at the Sky High Restaurant, Mt. Dandenong.

Announcing the winner, Knox Jaycees president, Mr. Neil Harrison, said the response to the award over the past five years has shown Jaycees the dedication and time given by so many people to their organisation.

"This is surely an indication of the tremendous voluntary effort being performed within our city," Mr. Harrison said.

Mr. Harrison said of the award winner, Mr. Gale, that he had been an active worker not only among the young people, but he had devoted years of service to commun... projects, charity and school committees.

Outstanding

He described Mr. Gale as an outstanding member of one of the city's service clubs, and spoke of his organisation of the successful appeal for a relief vehicle for the Salvation Army; a charity ball which ultimately raised $15,000 for local charities, and fund-raising effort for the fire brigades.

CHILDREN MOLESTED AT THE BASIN

Residents have expresed concern at the bullying and intimidation indulged in by youths who are terrorising several of the school children on their way from school. Strong action will be taken by parents if there is any repetition.

Army land rezoning

REZONING of Salvation Army owned rural land in The Basin will not necessarily lead to subdivision, the project's planning consultants said this week.

Last week Knox Council voted to prepare a planning scheme amendment to rezone a portion of the Army's land on Mountain Hwy, west of Melbourne Water's storage tanks, to a residential zoning. The land is currently zoned as special uses.

Rezoning would pave the way for subdivision into 725 square metre residential blocks, but Greg Tulloch from planning consultants and architects Perrott Lyon Mathieson, said the Salvation Army has no plans to subdivide at this stage and is simply broadening its long-term options.

The amendment will be placed on public display for one month.

Satan 'Ordered Woman's Death'

MELBOURNE, Monday. — "Satan has directed me and I have killed," an alleged murderer had said when captured on a bush road, the Prosecutor, Mr. P. Mullaly, said in the Criminal Court to-day.

The man had been captured near the camp of recluse psychiatrist Dr. Annie Yoffa, 68.

The old woman, camped in the bush for 10 years, was "the Mother of Israel" and had to be "destroyed," the man later told police, according to Mr. Mullaly.

Victor Maxwell Jones, 28, gold prospector, of Greenvale, is charged with the murder of Dr. Yoffa.

Mr. Mullaly said Jones had beaten Dr. Yoffa to death with a tent pole and sapling lengths he broke off at Dr. Yoffa's tent camp at The Basin, in the Dandenong Ranges.

Dr. Yoffa was killed on February 18, 1959, but Jones was certified insane a few days later and had been in and out of mental institutions until a recent declaration that he was fit to stand trial.

Mr. Mullaly said two "terribly battered" body.

The men went back to the road and down it half-a-mile and saw Jones in the centre of the road.

When told he would be taken to a police station, Jones replied, "Satan has directed me and I have killed." He kept muttering about Devil," he told police.

The trial will resume tomorrow.

BACK in December young Laraine Petrie hit the headlines when she dragged an elderly woman from their burning Boronia home.

Tonight, local citizens have arranged a bright variety show at the Progress Hall, The Basin, to raise funds for her family.

Snow in The Basin

The readers may find the attached photo to be of interest. The house was built in the late 1940s, on Mountain Highway, the Basin: opposite the Salvation Army grazing paddocks, between Augusta Road and Stanley Street.

Initially I thought it may be of interest because of the snow. The photo was taken at the beginning of June or July, 1951. (I cannot remember which but I'm leaning towards July) That was the year my family moved from Caulfield to The Basin and we couldn't believe we had snow. I was rather surprised, when I went to catch the bus, at the shops, there were grown men in the middle of the intersection engaged in an almighty snowball fight.

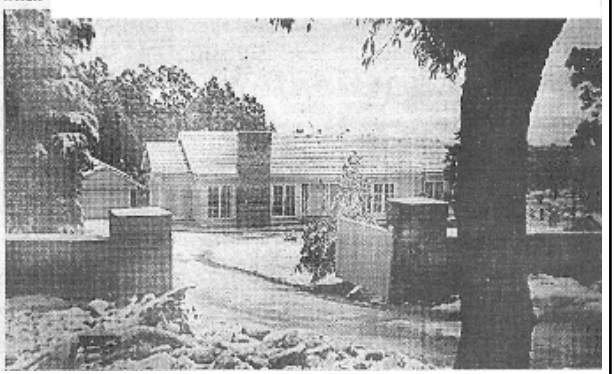
But then, I thought some history might also be of interest.

My father bought the house from Stanley (?) Ralph. It was situated on six acres. I think Mr. Ralph had owned quite a large amount of land in that area and had developed it. The builder of the houses in Mountain Highway and Stanley Street was a Mr. Jeffries/eys. He lived at the end of Stanley Street, along with the 'Otten' family. Just down from our house were the 'van Tols' and the 'Hills' and perhaps Mr Ralph's brother. On the eastern corner of Stanley Street and Mountain Highway there was a Mr. Cyril Rich.

No doubt there will be readers who can fill in the gaps.

The house was sold in 1972 through Fr. King, to the church. It was leased until about 1982, when the construction of St. Bernadettes was commenced.

Frances Radford, The Basin.



Chapter 13 Recreation Reserves and Parks

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Summary

Wicks Memorial Reserve is situated on the corner of The Basin-Olinda Road and Wicks Road and is named in memory of the Wicks family. It was created in 1942 when the Shire of Ferntree Gully purchased 9 acres of land from Emily Wicks.

Batterham Reserve is situated on Miller Road and is named in memory of Edgar Rowlstone (Rowley) Batterham who sold the land to The Shire of Fern Tree Gully for the Reserve. In 2025, the reserve is home to The Basin Football, Cricket, Netball and Batterham Tennis Clubs.

Mortiboy Reserve is situated on the corner of Stewart Street and Augusta Road and is named in memory of Mr. Ted Mortiboy who originally owned the land. Mortiboy Reserve was purchased from Ted Mortiboy by the Knox Council in the mid 1970s.

Grumont Reserve is situated at the end of Stanley Street. It was created in 1974 as part of the Goodwin Estate. The name "*Grumont*" is in recognition of George Grumont, a resident of The Basin for over 60 years.

Gravenstein Reserve is situated on Gravenstein Crescent and was created in 1974 as part of the Goodwin Estate.

The Triangle is the area of land bounded by Forest Road, Mountain Highway and Church Street.

Distinguished Resident

John Mortimore

A long time resident of The Basin, John has worked tirelessly towards improving many of the facilities and serving the area's needs.

He served on The Basin Primary School council and taught photography at The Basin Community Centre. He was the key founder in establishing The Basin Music Festival, driving the redevelopment of The Triangle, upgrades to The Basin Progress Hall and redevelopment of The Basin Community House. His passion for the environment is reflected in his involvement in the Wicks Reserve Bio-Infiltration System. He was the editor of Boronia and The Basin Community News for over 25 years. He is a Life member of The Basin Fire Brigade.

He was elected to Knox Council in 2008 and became mayor in 2018.

Wicks Memorial Reserve

Wicks Memorial Reserve, known locally as Wicks Reserve, is situated on the corner of The Basin-Olinda Road and Wicks Road. It is named in memory of John Wicks, whose family had considerable influence in the early development of The Basin.

The reserve is located on land first owned by James John Miller. The land was mortgaged to the bank who foreclosed the property in 1899. The bank subdivided the property and in 1907 John Wicks purchased a 23 acre parcel.

John Wicks died in 1921 and probate was granted to his sisters Emily and Annie. Over time, they subdivided the land, and a parcel of around 9 acres was created suitable for a reserve.

As early as 1938, it was reported in The Argus that an area of land was offered to The Shire of Fern Tree Gully as a suitable site for a recreation ground.

In the early 1940s, the Shire of Fern Tree Gully Secretary (Mr Dance), inspected the Wicks land with Mr Bert Chandler as a possible site for a recreation ground.

The land proved suitable, and an approach was made to Emily and Annie to purchase the land. The Wicks family agreed, and the land was purchased by The Shire of Fern Tree Gully on 4th June 1942 for 250 pounds as shown in instrument number 1859440. The original Wicks farm and homestead were not on this land, but on the eastside of Wicks Road, which in 2025 is part "*Wicks East Nature Reserve*".

In mid 1948s, a "*John Wicks Memorial Park*" committee was created, and the group worked hard to develop the area. A member, Mr. Les Greenwell, cleared timber. The scheme for the 9 acres was to develop a park, and an attempt was made constructing an oval for use by The Basin Football Club. Drainage problems arose and, upon the proclamation of Batterham Reserve, interest declined in using this site for an oval. Students working on the much later bio-infiltration project in the 2010s, discovered small gravel trenches below the surface indicating some effort had been made to drain the area.

In 1965, the Knox Shire called for the election of a park committee and made a financial grant for earthworks. A picnic ground was created in 1968. The Council offered to build a pavilion and toilets if the Committee laid pipes to bring water from the north boundary to the pavilion. This was accomplished with the help of Barry Alexanderson and his tractor.

Council erected a rotunda with provision for seating up to 75 people and included four barbecues. Later improvements have included roofing the outside barbecue, installing playground equipment and picnic tables and creating nature walks.

Members of early committees were Randall Robinson, Bill Major, Arthur Jackson and Eric Johnson.

The reserve is a popular spot for family groups and social clubs who come from all over Melbourne, especially in Nov/Dec, to enjoy the open spaces and fresh air.

Sword-grass Brown Butterfly

Wicks Reserve has been recognised as having wildflowers and indigenous plant species with local significance. The reserve is a large area of remnant sclerophyll forest, unique areas of heath land and open grassed picnic areas. The reserve contains species of flora significant in Knox, including Swamp She-Oak, Scented Paperbark and the Small Grass Tree. The area is also home to the uncommon Sword-grass Brown Butterfly, as well as supporting a large diversity of bird and small mammal species.

In the 1980s, it was recognised that the Sword-grass Brown Butterfly was locally threatened due to loss of habitat, In particular, its larval food plant Gahnia Sieberiana (commonly known as Sword-grass or Red-fruited Saw-edge). The Sword-grass Brown Butterfly is dependent on habitat which contains the Red-fruited Saw-edge. This is the only food plant of the Sword-grass Brown Butterfly.

The Red-fruited Saw-edge as its name suggests, has sharp, cutting strap like leaves. When fruiting, the bright red seeds are conspicuous, hanging down from the old flower stem. It is a plant species found in wet and swampy forests. This habitat occurs in small isolated pockets within the City of Knox and in Wicks Reserve.

Sword-grass Brown Butterflies can be seen flying on sunny days in the warmer months, between November and March. They are typically seen flying around the Red-fruited Saw-edge. After mating, eggs are laid singly on the Red-fruited Saw-edge. Once the eggs hatch, the leaves of the Red-fruited Saw-edge becomes food for the developing caterpillar.

In the 1990s, several voluntary groups undertook planting of the Red-fruited Saw-edge in Wicks Reserve to increase the Sword-grass Brown Butterfly population.

Bio-infiltration Basin Project

On July 17th, 2011, a unique bio-infiltration system was officially opened in Wicks reserve. It is basically a large-scale rain-garden to help improve the health of Dobsons Creek into which storm water runs.

When the system was installed, it was the largest of its kind in Australia and the only one combining bio-filtration, infiltration and storm water harvesting.

The system captures storm water and filters it through layers of sandy soil and plants, and then passes this clean water back into Dobsons Creek. It protects animals, plants and fish relying on natural waterways for survival.

Dobsons Creek was selected for this project because it is in a catchment area with minimal storm water

degradation and is thus considered of high value and relatively inexpensive to restore.

The area also has unique environment issues including:

- Near Dandenong Creek, the site is on a corridor for daily and seasonal movements of birds and insects.
- Essential for waterway function is the floodplain. It attracts thousands of waterbirds during floods (even where no native vegetation exists), and several waterbird species are threatened.
- At least one roosting site for the vulnerable Powerful Owl exists.
- The waters of Dandenong Creek and Dobsons Creek support platypus, fish (including a locally rare species) and the smaller organisms supporting them.

Project initiatives included rainwater tanks for properties feeding water into Dobson Creek, and an extensive tiered bio-infiltration system in Golden Grove and Bowen Avenue within the council reserve immediately next to the creek

In September 2012, a suggestion to name the bio-infiltration system the "*Ferdinand Von Mueller Raingarden*" was implemented.

Wicks East Nature Reserve

This land was first owned by Janet Wicks as part of Crown allotment 75. It was subdivided into 2 parcels. The proprietors of the estate sold the 30 acre western parcel to John William Robinson on 9th October 1946 for 1800 pounds as shown in instrument number 2034211.

John Robinson died in 1966, and his son, Randall, took possession of the property in 1969. He subdivided the 30 acres. In 1972, he sold about 8 acres to the City of Knox for $14,500 as shown in instrument E318412. This became the Wicks East Nature Reserve.

Randall Robinson and his wife Helen sold the other 22 acres to the City of Knox in 1978 for $95,000 as shown in instrument number H151211. It may have been the intention to include this land in the Wicks East Nature Reserve. However, the City of Knox sold the land in 1985, and it became residential land.

Batterham Reserve

Batterham Reserve is situated on Miller Road and is named in memory of Edgar Rowlstone (Rowley) Batterham who sold the land to The Shire of Fern Tree Gully.

James John Miller was the original selector of Crown allotment 71 (see page 36) where Batterham Reserve is located. The swampy terrain was covered with Swamp Gum, Appletree Box and many shrubs, indigenous ferns and ti-tree. Miller had the area cleared and drained and created two trotting tracks (called the Trotto) which he used to train horses for many years. The track was still visible in the 1940s and was originally situated behind where St Bernadettes School is located in 2025, but not in the vicinity of Batterham.

The bank foreclosed on Miller, and they subdivided Crown allotments 71 and 74 into large parcels. Alfred Elliott Chandler purchased lot 1 (see page 17) of 38 acres in 1907 and sold it to John Maguire in 1911.

Three young male members of the Batterham family, who had recently been orphaned, went to live with Mr and Mrs John Maguire as foster children. The three Batterham boys served in the Army during the First World War and on returning, the youngest, Edgar (Rowley), married, and continued to work for John Maguire; he bought the 38 acres from John Maguire in 1920.

John Maguire was the father of Don Maguire, a well known member of The Basin community. John was born in Glenboge, Scotland and arrived in Melbourne as an infant. At the age of 13 he started work with the Dobson family and later worked for James Griffiths. After his marriage in 1913, he became a farmer.

In 1927, Boronia Church of Christ formed a cricket team, and Rowley, a member, offered his bottom paddock as their home ground. The efforts of several working bees saw a Lysterfield sand wicket constructed and this was used continuously until the outbreak of war in 1939.

After the war the Church of Christ continued to use the lower paddock as a member of the newly formed Ferntree Gully and District Cricket Association.

In 1947, Rowley decided to subdivide his property to create the Reserve and Reserve Extension Estates. Don Maguire was instrumental in having the Shire of Fern Tree Gully purchase an 11 acre area, in 2025 Batterham Reserve, to be used as a sporting development site. The purchase was made on 7th July 1950 for 1,000 pounds as shown in instrument number 2269622. The Shire had already made earlier requests for a committee of management in the local paper.

Fergus Chandler was approached by the Committee of Management to submit a landscape design for the entire area. Fergus carried this out free of charge, including a tree planting program. His design formed the basis for the layout of the Reserve which we see in 2025.

In early 1951, the Boronia Church of Christ were told by the Ferntree Gully and District Cricket Association to build a concrete pitch to conform to match standards. It was decided to clear the orchard to the south of the lower ground and lay the pitch on the new oval. This was carried out, and this ground was used for the 1951-1952 Cricket season.

The Basin Football Club began using the Reserve in 1948 after the proposed site of Wicks Reserve proved unsuitable. Southwest of the lower oval (beside the dam from which the football was frequently retrieved) was a bark and paling hut built by a working bee. This was used for the first two or three seasons and was supplemented by a tent supplied by Arthur Cooper.

Later, the Reserve had a need for clubrooms for the sporting bodies which used the facility and so Jack Wallace organised plans and a pavilion was built on the southern side of the reserve midway between the two ovals with Jack's name.

This "*tin shed*" served for many years until a new brick pavilion was opened in 1979. The new pavilion was opened by the Mayor of Knox Cr. Marie Wallace and Mrs Batterham, widow of Rowley. Three of her daughters were also present. The building was named The D P Maguire Pavilion in recognition of Don Maguire's contribution as a member of the reserve committee for more than 33 years. In 1990 a new brick storeroom and scoreboard were opened and named in honour of Arthur Cooper who had served the reserve committee for more than forty years.

In 1960, an area towards Millers Road was levelled and covered with crushed rock and salamander and was used for some years for Basketball. An even greater need for Tennis Courts arose, and as the interest in Basketball had waned, the area would be used to build two tennis courts. The Batterham Tennis Club was formed and has used the facilities ever since.

Improvements included the installation of floodlights to help with night football training and the total reconstruction of the lower oval to transform it into a high standard ground. This reconstruction included a new boundary fence containing a reticulated water system for summer watering. A program for the planting of ornamental and other trees to Fergus Chandler's original plan greatly enhanced the parkland effect of the reserve.

The sporting facilities of the reserve are heavily used, particularly the ovals, with not only The Basin teams using them, but also local schools and social groups booking them when they are available.

The reserve is owned by Knox Council and users pay rent.

In 2018, the local owners of the renowned Como Gardens Estate in The Basin, George and Pat Hetrel, donated $1,000,000 towards upgrading the facilities at the reserve. Together with $150,000 from the Australian Government, $25,000 from The Basin Football Club and $25,000 from the Knox Council, the upgrades coped with the massive increase in numbers, particularly junior and female football.

In summary, the upgrades were:

- **New changing facility**. To cater for increased participation, particularly in women's sport.
- **Change rooms extension**. To accommodate girls and women.
- **New floodlighting**. Relocation of lights from main oval to top oval.
- **Cricket nets**. Replacement of existing nets to multipurpose curtain-like nets.
- **New pathways**. All-ability footpaths circling the ovals.

Batterham Reserve has come a long way from the days when Don Maguire would use his draught horses to mow the lower oval before cricket matches. The decision by the old Ferntree Gully Council to purchase the land for future development of sporting facilities has certainly been vindicated.

Mortiboy Reserve

Mortiboy Reserve, on corner of Stuart Street and Augusta Road, is named in memory of Mr Ted Mortiboy who originally owned the land the reserve is situated on. The land was purchased from Ted Mortiboy by the Knox Council in the 1970s.

Ted, a keen scouter, bought 4 blocks of land in Stuart Street in the 1920s and often brought his troop, the 6th Malvern Scouts, there for weekend camps. A bunkhouse was built and many a pleasant weekend enjoyed. Camp fire "*singsongs*", and the appearance of "*The Ghost of Sassafras*" on initiation nights were features of these outings.

Ted and his scouts attended to the scene of the first Boronia level crossing accident on 27 April 1926 to render help to the injured survivors. A plaque on Mortiboy reserve commemorates the efforts of the scouts:

"*DEDICATED TO THE 6TH MALVERN SCOUT GROUP, AWARDED THE MEDAL OF MERIT FOR THEIR RESCUE WORK AT THE BORONIA RAILWAY CROSSING TRAIN CRASH IN 1926*"

Praise also came from the Governor (and chief scout) of NSW.

In later years, 1st The Basin Scouts used a bunkhouse on the property as a meeting place. This facility greatly helped group planning and training in those early days. It is unknown what became of the bunkhouse.

In 1949, Ted became the proprietor of the Wine Saloon on Mountain Highway, Bayswater.

Ted was President of The Basin Progress Association from 1945 to 1949. He once stood for Ferntree Gully Council against Brigadier Inglis of the Salvation Army, but as Ted explained, the "*Devil drink*" (he was then Bayswater wine saloon proprietor) had little chance against the Salvation Army.

The reserve once had a circle of pine trees, each one planted from a seedling by a scout awarded his Patrol Leaders stripes. In 2017, due to the pine trees impacting on power lines, the council replaced some with native plants.

Mortiboy Reserve is relatively small and undeveloped.

George Grumont Reserve

Grumont Reserve in situated at the end of Stanley Street. It was created in 1974 when the Goodwin Estate was

created.

The name "*Grumont*" is in recognition of George Grumont, a resident of The Basin for over 60 years, who contributed much to the development of the area.

George arrived in The Basin in 1911 with his parents and older sister. His father took up the position as gardener at "*Ferndale*". George was heavily involved in many local activities including The Basin Tennis Club, The Basin Badminton Club and The Basin Progress Association.

Gravenstein Reserve

Gravenstein Reserve is situated on Gravenstein Crescent. It was created in 1974 when the Goodwin Estate was created in the area once used as an apple and cherry orchard. The name "*Gravenstein*" follows the naming of areas in the estate after types of apples.

The reserve is relatively undeveloped, but is well-used.

The Triangle

The area of land known as "*The Triangle*" is the land bounded by Forest Road, Mountain Highway and Church Street. So named because its shape is an approximate triangle. It was part of a subdivision in the early 1920s as part of Chandler's Hill Estate and a few homes and shops were built on the blocks created.

The Basin Progress Association fought for many years to have this area declared and converted to a "*passive park*". See pages 61 and 276 for more information.

Centenary Garden

In 1967, The Basin celebrated its centenary. As a permanent reminder, a small cairn, with a suitably inscribed plaque, was erected on a piece of land generously donated by the Salvation Army to The City of Knox as shown in instrument number E932390. The land is approx 50 m x 70 m.

The land is opposite the roundabout near The Basin Progress Hall and called "*The Basin Centenary Garden*". Beside the cairn is a tree planted at the same time.

Other Reserves

Other minor reserves are:

- Winby Court Reserve. Land acquired in the early 1980s by the City of Knox when the area was subdivided by "*Winby Pty Ltd"*.
- Academy Drive Reserve. Acquired by the City of Knox when the Mountain Gateway Estate was created.
- Arcadia Avenue Linear Reserve. Created in the Nareen Park Estate. Originally called the "*Fern Gully Reserve*".
- Arcadia Avenue Reserve. Half of this reserve was originally planned as a future road in the Reserve Estate Extension but later acquired for a reserve. The other half is between lots 173 and 174 in the subdivision that created Rome Beauty Avenue.

Sources of Information

- "*The Basin Centenary Booklet*" by Ron Ikin.
- "*Fire on the Hill, Flowers on the Valley*" by Rick Coxhill.
- Boronia & The Basin Community News for information on the Sword-grass Brown Butterfly.
- Newsletter of the Sword-grass Brown Butterfly Project.
- Knox Council for information on the bio-infiltration system.
- Landata website for information on titles. subdivisions and reserves.

George and Pat Hetrel donate $1 million to transform Batterham Reserve

A couple's lifetime of generosity has culminated in a $1 million gift to The Basin community.

Local owners of the renowned Como Gardens estate in The Basin, George and Pat Hetrel, have just provided a cheque to Knox City Council to transform nearby Batterham Reserve into a landmark sports and leisure precinct.

Knox Mayor John Mortimore has praised the couple for their "incredible generosity" and love for the community.

"I'm still trying to believe it!" Mayor Mortimore said. "I'd been speaking with them over recent weeks as they prepared to make the donation, and can't wait to see it put to good use.

"While I'm still astounded, it's so typical of George and Pat to do something special to help the local community."

Not only have George and Pat provided this outstandingly generous financial support, they are the driving force behind many of the improvements that will now take place at the Reserve.

The timing is great," he added. "Right now, the Batterham clubs are in desperate need of more facilities to cope with the massive increase in numbers, particularly junior and female teams."

Generous 'for years'

"George and Pat have been doing this sort of thing for years," he said. "Through their Open Days and Como Gardens they have supported such vital groups as St John Ambulance, the State Emergency Service and The Basin Fire Brigade."

The cheque was presented to the Mayor in private during recent weeks, so that staff could safely deposit the gift and immediately plan for its use.

"Not one cent will be wasted," the Mayor added. "In fact, our teams are working to deliver specific ideas for improving this much-loved facility at Batterham Reserve.

"For example, improving facilities for the significant growth in women's sport is behind the change rooms

Change rooms extension: New & better facilities to accommodate girls and women at Batterham $220,000

New flood lighting Relocation of existing flood lighting from main oval to top oval $75,000

Cricket nets Replacement of existing cricket nets so that new multipurpose curtain-like nets can accommodate cricket and other sports $250,000

New pathways Adding in a new all-ability footpath network around both ovals $235,000

Total Estimate of Cost **$998,500**

Perfect Timing

The timing for the enhancement works is perfect, the Mayor explained when presenting a certificate of appreciation to George and Pat Hetrel at Council's 28 May Ordinary Meeting.

"We have just started replacing the existing floodlight towers at Batterham Reserve's main oval with towers that can provide an enhanced coverage of light across the oval," the Mayor explained.

"That was because of another couple of generous contributions made by both The Basin Football Club for $25,000, and the Australian Government for $150,000." Knox City Council contributed $25,000 from its 2017-18 Budget for the works.

Pat and George's gift means that the existing floodlights can be moved to the second oval at the same time – which will mean that this facility can be used for junior and senior training throughout the winter months.

"Now, with the money to be able to do additional works, this whole precinct is effectively getting a facelift that will make it one of the best facilities in the City of Knox," the Mayor said.

Special thanks from clubs

A special combined clubs thankyou announcement was held last week on Thursday 24 May to allow members, players and supporters to meet George and Pat Hetrel and show their appreciation.

Representing the local clubs was Matt Young, President of The Basin Junior Football Club, who praised the Hetrels for being such humble and community-minded individuals. Mr Young said the massive growth in numbers experienced by clubs using the Reserve would enable plans for better facilities to be fulfilled. "The dream is about to become reality!" he said.

Also present at the 24 May event was President of The Basin Cricket Club, Steve Porch, and President of The Basin Football and Netball Club, Alex Winters.

The Basin John Wicks Memorial Park

The new committee of the John Wicks Memorial Park, who have been in office for six months have worked wonders and the area has been vastly improved.

The ground which was waterlogged, covered with the stumps of huge trees and overgrown with ti-tree and scrub has been cleared, thanks to generous donors and active working bees and is now ready to be sown with grass in the early Autumn.

The committee plans further amenities which will add to the pleasure and comfort of all players and visitors.

The committee is anxious to sustain interest in this beautiful park which is situated at the foot of Mount Dandenong in a delightful position. They invite residents to visit the park and help with donations and labour. The energetic secretary of the committee is Mr L. Greenwall of Forest Road, The Basin.

Recreation Oval for The Basin

FERN TREE GULLY, Wednesday.—The Fern Tree Gully council has purchased an area of land valued at £1000 for the purpose of constructing a recreation oval at The Basin.

Cricket and football had been unofficially played on portion of the land, which has recently been subdivided.

Basin Recreation Reserve

The Basin Recreation ground is taking shape and is just about ready for the grader.

However, there is still a little work to be done particularly in burning out a few stumps, and if possible a working bee could be formed it would reduce the time lag considerably and enable the Recreation committee to put its many plans into effect.

Volunteers can contact the secretary of the committee.

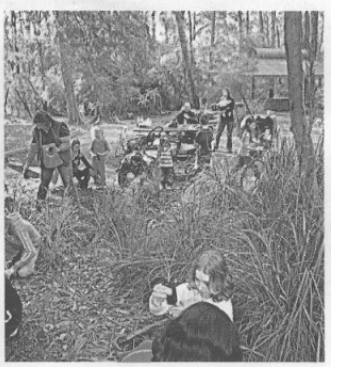
A dance will be held at Progress hall, September 13, a novelty monte carlo, prizes to consist of poultry.

The executive of this reserve would ask all young men and women of the district to support this dance, much depends on the finance as to whether cricket will be played Support your local dance. Art Franklin's Band will be playing.

The Women's Committee are working hard for the young men and women, in return help them with this dance.

Beauty and the Beasts...

It's time to get the deviants and dealers out of our lovely Wicks Reserve.



The beauty and serenity of our Wicks Reserve has once again been compromised by deviants looking in the wrong places to satisfy their urges, be they physical or chemical. Coming on top of a serious problem with the toilets for a recently picnicking family group, the unedifying spectacle of various deviants hanging around with no care for anythingbut the isolation and solitude to indulge their desires is dragging this lovely bush park down to the standard we rescued it from about eight years ago.

Next week I'm meeting with Boronia Police and Knox Council officers to begin work on a strategy to rescue our lovely reserve and return it to its rightful owners, meaning all of us. This is a place to enjoy the bush, let the kids play, get together with friends and, above all, feel safe. As our campaign gathers momentum I'll be keeping you all informed of our moves and progress.

John Mortimore.

Chapter 14 The Basin Scouts and Guides

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Summary

In 1957, the Ferntree Gully District Association sponsored a closed Scout Troop operating at the Salvation Army Home in The Basin. This group was called 2nd The Basin because scouting rules would not allow for a closed group to be designated "1st".

The appearance of uniformed scouts in The Basin evoked enough interest to form an "*open*" 1st The Basin Group. The first meeting was held in April 1958 at a garage on the property of Mr. and Mrs. Taudevin at 26 Augusta Road.

Over the years, meeting places included various garages until the Presbyterian Church building in Forest Road was purchased in 1964. When this burnt down in 1972, St. Mary's Church Hall, The Basin Progress Hall and The Salvation Army Special School were all used at times. In 1988, after many years of searching and controversy, a new custom tailored hall was opened on The Triangle using mostly voluntary labour.

The first Guide and Brownies groups in The Basin were formed at public meeting held in April 1964. The first Guide company and Brownie pack began operation later that year.

The Scouts and Guides used the same meeting places and when the new hall was opened in 1988, they both also used the facility for a while but later the Guides moved to a hall in Boronia.

Distinguished Resident

Bill Major

After moving to The Basin in 1973, Bill Major was involved with nearly every community group in The Basin. President of The Basin Primary School Committee, Member of the Wicks Reserve Committee, President of the Doongala Pony Club, Co-ordinator of The Basin Primary School Centenary Celebrations and Scout Group Leader were some of Bill's more formal involvements. In between these commitments he made time for Basketball, St. Mary's Church, Brownies, Kindergarten and other interests outside The Basin. A versatile man indeed!

Bill contributed enormously to The Basin community and had the continual support of his family. They watched him depart at night to attend unending meetings; weekends involved in maintenance projects and opened their home for fund-raising social events on many occasions.

Bill was the winner from his community efforts; he gained many friends that he knew would see him through the good and bad times; he had a social and enjoyable life and every good turn he did was repaid many times over.

The Basin Scouts and Cubs

The story of 1st The Basin Scout Troop would not be complete without mention of two earlier Scouting events connected with The Basin.

1. Use of the property on the corner of Augusta Road and Stewart Street, in the 1930s, by scouts from the 6th Malvern Troop, under the leadership of Ted Mortiboy. In 2025, this property is called Mortiboy Reserve. It was purchased by the Knox Council from Ted Mortiboy in the middle 1970s. On the property was a circle of pine trees, each one planted as a seedling by a scout after awarded his Patrol Leaders stripes. In later years the house on the property was loaned to 1st The Basin Scouters as a meeting place. This facility greatly helped group planning and training in those early days.
2. In 1957, the Ferntree Gully District Scout Association sponsored a 2nd The Basin scout group at the Salvation Army Bayswater Boys Home. This group was called 2nd The Basin because scouting rules would not allow for a closed group to be designated "1st". The Salvation Army group was initially run by several Scouters from the Ferntree Gully District, until Councillor Guy Turner obtained the services of Des Smith, who officially became Scout Master on 1st December 1957. He served in this capacity until 1st October 1958.

The appearance of uniformed scouts in The Basin evoked interest from several parents who asked their sons be allowed to join. This was impossible as 2nd The Basin was a closed group. However, interest grew, and it was decided at a public meeting to form an "*open*" The Basin Group. Under the guidance of District Commissioner O. E. Gepp and District Scoutmaster Jim "*Silver*" Billinghurst, 1st The Basin was formed. Des Smith agreed to take the job of Group Scoutmaster until another Scouter could be found.

Red and green were chosen for the Group colours to match the Eastern Rosella colours, which were common in the district. The Basin Football Club and The Basin Primary School also use these colours. The original Rosella scarf badges were all hand embroidered by Mrs Riverans who lived on Mountain Highway. The Scout District emblem then was a silver bracken fern frond on a black background. See the insert on page 337 for information on the badge.

The Scouts and Cubs first meeting was held in April 1958 at a garage on the property of Mr. and Mrs. Taudevin at 26 Augusta Road. Scouts and Cubs met on the same day as this was the only time the garage was available. Furniture consisted of a chair and a packing case.

The first cub pack met under the leadership of Marj Woollard, the first Akela. Another Scouter was found for the Salvation Army Group and Des Smith transferred his warrant permanently to 1st The Basin on 1st October 1958. The Group was fortunate in its early days to have the services of leaders of the calibre of Marj Woollard and Des Smith.

The garage in Augusta Road soon became too small as numbers grew, and a new meeting place found in a larger garage at the rear of Howe's Greengrocer shop in Forest Road (this shop later become the Forest Lodge Restaurant and in 2025 is The Acorn on Forest). This garage was available at any time, so the Scouts and Cubs could meet on different days. Conditions were still fairly primitive, but enthusiasm did not dim. The floor of the garage was red scoria, which after some vigorous activity caused a red smog to fill the air.

A parents' committee was formed and held regular meetings in the "*Scout Hall*". Several fund-raising activities were held, and although money was urgently required for equipment and a Scout Hall, the helping of others was not forgotten. A special activity raised a substantial sum of money to help The Basin Fire Brigade purchase a new vehicle.

In December 1960, David Rickard and Wayne Watson attended the Pan Pacific Jamboree at Lansdowne in NSW.

Councillor Guy Turner was actively working in the Ferntree Gully Council to get a site for the erection of a hall. Two sites were under discussion, Wicks Memorial Reserve and land in Conyers Street at the rear of the Health Centre. Mr. "*Wally*" Beazley produced a design of a hexagonal shaped hall for consideration. It was decided to name the future hall "*The Guy Turner Memorial Scout Hall*", but when it was discovered donations to the building fund were not claimable as a tax deduction, the name of the proposed building was changed to "*Guy Turner (War Memorial) Scout Hall*" as tax deductions were allowable for war memorial buildings.

Whilst still at Howe's garage, the first Summer camp was held at Butterfield Flat, near Monbulk. The Salvation Army provided a truck for transport.

David Rickard became the Group's first, First Class Scout and consequently the first Troop Leader. Another first was the winning of the Eden Park Challenge Trophy, a competition open to Tenderfoot and Second Class Scouts only.

The Group soon outgrew the garage and The Basin Progress Hall was used. Steady growth continued in all sections of the Group and fund-raising became more adventurous. To mention a few; there was a supper

The Plastic Pigs

One of the fund-raising efforts in the late 1950s involved the sale of large plastic piggy banks. Mrs Beasley, of The Basin-Olinda Road, collected them from a friendly manufacturer in Moorabbin. One large collection filled the rear of her car and any sudden braking treated the driver to a shower of pigs, much to the amusement of other motorists.

dance, a Christmas bazaar and a mini gang show. Another event which originated then was the annual "*Midnight Hike*" from The Basin to the top of Mount Dandenong, via the SEC track. Few of the scouts from those early days will forget the adventurous "*Wide Games*" devised by Des Smith and played out on the moonlit paddocks of the Salvation Army.

The Group was offered, and purchased, the Special State School gymnasium, which stood in Liverpool Road with the idea of relocating it for use as a Scout Hall. The building proved impossible to move, and the building wrecked, with all usable material sold for a good profit.

Part of an oak sideboard once owned by James John Miller came into the possession of Des Smith who carved a shield from it. The shield was presented to the district as a Scout competition trophy. Challenged by a team from the Bayswater Troop for its possession, 1st The Basin successfully resisted the challenge and were the first to record their name on the shield.

A Senior Troop was formed with several of the Seniors helping as instructors in the Cub Pack and Scout Troop. Leaders increased with Des Smith as Group Scout Master, Marj Woollard as Lady Cub Master with assistants Mary McGillwray, Anne Revill, Audrey Foggitt and Lynda Smith. The Scoutmaster was Ken Gould with assistants Vernon Roy, David Rickard and Eric Lock was Senior Scout Leader with assistants Tom Bedohazy and Terry Elliot. In 1963 the Troop was renamed the 5th Knox.

A Scout Hall became number one priority when the Group was unable to get enough bookings at The Progress Hall to accommodate the expanding organisation which numbered 42. The senior troop was meeting in Grange Road State School in Boronia. The Group also had a lease on some land at the rear of The Basin Kindergarten, although this was relinquished in 1967. Several discussions were held with local and district Girl Guide leaders to share a hall and fund-raising. However, no agreement could be reached.

Around this time, the Elders of the Presbyterian Church, which stood on the corner of Forest Road and Church Street made a decision to move to Boronia.

Back Row *L-R Loraine Jackson, Alice Kingma, Lynette Whittleston, Barbara Cartmel*
Front Row *L-R Vivian Kirkam, Wendy Frost, Lynda Watson, Mandy Noone*
The first Brownie Pack in The Basin 1964. Taken outside the old Scout Hall in Church Street.
Photo courtesy Sue Anderson.

Wishing their vacated building would be put to a good use, they approached Des Smith with an offer of purchase. After delicate discussions, The Boys Scouts Association of Victoria purchased the Presbyterian Church land and building on the 4th October 1967 for $5,600 as shown in instrument number C901425. This became the 5th Knox Scout Hall.

The new hall seemed a prize. The building was in an elevated position facing down Forest Road and on freehold land that could only appreciate in value. However, a few problems became evident:

- The corner was busy as Church Street was a shortcut to and from Mountain Highway (in 2025, the shortcut is closed).
- The land sloped and was not ideal for outdoor activities.
- There was a Right-of-Way beside the property connecting Forest Road to View Road, and it was not fenced, which could mean considerable fencing cost.

In January 1965 Ken Gould took over as Scoutmaster. Staunch committee members over these years included Mesdames Watson, Keable, Brown and Messrs. Wilder, Watson, Foley, Churchland and Keable.

Phil Molesworth took over as Scoutmaster in 1966 after Ken Gould left leaving Vernon Roy in charge. Then, Phil lived in Thornbury and commuted to The Basin from there. Phil stayed until September 1967 when he was conscripted. Phil was discharged in December 1967 and in January 1968 moved to The Basin. Imagine his surprise when The Basin Scout Troop came to his home and asked him to return as they had no scout leader. Phil stayed until mid-1971 and was instrumental in helping John Maas gain his Queen Scout, the first for The Basin Troop.

In 1971, a brick extension to the Hall was added to.

Story of the Fern Tree Gully District Badge

The District Badge worn by all Scouts and Cubs is a symbol not only of the fern glades that abound in our district, but of the Boy Scout Movement.

On close study, you will notice the frond is not fully grown. Hence, anything not fully grown must have movement. As the brotherhood of Scouts is always growing, it must always be known as a movement.

Every solid construction must have a strong foundation; the fern stem proves itself here as it will not shed its leaves even in death. The leaves themselves also depict the older and younger members of our brotherhood. The lower leaves depict the Scouters who train the boys in the arts of scouting, the slight curl in this leaf denoting that a Scouter has a chance to grow (not upwardly or outwardly as some do) and he can improve his knowledge by attending his training course. As we move up the stem we have Rovers seeking to further their knowledge on one side. We move further up and find the Senior Scouts are doing likewise on both sides. Then on to the Boy Scouts, to whom our founder Lord Baden Powell dedicated the movement.

At the top we have the bud, signifying the Wolf Cubs who are looking to all those before them for survival in this wonderful movement. The partly opened bud signifying the promise of the future; truly the Scouts of tomorrow.

Shortly after this in 1972 the Hall was burnt down under suspicious circumstances. A large amount of gear and records were also lost. Luckily, the hall was insured with the Scout Association, although the group had difficulty getting money from the Association for the Hall insurance.

The loss of the Hall was a blow to the group and for a while fund-raising was at an all-time high. The community was sympathetic to the group, and a large amount of money was raised. Thought was given to rebuilding the Hall on the same site, but it was unsuitable for a Scout Hall and the Council would not issue a permit to rebuild on the site.

Section meetings were held at St. Mary's Hall for about one year, and later at The Basin Special School Gym. Without a permanent storage area, gear was stored with various families and at the above two venues.

In 1978 the troop name was changed back to 1st The Basin. This was in line with a new policy to name troops according to their district and gives more identity to the name.

In 1979 a Ladies Auxiliary was formed. In this year three members — Scott Brennan, Glenn Butcher and Ian Winkworth attended the 12th Australian Jamboree. In 1982, Mark Ray, Simon Major and Stuart Laird attended the Jamboree at Collingwood Park, Ipswich. Queensland.

In 1983, 1st The Basin won every competition in the District and 1st The Basin Venturer unit was formed. In 1985, Stuart Dorwood, Matthew Major, Matthew Kelly, Karl Meerten and Stuart Blegg attended the Jamboree at Cataract Park. NSW.

Committee representatives for the years 1971-1985 include Goodman, Winkworth, Aroin, Hacking, Heard, Williams, Newman, Bell, Tomlinson, Wood, Brennan, Bloomer, Bettens, Major, Butcher, Short, Moorfoot, Spiteri, Coxhill, Hudson and Whalan.

After the loss of the hall, the Troop had been searching for another site. Sites offered by the Council included The George Grumont Reserve (rejected by community) and Batterham and Wicks Reserves (rejected by the troop as unsuitable). In 1980, Knox Council offered land on The Triangle. With plans in progress for a new hall, The Boys Scouts Association of Victoria sold the Church Street site in November 1981 as shown in instrument number J716371.

Over the next few years, plans were considered for a new Hall. The Basin Progress Association was against having a Scout Hall on The Triangle as they claimed they had an agreement with The City of Knox land on The Triangle be restricted to "*passive park*" although this "*agreement*" was not in writing. Thereafter, ensued a public debate between the Scout Troop community and The Basin Progress Association. At one stage the Scout Troop had a publicity caravan at the Service Station in the main street. Eventually, Knox Council decreed the

site be used for a Scout Hall.

In 1984, a building committee was formed consisting of Irene Major, Ron Short, Gus Pearl, Alan McIntyre, Ian Dorwood and Paul Navarro. Irene Major took on the task of building co-ordinator. A permit was obtained, and building commenced. The building was financed by the insurance from the old Hall, sale of land (old Hall site) and funds raised (approximately $40,000 in total). Except for bricklaying, the hall was built entirely by voluntary labour with special help from Ian Dorwood.

In 1987, the Rotary Club of Boronia fitted the roof to the hall. Internal work was finished, and a certificate of occupancy granted.

In 1988 the hall was finished, and the hall was officially opened by members of the troop in front of an entourage of community members and local dignitaries. A 30th birthday party was held at the same time to commemorate 30 years of the group. The hall was also used by The Basin Guides and Brownies for a time, but they later moved to a hall in Boronia.

In 1988, Matthew Hellier, Luke Hellier, Jason

Back Row *Shirley Frost (Lieutenant), Anne-Marie Zaics, Lenise Easley, Sue Anderson (Captain)*
Middle Row *Janice Gould, Robyn Ritchie, Ann Shanks, Leonie Noone, Margaret Smith*
Front Row *Carol de Hass, Gabrielle McDonald*
The first Guide Company in The Basin 1964. Taken inside old Scout Hall in Church Street.
Photo courtesy Sue Anderson

Spiteri, Robert Elery, Ben McManus and Paul Lowe attended the Jamboree at Adelaide.

Group leaders since 1973 have been John Brennan, David Aroin, Stewart Tomlinson, Bill Spiteri, Bill Major and Phillip Ball.

Queen Scouts are listed in the Appendixes.

Other major awards over the years are the Premier Scout Award to James Aroin in 1998 and to Timothy Evans in 2000. The Adventurer Cord to James Aroin in 1998 and the Medallion Award to Kelsey Campbell in 2012. David Aroin was awarded the Silver Wattle in 1998 as Group Leader.

The Basin Guides and Brownies

The first Guide company functioning in The Basin appears to have been in the 1920s but no evidence the company was officially registered could be found.

Before 1964, Basin girls of Brownie or Guide age had a wait of up to two years to join the Boronia pack.

On 28th July 1964, a public meeting was held in The Basin Progress Hall to propose forming a Guide association in The Basin. The response was overwhelming, and an association was formed with Mrs. Cartmel President, Mrs. Pritchett Secretary and Mrs. Kirkham Treasurer. The association was registered on 14th August 1964. These then became the executive of the first Guides and Brownies based in The Basin.

The 1st Basin Brownies pack of eight girls commenced on 18th September 1964 under Mrs. R. C. Brown (Brown Owl) and Mrs. Brenda Jackson (Tawny Owl). The pack was registered on 12th March 1965. The girls in this first pack were Loraine Jackson, Alice Kingma, Lynette Whittleston, Barbara Cartmel, Vivian Kirkham, Wendy Frost, Elynda Watson and Mandy Noone (see photo on page 336).

A second pack of 6 was registered on 21st September 1978 and commenced on 23rd September 1978. Leaders were Marilyn Simonsen and Alida Van Dongen. The second pack joined with first pack some years later.

A third pack of 6 commenced on 10th September 1980 and was registered on 20th October 1980. Leaders were Mrs J. R. Hudson and Mrs A. Goodwin.

A notable cub leader was Dianne Aroin who served for 20 years before retiring in 1995.

The guide company of nine girls commenced on 26th October 1964 with leaders Sue Anderson (Captain) and Mrs. Shirley Frost (Lieutenant). The company was registered on 21st December 1964. The girls in this first company were Anne-Marie Zaicz, Lenise Easley, Janice Gould, Robyn Ritchie, Ann Shanks, Leonie Noone, Margaret Smith, Carol De Haas and Gabrielle McDonald (see photo on page 338).

1st The Basin Gumnut Guide Unit was registered and commenced operation on 8th October 1993 with leaders Mrs Margaret Jones and Miss Meagan Shepherd

Cassandra Aroin was the first 1st The Basin Guides to receive the Baden Powell award in September 1994.

The Marinda Ranger Guide Unit was registered on the 12th May 2009 with leader Kiri Ratcliffe

Special mention must be made of the service given to The Basin Guide Company by Sue Anderson. She was the first Guide leader in The Basin and was with the company for a total of fifteen years.

Sources of Information

- "*The Basin Centenary Booklet*" by Ron Ikin.
- "*Fire on the Hill, Flowers on the Valley*" by Rick Coxhill.
- Residents at the time of writing and former residents. Sheila Stancombe for Guide and Brownie information, Des Smith, David Rickard, Phil Molesworth and David Aroin for Scout and Cub information, Sue Anderson for early Guide & Brownie photos.
- Scouts Victoria and Guides Victoria websites and staff.

Scouts forced out

Scouts are being forced out of The Basin after 25 years because they don't have a home.

After eight frustrating years of trying to get a hall, the 1st Basin Scout Group has come to the end of its resources.

"We will either shut the scouts down altogether or move from the area," said the group leader, Mr Stuart Tomlinson.

Either way there will be no more scouting in The Basin.

Mr Tomlinson said morale in the 1st Basin Scouts is very low. "We have gone to the leaders, parents and boys so many times asking them to get enthusiastic and involved about a new home and each time it's fallen through.

"We are faced with losing many of our leaders, they have said if we don't have a final offer on a site by our annual meeting in March, they will drop out."

It was a bitter and disappointed Mr Tomlinson who told the history of the scout's long fight to stay in The Basin.

"We originally had our own hall on the corner of Forest Rd and Church St, but that burnt down in 1971 and we couldn't get a permit to rebuild on that site."

He said the scouts were offered the choice of several sites by Knox Council over the next few years, but they always fell through.

"It's normal for local councils to provide the land for scout halls," he said. "We have had the money for a hall for the past three years, we just can't get the land."

Finally council offered the scouts a site at The Basin Triangle where The Basin Elderly Citizens Club and The Basin Progress Association are situated.

"We just wanted a little part of that," Mr Tomlinson said. "But we heard the progress association was upset about our plans.

"We arranged a meeting with them to put our side of the story and hear their objections.

"Four people and a dog turned up to the meeting and the chairman said there weren't enough people to form a quorum, but he held an unofficial meeting so we could put our case forward.

"We understood the association fully supported us and indicated they would help us.

"However, we then found out the association had written to the council objecting to us."

Mr Tomlinson said the scouts had been fully supported by Cr Hurtle Lupton in their search for land.

"At the last council meeting before Christmas a motion was put forward that we be offered the site at The Basin Triangle, but Cr White gave notice of a rescission motion."

The rescission motion was withdrawn at last week's council meeting and will be discussed at council's March meeting.

"The city has got to make up its mind by its next meeting (March 3)," said Mr Lupton. "It has got to give the scouts a definite answer as to whether they can continue to operate in The Basin."

Cr Lupton said council had offered the scouts the use of a pavilion at three different reserves — Wicks Reserve, Batterham Reserve and George Grumont Reserve.

He said in each case the committee of management had turned down the scouts' request for facilities.

In a bid to keep the scouts at The Basin and retain the leaders, Cr Lupton has offered them a site on the corner of Army Rd and Market St, Boronia.

"It's out of The Basin but at least it's a site," he said.

● Mrs Sue Anderson of The Basin, with daughters Helen (left) and Penny, after the 10 years service award.

10 YEAR AWARD

Mrs Sue Anderson of The Basin has been awarded a long-service ribbon for 10 years with the guides.

"I get as much from the brownies as my kids do. It is a good hobby," she said.

Mrs Anderson, who interrupted 10 years service to have a family, started with a pack in Yarraville, and took her promise as a guide in 1955.

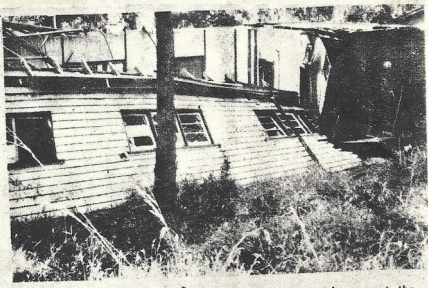
She joined the leaders ranks in 1962 becoming an assistant leader with the third East Ringwood guide company. In 1964 she started a guide company at The Basin.

Mrs Anderson's first Basin guide pack had six girls. It has grown to 18 girls in the guide pack with an additional three brownie packs each with 18 girls.

After having a break from the movement to raise her family she got back into the action in 1977 and became a leader of the one The Basin brownie packs.

Her eight-year-old daughter, Helen, is a member of the pack, and her elder daughter Penny, is a guide.

BURNT - OUT SCOUTS PLAN FETE



The 5th Knox Scout Group will hold a carnival and fete at Maguire Park, Boronia, from 9am to 9pm on July 20 to raise funds to rebuild their scout hall which was recently destroyed by fire.

Among the many attractions are a Ferris-Wheel, a Moonwalk, a trampoline, books, comics, balloons and plant stall as well as a White Elephant-Jumble Sale.

There will be a decorated bike competition with two attractive prizes, one for the winning boys and one for the best girl's bike.

Everyone can enter this competition and the entry fee is only 25c payable on the day and judging will start at 12 noon at the carnival.

The committee is negotiating further attractions including a judo demonstration, mini train and dodgem cars.

Refreshments will also be available with hamburgers, hot dogs, fairy-floss, tea, coffee, soft drinks, cakes, lollies etc.

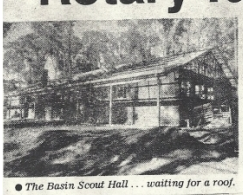
Unlike major disasters, where publicity and public support is plentiful, all fund-raising in this case is done the hard way. The committee is still seeking further help with some of their stalls. Donations of any kind are most welcome.

By donating it to the jumble sale you may well not only support the rebuilding of the scout-hall but you also make another happy buyer.

Any further information is available from the committee members by ringing one of the following numbers: Mrs Pat Lawson (Secretary) 762 2775, Mrs Joan Morse 231 1119, Mrs Francis Bell 729 9137, or Frits Tiekink (President) 231 2271.

Our photo shows section of the fire-destroyed hall.

Rotary raises the roof



● The Basin Scout Hall . . . waiting for a roof.

● Boronia Rotarians Geoff Spencer, Robert Armfield, Ted Gibbon, Doug Lee and Neville Sanders hard at work giving the scouts a roof over their heads.

The Basin's first scout group now has a roof over its head, thanks to a weekend of hard work by members of the Rotary and Rotaract clubs of Boronia.

Parents and friends of the scouts have been battling for more than a year to build a new hall to replace one which burned down in October, 1973.

With about $40,000 and a lot of voluntary work, the new brick hall had been built up by a series of working bees, to the stage where a roof was required.

A member of the building committee, Mrs Irene Major, said that until Rotary offered help, it appeared that the roof was a far-off dream.

"Without money to pay for the labor costs involved in fitting our roof and with only a handful of parents to assist, it looked as if it would take at least three months to complete the task," Mrs Major said.

But just two days of solid work by Rotary saw the roof completed.

Mrs Major said the hall might now be ready for use by Christmas.

"It will be a welcome sight to all the people who have waited 12 years for a new home for the scout group," she said.

In the meantime, the scouts have been meeting at The Basin Primary School.

Mrs Major said that having no hall or base in all that time had not dampened the enthusiasm of the scouts.

"In 1983, the troop won every trophy it competed for in the district," she said.

"Now they will have a home for those trophies."

She thanked the Rotarians and Rotaractors who gave up their time to help with the roof.

"We specially want to thank Roy Ritchie for telling Rotary about our plight, Tony Worley, Rotary president, for putting our case to his committee, and Graham Hayden, organiser, and his willing band of workers," Mrs Major said.

Double reason to celebrate

THE BASIN Scout troop will celebrate its 30th anniversary year with the opening of a new hall.

The hall replaces a previous one burnt in the 1971 bushfires.

The 1st The Basin Scout Hall was built by volunteer labor with great help from the Boronia Botary Club.

The building took three years of weekend and part-time work to complete.

All past scouts, leaders, friends and the public are invited to attend the opening on Saturday, May 28, at 2.30 pm. The hall is at the corner of Forest Rd and Church St, The Basin.

FROM left, The Basin scouts, David Killian, 10, Adam Small, 10, Dale Linaker, 9, and Aaron Gribble, rake in the leaves in preparation for the opening of the scout group's new hall on May 28.

Leaders 1st The Basin Scouts	
1957-1967	Desmond Smith, David Rickard, Ken Gould, John Brennan, Phillip Ball, Vernon Roy, Phil Molesworth, Thomas Bedohazy, James Billinghurst, Frank Guy, Eric Lock
1968-1977	Phil Molesworth,
1978-1987	David Aroin, Stewart Tomlinson, Bill Spiteri, Bill Major, Rodney Dux, Ian Laird, Christopher Lichfield-Bennet, Bill Major, Theresa Robertson, Bill Spiteri, Stewart Tomlinson

Leaders 1st The Basin Cub Scouts	
1957-1967	Vera Cass, Audrey Foggitt, Laraine Langdon, Laraine Petrie, Anne Revill, Woolard Marjorie
1968-1977	
1978-1987	Alena Beard, Edward Bettens, Jonathan Bloomer, Carol Brennan, Dianne Aroin, Graeme Hacking, Alison Heard, Irene Major, Bill Major, Lance Rechsteiner, Theresa Robertson, Terence Wade, Kathe Wood

1st The Basin Promise Challenge (Joey Scouts)	
Skyla Eaton	2015
Nicholas Cheetle	2015
Cassandra Gordon	2016
Cameron Park	2017

Leaders 1st The Basin Venturers	
1978-1987	Bobete Clarkson, Carol Ray
2024	Linda Gesthuizen

1st The Basin Grey Wolf Award (Cub Scouts)	
Charles De Castella	2012
Shawn Mitchell	2012
Alexander De Castella	2013
Madeline Dell	2014
Erika Gesthuizen	2014
Kayden Nye	2014
Kimberley Mitchell	2014
Allanah Major	2015
Edward (Ted) Chettle	2016
Natasha Walton	2016
Andrew Berezy	2016
Patrick Knight	2017
Amelia Grondman	2017
Mckenzie Evered	2017
Skyla Eaton	2017

1st The Basin Queen Scouts	
John Maas	1968
Jamie Butcher	1981
Glenn Butcher	1984
David Killian	1995
Timothy Goodall	1999
Justin Harzmeyer	1999
Rowan Evans	2001
Paul Philips	2001
James Aroin	2002
Maddie Dell	2023
Ben Goldfarb	2023
Allanah Major	2024

Leaders 1st The Basin Guides	
1964	Sue Anderson, Shirley Frost
1966	Shirley Frost, Ada Ellis, Camille Key, Jo Harper
1968	Shirley Frost, Val Close
1975	Wendy Frost
1976	Dorothy Kimber, Cath Newnham
1977	Sue Bosley, Dianne McCarthy
1981	Cath Warren, Kay Mann
1982-1992	Eleanore Turner, Kay Mann, Beth Hartley, Dianne Rackman

Leaders 1st The Basin Brownies	
1964	Mrs R Brown, Brenda Jackson, Iris Smith
1965-1973	Brenda Jackson
1974	Barbara Powesland, Mrs Killard
1975	Claire Harman, Bridget Harman
1977-1988	Anne Hutnyk, Marie Pearson, Jean Hill, Heather Anderson, Corrie Forster, Nellie Klep, Loris Short, Glenys McCarthy
1989	Audrey Knight, Judy Corram

Leaders 2nd The Basin Brownies	
1979	Marilyn Simonsen, Alida Van Dongen, Sandra Lawrence
1980	Sandra Lawrence, Val Salmon
1982-1992	Val Salmon, Leonie Bettens, Ria Cleven, Eileen Cromarty, Gayle Shaw

Leaders 3rd The Basin Brownies	
1981	Lynda Hudson, Linda Goodwin
1983-1992	Heather Anderson, Chris Hall, Trish Bishop, Sue Beney, Margaret Jones

District Commissioners	
1964	Mrs E. G. Downie
1965	L. Turnbull
1968	Mrs Pat White
1973	No DC
1975	Pat Dryden
1986	Nance Square (acting)
1977	Joan Huctable (acting)
1979	Sheila Stancombe
1983	Lil Mosselman
1985	Val Salmon
1991	Audrey Knight (District Leader)

Chapter 15 Timeline The Basin and Surrounds

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Summary

This chapter lists in yearly chronological order the important events that occurred or will occur in and around The Basin.

Timeline The Basin and Surrounds

1820
- Jacob Friedrich Schneider born in Switzerland.

1827
- First recorded white visitor to the area now known as The Basin by W. H. Hovell.

1828
- Thomas Hodgson born in England.

1829
- George Leach born in England.
- William Murphy born in Ireland.

1831
- George Dodd born in England.

1832
- John McClare born in Ireland.

1835
- Richard Murphy born in Ireland.

1838
- Rev. James Clow takes up a Depasturing license for "*Corhanwarrabul*", which includes an area near The Basin.
- David Dobson born in England.
- John Rosney born in Ireland.

1839
- Thomas Napier granted a Depasturing license for a run near Wantirna.

1840
- The "*Bullock Track*" created from The Basin to Olinda.
- Daniel Bunce passes through The Basin on route to exploring The Dandenongs.
- John Munro Bruce born in Ireland.
- William Tyner born.

1841
- George Williamson Bruce born in Ireland.

1842
- Samuel Collier born in England.

1844
- William Turner & family take up residence in Croydon.

1847
- William Turner and Margaret Killean married.
- Pre-emptive Right act passed.
- Settled District established embracing the area now know as The Basin.

1848
- Kate Chandler (née Timewell) born,

1849
- Counties of Evelyn and Mornington proclaimed.

1851
- First house erected in The Basin by William Turner.
- First known white child born at The Basin (Louisa Turner).
- Devastating fires in Victoria known as "*Black Thursday*".

1852
- Baron Von Mueller appointed Government Botanist to the State of Victoria.

1853
- County of Bourke proclaimed.
- Baron Von Mueller camps in The Basin.

1854
- David Dobson arrives in Melbourne.

1856
- First election in Victoria for Upper and Lower Houses.
- Van Dieman's Land renamed Tasmania.

1857
- Parish of Scoresby proclaimed in the County of Mornington.

1860
- William Turner & family leave The Basin.

1861
- John Yeadon born.

1862
- Berwick District Road Board proclaimed.

1864
- Berwick District Road Board enlarged to include the Parish of Scoresby.

1865
- Samuel Collier marries Emma Britnell.

1867
- First freehold title (Crown allotment A) in The Basin granted to William Watson (Vol 220 Fol 823).
- William Watson's land purchased by Emma Rachael Dorrington.
- David Dobson marries Mary Ann Lum.
- Ferntree Gully Club hotel established by William Kennedy Ross.
- An area of 26,500 acres in the Dandenongs declared a State Forest reserve and called "*Dandenong and Woori Yalloak State Forest*"

1868
- First map by John Hardy with "*The Basin*" marked. Also shown in his 1968 field book.
- Berwick District Road Board becomes the Shire of Berwick.

1869
- Janet Russell marries Edmund Wicks.

1870s
- Baron Von Mueller sets up a camp on the creek flats near what later became William Chandler's property.

1872
- William Hill granted title (Vol 644 Fol 667) to Crown allotment 63A.
- David Dobson granted title to Crown allotment 72A (Vol 528 Fol 572) and purchases Crown allotment A from Emma Rachael Dorrington.
- Boundaries of the State Forest reserve declared in 1867 altered, but the area remained the same.

1875
- Archibald Chandler born.
- "*Chandler Oak Tree*" planted.
- Ferntree Gully Cemetery established in 5 acres of land reserved for the purpose.

1877
- James John Miller granted title to Crown allotment 71 (Vol 994 Fol 799).
- Wicks Homestead built.

1878
- Como, William and Kate Chandler's second home, first occupied.
- F. W. Woodhouse granted title to Crown allotment 72 (Vol 1055 Fol 813).
- 10,000 acres of the State Forest reserve declared in 1867 made available for selection.

1879
- Petition prepared by David Dobson to set up a school in The Basin.
- James John Miller granted title to Crown allotment 74 (Vol 1114 Fol 644).

1880
- Dandenong Range School opened in Doongalla Road.
- Edmund Wicks dies.

1881
- Janet Wicks granted title to Crown allotment 75 (Vol 1275 Fol 893).
- Thomas Hodgson granted title to Crown allotment 83 (Vol 1345 Fol 957).
- John Rosney granted title to Crown allotment 82 (Vol 1337 Fol 378).
- James John Miller granted title to Crown allotment 64 (Vol 1315 Fol 863).

1882
- Rail line extended from Camberwell to Ringwood.
- First Church service in The Dandenong Range School in Doongalla Road.
- Bayswater Progress Hall opened.
- Area of 412 acres between One Tree Hill and Ferntree Gully declared a National Park.
- James Richards granted title to Crown allotments 79 (Vol 1422 Fol 283) and 92 (Vol 1422 Fol 284).
- Margaret Jane Turner (née Killean) dies.

1883
- William Turner marries Harlettie Louisa Groombridge.

1884
- Education department officially recognises the Dandenong Range School be known as "*The Basin State School No. 2329, North Scoresby*".
- Legislation allowing married women the right to own property in Victoria.

1885
- Samuel Collier granted title to Crown allotment 54 (Vol 1700 Fol 826).
- Albert Selman the first person interred at Ferntree Gully cemetery.

1887
- John Barns granted title to Crown allotment 52A (house called Torwood erected there).

1888
- James John Miller's second house erected. Later known as "*Melrose*" (Miller's Homestead).
- James and John Griffiths granted title to Crown allotment 87 (Vol 2085 Fol 873).
- Proposal for tramway from Bayswater to Olinda past The Basin.
- John Barns granted title to Crown allotment 60 (Vol 2022 Fol 365).
- George Williamson Bruce granted title to Crown allotment 55 (Vol 2079 Fol 609). The title erroneously states his name as "*George Wilkinson Bruce*".
- Jacob Schneider granted title to Crown allotment 91 (Vol 2010 Fol 903).
- Richard and William Murphy granted titles to Crown allotments 89 (Vol 2014 Fol 602) and 88 (Vol 2022 Fol 333) respectively.

1889
- Ferndale built (this is disputed and may have been about 15 years later).
- Rail line extended from Ringwood to Fern Tree Gully.
- Shire of Fern Tree Gully proclaimed. James John Miller first President.
- Upper Ferntree Gully Hotel (The Royal) built.
- John Munro Bruce granted title to Crown allotment 56 (Vol 2164 Fol 780).
- George Bruce granted title to Crown allotment 52 (Vol 2238 Fol 438).
- Richard Murphy dies.

1890
- First mail to The Basin carried by Archibald Chandler.

1891
- Sir Matthew Davies purchases Crown allotments 52 (Vol 2238 Fol 438), 54 (Vol 1700 Fol 826), 55 (Vol 2079 Fol 609) and 56 (Vol 2329 Fol 618).
- Severe flood in The Basin, which damages Fern Glen and the Chandler gardens.
- Invermay built.
- Land slips in The Dandenongs.

1892
- Bayswater hall opened.
- George Dodd dies.
- Sir Matthew Davies declared bankrupt.

1893
- Cleve House (Clevedon) built.
- Regular coach trips through The Basin commence.
- William Turner dies.
- Frederick Weber (executor of George Dodd) granted title to Crown allotment 59 (Vol 2440 Fol 937).
- 10,000 acres of the State Forest reserve declared in 1867 made available for selection.

1894
- William Chandler elected President of Shire of Fern Tree Gully.
- 1,100 acres of the State Forest reserve declared in 1867 made available for selection.

1895
- Arthur Goode starts a coach service between Bayswater and Sassafras via The Basin.
- Robert Lum Dobson marries Janet Wicks.
- James Griffiths pays for erection of the Sassafras Mechanics Hall.

1897
- Salvation Army purchases land from David Dobson and John Schild and commences operation in The Basin.

1898
- Severe fire in The Basin including the National Park.

1899
- The Basin State School in Doongalla Road closes.
- Salvation Army leases James John Miller's land and home from the London Chartered Bank of Australia and commences operation of the No 2 Home.

1900
- Patrick Rafferty granted the mail contract between Bayswater and Sassafras via The Basin.
- Puffing Billy line opened from Upper Ferntree Gully to Gembrook.
- John McClare granted title to Crown allotment 84 (Vol 2814 Fol 662).
- The Basin Primary School moved from Doongalla Road to the corner of Mountain Highway and Liverpool Road.
- Salvation Army erects a telephone service between its properties in The Basin.

1901
- John Bruce dies.
- The Basin State School in Doongalla Road moved to the corner of Mountain Highway and Miller Road.

1902
- The Basin gazetted as "*receiving only*" Post Office.
- Robert Lum Dobson dies.
- Salvation Army purchases 108 acres from the estate of John Bruce.

1903
- Methodist Church built in The Basin.
- Louisa Kate Elizabeth Chandler marries John Maguire.

1904
- Belgrave station named (formerly known as Monbulk from 1900 to 1904).

1905
- Mary Barns (nee Tozer) dies.
- Ferndale built.
- Snow in The Basin.

1906
- David Dobson dies.
- "*Wicks Homestead*" finished.
- Annie Victoria Wicks marries Arthur Harris in Wicks Homestead.
- Salvation Army purchases 59 acres from John Yeadon.

1907
- Mary Ann Dobson (née Lum) dies.

1908
- George Bruce dies.
- Miss Helen Archbald Luke Simson purchases Crown allotments 52, 54, 55 and 56, formerly owned by Sir Matthew Davies, and renames the mansion erected there "*Doongalla*".
- Miss Helen Archbald Luke Simson purchases Crown allotment 60 from John Barns.

1909
- Miss Helen Archbald Luke Simson purchases a "*right of carriageway*" through Crown allotment 80 which becomes the main road into Doongalla.
- First lookout tower at One Tree Hill erected by Joe Saville

1910
- Salvation Army No 2 Home destroyed by fire and is rebuilt.
- Esther Marion Chandler marries Franklin John Goodwin.

1911
- William Chandler dies.

1912
- Bayswater Telephone Exchange opened.
- Miss Helen Simson (Doongalla) dies.
- Sir Matthew Henry Davies dies.

1913
- Salvation Army Home No 2 destroyed by fire.
- Schneider's Estate opened.

1915
- First telephone service to Doongalla in The Basin.
- Land to create roads around a Triangle (later The Basin Triangle) purchased from Wreford Chandler by The Shire of Fern Tree Gully.
- Boronia Progress Association formed.

1916
- First The Basin Post Office run by Mrs Ada Dickson in Mountain Highway opens.
- John Barns dies.
- Percival Bertram Chandler dies.

1917
- Switzerland Heights Estate (formerly Schneider's Estate) opened.
- Janet Wicks (née Russell) dies.
- Bert Piergrosse sets up the "*Bayswater Coach Service*".
- William Murphy dies.

1918
- Telephone service to "*Como*".

1919
- Saw mill built in The Ravine.

1920
- Boronia Station opened.
- Emma Collier dies.
- Construction of the 1 in 20 road (Mountain Highway) commences.

1921
- Sidney Myer purchases "*Vallego*", a property in Ferny Creek.
- John Herbert Wicks dies.

1922
- James John Miller dies.
- Doongalla sold to T. M. Burke.

1923
- Chandlers Hill Estate opened.

1924
- Forest Heights Estate opened.
- Smith's Store opens.
- Belgrave Lower renamed Tecoma and railway station opened there.

1925
- A new The Basin Primary School built away from the corner of Mountain Highway and Liverpool Road.
- Electrification of the railway line from Ringwood to Fern Tree Gully.
- James & Emily Griffiths killed at Bayswater railway crossing.
- Ferndale Estate opened.
- Canes store opened.
- South Sassafras renamed Kallista.
- Barn added to the rear of Smiths Store.
- Jean Campbell Hudson dies (wife of R. B. Smith)
- 1 in 20 road (Mountain Highway) construction finished in gravel.1926
- Eden Park Estate opened.
- The Basin Progress Association formed.
- Nine people killed at Boronia railway crossing accident.
- Boronia Progress Hall opened.
- Severe bushfires in Noojee, Kinglake, Warburton, Erica and Dandenong Ranges "*Black Sunday*".
- Mystic Lake Estate opened.

1926
- Boronia Progress Hall opened,.

1927
- The Basin Bush Fire Brigade formed.
- Forest Heights Estate opened.
- A revamped "*Ferndale Estate*" opened.
- Tecoma "*Star Theatre*" opened.

1928
- Salvation Army No 1 Home rebuilt in brick.
- Doongalla officially sold to T. M. Burke Proprietary Limited.

1929
- The Basin "*Queen Competition*" concept conceived to raise funds to purchase land and build The Basin Progress Hall.
- Burke's lookout proclaimed.
- New lookout tower (a disused poppet head) erected at One Tree Hill.

1930
- Somerville Park Estate opened.
- The Basin Children's Hospital Auxiliary formed.
- Land in The Triangle for The Basin Progress Hall purchased.

1931
- First stage of The Basin Progress Hall finished (no stage, kitchen or inside toilets).
- First carols by candlelight in The Basin at "*Como*".
- Salvation Army No 3 opens.
- The Basin Presbyterian Church founded.
- The Basin "*Queen Competition*" held.
- Lysterfield Progress Hall opened.

1932
- Doongalla destroyed by fire.
- The Basin Brigade gets its first fire alarm. A bell donated by T M Burke stored in a shed behind The Basin Progress Hall. In 2025, the bell is stored in the current The Basin Fire Brigade meeting room.
- The Basin Tennis Club formed.
- Tecoma "*Star Theatre*" closed. It was not equipped to show films with sound.
- Robert Dobson marries Kathleen Burden.
- Tom Turner (son of William Turner) dies.

1933
- First Church of England services in The Basin.
- Samuel Collier dies.
- Sidney Myer sells "*Vallego*", a property in Ferny Creek.

1934
- Doongalla Estate Mount Dandenong opens.
- Severe flood in The Basin.
- The Basin Presbyterian Church purchases land on the corner of Forest Road and Church Street.
- Sidney Myer dies.

1935
- The Basin Presbyterian Church building opened in The Basin.
- The Basin Badminton Club formed.
- Saw mill built in Doongalla.
- Cameo theatre in Belgrave opened with single screen. Owned by Alex Jaensch. Built by Norman Miller.

1930
- Somerville Park Estate (formerly Schneider's Estate) opened.

1936
- Norma Ann Sykes (Sabrina) born.
- 1 in 20 road (Mountain Highway) sealed.

- Glen Elbourne wins the best garden in the mountain district award.

1937
- Seventh Day Adventist Youth Camp on Basin-Olinda Road opened.
- Emily Wicks and Annie Harris (nee Wicks) donate a block of land to build St Mary's Church of England on the corner of Wicks Road and Mountain Highway.
- Glen Elbourne wins the best garden in the mountain district award.
- Doongalla Native Game Sanctuary declared.

1938
- The Basin Red Cross branch formed.
- Glen Elbourne wins the best garden in the mountain district award.
- Jane McGaughan Murphy (nee Madden) dies.
- Clevedon auctioned.
- Smiths Store leased to Harold and Edith Poulter.
- Langdon's Store on Mountain Highway built.
- Seventh Day Adventist Youth Camp issued permit to pump water from the creek (in 2025, Dobsons creek) for swimming pool.

1939
- St Mary's Church of England building opened in The Basin.
- Reticulated electricity to The Basin.
- Electra theatre opened in Boronia.
- Loyalty theatre in Upper Ferntree Gully opened. Built by Albert Rundle Glidden Tonkin.
- Severe bushfires all over Victoria "*Black Friday*".
- James (Jim) David Dobson dies.
- Lawrence Wreford Chandler dies.

1940
- First buses to The Basin (not timetabled).1942
- Wicks Reserve proclaimed.
- First ambulance in The Dandenongs driven by Mrs. H. Chandler and others.
- Severe bushfires in South Gippsland.
- Stage, kitchen & inside toilets added to The Basin Progress Hall.

1943
- Timetabled bus services to The Basin commence.
- Severe bushfires in Wangaratta.

1944
- Country Fire Authority formed.
- Temporary Baby Health Centre established in The Basin Progress Hall.
- Severe bushfires in central and western districts, Morwell and Yallourn.

1945
- The Basin Bush Fire Brigade disbanded.
- Land purchased by Shire of Ferntree Gully for Baby Health Centre.
- The Basin Post Office moves to a room beside a small shop on the western corner of The Basin roundabout.
- Concept of the Martin Luther Homes first vented.

1946
- The Basin Bush Fire Brigade reconstituted.
- The Basin Football Club formed.
- The Basin Cricket Club formed (under different name).
- Salvation Army No 1 Home extended.
- Salvation Army No 3 Home closes.
- Harrison's Weaving Mill (Locksley Textiles) opened in The Basin.
- Janet Dobson dies.

1947
- Land on Mountain Highway purchased to move St Mary's Church of England.
- The Basin Presbyterian Church purchases another block of land beside the church for future use.
- The Country Fire Authority purchases land opposite the Basin Triangle.

1948
- Colchester-Basin Cricket Club players combine with The Basin Football Club.
- The Basin Cricket Club disbanded.
- St Mary's Church of England in The Basin re-located to land on Mountain Highway.

1949
- The Basin Rural Fire Brigade formed.
- Richard Bartlett Smith, owner of the first store in The Basin, and tireless community worker dies.
- School shop opens opposite The Basin Primary School.
- Dandenong Ranges Fire Brigades Group formed.
- Letterbox installed at Langdon's Store.
- Croydon District Badminton Association formed with The Basin as a foundation member.
- Ted Mortiboy becomes proprietor of the Wine Saloon on Mountain Highway, Bayswater.
- The Basin Tennis Club wins its first premiership (B Grade).

1950
- Mountain Highway Estate opened.
- The first Carols by Candlelight held in The Basin Progress Hall.
- The Basin Football Club joins the Croydon Ferntree Gully Football League.
- Bill and Blon Wright take over "*Walkers Store*" and rename it "*Wrights Store*".
- Part of Doongalla subdivided and offered for sale, but it was purchased by the Government and became known as Doongalla Estate.
- Land for Batterham Reserve purchased by The Shire of Fern Tree Gully.

1951
- Reserve Estate opened.
- Clevedon Estate opened.
- The Basin Tennis Club wins first A Grade premiership.
- Bert Horsfield purchases Smiths store.

- The Basin Cricket Club suspended from the FTG District Cricket Association.
- Snow recorded in The Basin.

1952
- Dunlop's Aviation Division factory opened in Bayswater.
- Nine people killed and 17 injured at Boronia railway crossing accident. Flashing lights later installed.
- The Basin Badminton Club A Grade premiers.
- School shop sold to the Davis family.
- Electricity connected to Seventh Day Adventist Youth Camp.
- Victorian Drama League (VDL) established.

1953
- New Mystic Lake Estate opened.
- Second The Basin Fire Brigade Station opened.
- The Basin Fire Brigade gets first siren.
- Croydon & Mountain District Badminton Association (C&MDBA) formed.
- Walkers Store purchased by William and Edna Wright.
- Thompson's garage sold to the Cook family.
- Puffing Billy line from Upper Ferntree Gully closed by a landslide.

1954
- The Basin Theatre Group begins productions.
- The Basin Tennis Club disbanded.
- Guy Turner elected to the Shire of Ferntree Gully.
- The Basin Fire Brigade receives its first official vehicle. Austin 400 gallon Tanker.
- Fern Tree Gully Technical School opened.

1955
- The Basin Fire Brigade Ladies Auxiliary formed.
- Reserve Estate Extension opened.
- Don Maguire elected The Basin Rural Fire Brigade Captain.
- Two adjacent blocks purchased to build a church hall St Mary's Church of England.
  Annie Victoria Harris (nee Wicks) dies.
- Keith and Mary Youl take over The Basin Store (formerly Smith's Store).
- The Basin Football Club temporarily suspended.

1956
- The Basin Baby Health Centre opened.
- Granger's Butchers opens.
- Rowville Drive-In opens.

1957
- 2nd The Basin Scout group formed.
- The Basin Football Club reformed.
- The Basin Football Club first clubrooms. Tin shed.
- Granger's Butchers taken over by Roy Ritchie.
- Meeting room for the second The Basin Fire Station opened.
- The Basin Theatre Group officially formed.

1958
- British Nylon Spinners (first known as Fibremakers) opened factory in Bayswater.
- 1st The Basin Scout group formed.
- The Basin Pre-School Kindergarten opened.
- Edgar Rowlstone (Rowley) Batterham passes away.
- The Basin Methodist Church building moved from near The Basin Primary School to Boronia.
- The Basin Badminton Club A Grade premiers.
- The Basin Cricket Club reforms as Basin Footballers Club.
- The Basin Primary School contributes 1,130 eggs to the Royal Melbourne Hospital egg appeal.
- Salvation Army No 2 Home rebuilt.
- Prudence Jane clothing company commences operation in The Glideaway.

1959
- Reticulated water arrives in The Basin.
- Local delivery of mail commenced.
- Robert John Dobson dies.
- First The Basin family picnic and baby show held.
- New trustees for The Basin Progress Hall.
- Sabrina (Norma Ann Sykes) visits The Basin.
- Dr Yoffa is killed in a tent on Mountain Highway.
- The Basin Junior Fire Brigade formed.

1960
- Boronia High School opened.
- Youl's store built.
- Salvation Army No 1 home renamed the Youth Training Centre.
- The Basin No. 1 Water storage tank near the top of Nyora Avenue finished.

1961
- George Grumont awarded life membership of the Mountain District Badminton Association.
- Guy Turner passes away.
- Concrete cross erected outside Clevedon in memory of Miss Girlie Lee, killed in the tragic level crossing accident at Boronia in 1952.
- Cameo Theatre in Belgrave closed when Alex Jaensch retired.

1962
- The Basin Women's Basketball (Netball) Club formed.
- Severe bushfires in The Basin, Christmas Hills, Kinglake, St Andrews, Hurstbridge, Warrandyte and The Dandenongs.
- The Basin Football Club joins the EDFL.
- The Basin Football Club Seniors win their first premiership (Div. 3).
- Ferndale destroyed by fire.
- Wicks Homestead destroyed by fire.
- First The Basin Theatre Group Building opened called "*The Hut*".
- Max Toole takes over The Basin Post Office.

- Garage on Corner of Mountain Highway and Miller Road first established by Fred and Maurie Cook.
- Electrified rail service extended from Upper Fern Tree Gully to Belgrave.
- Lower Ferntree Gully renamed Ferntree Gully.
- The Basin Progress Association launches a monthly newsletter circulated around The Basin.
- "*Howe's Greengrocers*" taken over by Mrs Radford.
- Puffing Billy line between Belgrave and Menzies Creek reopened.

1963

- Knox Shire formed by severing from Fern Tree Gully Shire.
- New shopping centre built in The Basin.
- The Basin Scout Troop renamed 5th Knox.
- First debutante ball held in The Basin Progress Hall.
- Prudence Jane clothing company closes.
- George Leake opens a chemist shop in The Basin
- Foyer and toilet block added to The Basin Progress Hall.
- Cameo Theatre in Belgrave reopened.

1964

- 1st The Basin Guide company formed.
- 1st The Basin Brownie pack formed.
- The Basin Presbyterian Church congregation moves to Boronia.
- The Basin Badminton Club A Reserve premiers.
- First A Grade premiership to The Basin Women's Basketball (Netball) Club.
- First Basketball (Netball) court constructed in Batterham Reserve.
- Post Office moved from the west side of The Basin roundabout to the east side.
- St Mary's Church of England hall opened in The Basin.
- Michael Spry awarded the Australian Daffodil Championship.
- Stage modernised in The Basin Progress Hall.

1965

- The Basin Elderly Citizens Club begins operation as The Basin Pensioners Association.
- Knox Fire Brigade Group formed with The Basin Brigade as a member.
- Langdon's Store closes.
- Salvation Army No 1 Home opens a swimming pool.
- Don Maguire appointed chairman of the Ferntree Gully National Park Committee
- The Basin is allocated postcode 3154.
- Severe bushfires in Longwood and Gippsland.
- New service station built on the corner of Mountain Highway and Miller Road.
- New kitchen installed in The Basin Progress Hall.

1966

- Knox Technical School opened.1967
- The Basin Centenary celebrations.
- Land donated to City of Knox by the Salvation Army to place a cairn, time capsule and plant a cedar tree in association with centenary celebrations.
- Third The Basin Fire Brigade Station opened.
- Public toilets erected near The Basin roundabout on land purchased by the Shire of Knox from the Salvation Army.
- Helen Chandler awarded MBE.
- Bill Wright awarded Knox Citizen of the year award.
- Women employed in the Australian public service no longer required to give up their jobs once they married.
- Dobson Creek renamed after a submission by The Basin Progress Association. Previously known as Blind Creek or Little Blind Creek.
- Chandler family erects cairn under oak tree in Doongalla road.
- Scouts purchase The Basin Presbyterian Church land and building.
- Eastland opens.
- Land purchased for Martin Luther Homes.
- Shire of Knox allocates a portion of land at the rear of The Basin Pre-School Kindergarten to be used as a playground. Land previously used by The Basin Scouts.

1968

- Severe bushfires in The Basin and The Dandenongs.
- Boronia Heights Primary School opened.
- Millers Homestead classified by the National Trust.
- Land on The Triangle rezoned by Knox Council to "*passive park*".
- Loyalty theatre in Upper Ferntree Gully closes.
- Picnic ground established in Wicks Reserve
- John Maas becomes The Basin Scouts first Queen Scout.

1969

- The Basin Brownie packs 1st and 2nd combine.
- Meeting to form Doongala Pony Club.
- Instigated by The Basin Progress Association, the section of road between Basin-Olinda Road and Mountain Highway renamed Wicks Road.
- The Basin Brigade resigns en masse, with 25 active and 70 reserve members, including Captain Don Maguire, over allegations that the police investigation of fires in the area was mishandled
- Severe bushfires in Lara, Daylesford, Bulgana, Yea, Darraweit, Kangaroo Flat and Korongvale.
- First buildings for Martin Luther Homes.
- Retarding Basin on Liverpool Road constructed.
- Shire of Knox becomes a city.

1970

- Severe flood in The Basin.
- Women's basketball name changed to Netball.
- Bert Chandler (Como Nurseries) dies.

1971

- Riding for the Disabled group formed in The Basin.

- Brick extension to old Scout Hall (church) finished.
- Doongala Pony Club officially registered.
- Kevin Gale awarded Knox Citizen of the year award.
- The Basin Theatre Group purchases land in Doongalla Road.
- Max White becomes Mayor of Knox.
- The Basin Progress Association adopts as their symbol a small blue native flower — Brunonia Australis, commonly known as Blue Pincushion.
- Roy Ritchie opens a Milk Bar run by Mrs Radford.

1972

- Clevedon destroyed by fire.
- The Basin Scout Hall in Church Street destroyed by fire.
- Boom gates installed at Boronia railway crossing.
- Batterham Park Tennis Club formed.
- Library finished at The Basin Primary School.
- Fire destroys main building at Seventh Day Adventist Youth Camp.
- Fire destroys half of the Salvation Army Special School.
- Lower Fern Tree Gully railway station name changed to Ferntree Gully.
- Lysterfield Progress Hall destroyed by fire.
- 1812 theatre opened in Upper Ferntree Gully.
- First shed erected for Doongala Pony Club.
- Site of an early house destroyed by fire (near the top end of Bayview Crescent). Now The Basin No. 2 Reservoir.
- Martin Luther Homes chapel opened.
- Ferntree Gully District Camp at Yumbunga. Lake Eppalock established and used by The Basin Primary School.

1973

- Boronia Technical School opened.
- The Basin Elderly Citizens Hall opened on The Triangle.
- New The Basin Theatre Group Building opened.
- Last private property on Triangle purchased by Knox Council.
- The Basin Children's Hospital Auxiliary closes.
- Fire in The Basin Progress Hall damages stage.
- New buildings erected at Seventh Day Adventist Youth Camp.
- Boronia Shopping Town (Boronia Mall) opens.
- Mountain District Badminton Association erects first badminton courts on land known in 2025 as the Kilsyth Sports Centre.

1974

- Grumont Reserve proclaimed.
- Lowline Industries commences operation in The Basin.
- Church Street closed at Mountain Highway after a suggestion to Knox Council from The Basin Progress Association.
- Don Maguire awarded The Queens Long Service & Good Conduct Medal.
- Bill and Blon Wright sell Wrights Store. New owners demolish old store and build a new one.

1975

- Playgroups commence at The Basin Infant Welfare Centre.
- The Basin Basketball Club formed.
- Salvation Army No 1 Home extended with two-storey extension to existing main building.
- St Mary's Church of England extended.
- The Basin Theatre Group celebrates its 21st birthday.
- New conference centre building erected at Clevedon.
- Chandler family reunion near oak tree in Sheffield Road.
- The Basin Fire Brigade siren testing time changed.

1976

- Toddler Groups commence at The Basin Infant Welfare Centre.
- The Basin Progress Association celebrates 50 years.
- The Basin Basketball Club women's team formed.
- Art/Craft room finished at The Basin Primary School.
- Goodwin Estate opens.
- Night classes commence at Boronia Technical School.

1977

- Fifth The Basin Fire Brigade Station officially opened.
- Don Maguire awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM).
- Don Maguire stands down as Captain of The Basin Fire Brigade and Allan Small becomes Captain.
- Don Maguire takes up role of Knox Group Officer.
- First premiership win by The Basin Football Club under 15's.
- Lilydale Bowman Club formed.
- The Basin Theatre Group purchases a second block of land in Doongalla Road adjacent to the first block purchased.
- Uniting Church of Australia takes over running Hazel Dell.
- Claremont/Inverness Roads Construction Association formed.
- Knox City shopping centre opens.

1978

- Edna Chandler awarded Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE).
- The Basin Scout Troop name changed back to 1st The Basin.
- 2nd The Basin Brownie pack formed.
- Attempted robbery on The Basin Post Office.
- The Basin Basketball Club boy's team formed.
- Committee formed to investigate building a new kindergarten in The Basin. Later known as the Goodwin Estate Kindergarten.
- Roy Ritchie closes his butcher shop.

- The "*Boronia*" water tank located on Mountain Highway The Basin built.

1979
- The Basin Scout Troop Ladies Auxiliary formed.
- Bart Bortolussi takes over The Basin Post Office.
- Glideaway building on The Triangle demolished.
- Electra theatre in Boronia rebuilt as a twin cinema and renamed the Village Twin.
- Hose drying tower and siren platform erected behind The Basin Fire Station.
- Brick pavilion in Batterham Reserve opened and named The D P Maguire Pavilion.

1980
- The Basin Primary School Centenary.
- Severe bushfire in Doongalla Area.
- Goodwin Estate Kindergarten opens.
- The Basin YWCA Friendly Circle formed.
- Chandlers Hill Parkcare Group established.
- 3rd The Basin Brownie pack formed.
- Roy Ritchie awarded The Queens Long Service & Good Conduct Medal.
- George Hill wins gold at the Culinary Olympics.
- The Basin Fire Brigade obtains first set of breathing apparatus.
- The Basin Boys Home Special School buildings purchased by the Education Department for use by The Basin Primary School.

1981
- Doongala Adult Riding Club formed.
- Land on The Triangle allocated for new Scout Hall.
- The Basin Basketball Club junior girls team formed.
- The Basin Fire Brigade purchases pagers.
- The Basin Salvation Army Home No 2 closes and becomes a Convention Centre, renamed The Salvation Army Mountain Valley Convention Centre.
- The Basin No. 2 Reservoir (off the top end of Bayview Crescent) finished.
- The Basin Scouts sell their old land.

1982
- Steel cables attached to oak tree in Sheffield road.

1983
- St. Bernadette's RC School opened (initially at St. Joseph's in Boronia).
- The Basin Junior Field Naturalist Club formed.
- The Basin Pensioners Association became known as The Basin Elderly Citizens Club.
- Urban status to The Basin Fire Brigade.
- "*Ash Wednesday*" bushfires. Forty-seven lives lost in Victoria.
- 1st The Basin Venturers formed.
- George Hill wins Australian Caterer of the year.
- The Basin Theatre Group consolidates 2 blocks of land in Doongalla Road.
- The Basin Fire Brigade "*Shaft Award*" instigated.
- The Triangle upgraded with a car park, and a path beside it covered by a pergola. Children's play equipment and barbecues installed.
- The Basin Junior Fire Brigade reformed.
- Permission of husbands no longer required for the issue of passports to wives.
- Cottage homes closed at The Basin Salvation Army.

1984
- Erection of new Scout Hall on Triangle commences.
- The Basin Red Cross closes.
- Neil Whittorn takes over The Basin Post Office.
- The Basin Theatre Group registered as an incorporated association.
- First Carols by Candlelight in The Triangle.
- Snow recorded in The Basin.
- Road constructed across the creek in the Ravine.
- Oak tree in Doongalla Road classified by the National Trust.
- Clubrooms erected at Lilydale Bowmans Club.

1985
- The Basin Football Club Seniors win their second premiership (Div. 3).
- The Basin Primary School involved in Victoria's 150th year celebrations. Time capsule containing school memorabilia buried on school grounds. To be opened in 2035.
- The Basin Netball Club registered.
- The Basin Central Shopping Centre opens.
- The Basin Primary School opens a recycle shop.
- Construction of all roads in the Ravine commences.
- Rowville Drive-In closes.
- Lookout tower at One Tree Hill closed for safety reasons.

1986
- Neighbourhood Watch commences in The Basin.
- Miller Park Tennis Club formed.
- First "*Claremont Cup*" in The Ravine held.
- Aquarian Spiritual Church opened in The Basin Progress Hall.

1987
- The Basin Community House formed.
- Helen Chandler passes away.
- Boronia Rotary fits roof to The Basin Scout Hall.
- Salvation Army No 1 Home closed as a Youth Training Centre.
- Dandenong Ranges National Park proclaimed.
- Water tank on Schneider's Hill (underground) finished.
- Roy Ritchie closes his shop run by Mrs Radford.
- Nyora Avenue, Bayview Crescent, Mercia Avenue, Wright Street and Government Road between Toorak Avenue and Mercia Avenue constructed.

1988
- The Basin Scout Hall opened on The Triangle.
- Como Nurseries closes.

- The Basin/Ferntree Gully Salvation Army Cricket Club formed.
- George Hill awarded a Churchhill Fellowship.
- First court lights at Miller Park Tennis Club.
- Cameo Theatre in Belgrave single screen increased to 3.

1989
- St. Mary's Church in The Basin closes.
- Como Nurseries no longer with the Chandler family.
- Extensions to The Basin Theatre Group Building opened.
- Village Twin theatre in Boronia closes.
- Major building upgrade at The Basin Primary School.
- "*Skillshare*" commences at the No 1 Salvation Army home.
- The Basin Primary School recycle shop closes.

1990
- Playgroups at The Basin Infant Welfare Centre cease.
- Knox Council proposes to close The Basin Kindergarten.
- New brick storeroom and scoreboard opened at Batterham Reserve and named in honour of Arthur Cooper.
- Three new courts with lights installed at Miller Park Tennis Club.
- Village Twin theatre in Boronia taken over by Century cinemas and expanded into 4 screens.
  Toddler Groups cease operation.
- Sheila and Ron Phelan take over The Basin Post Office.
- Melbourne Vinayagar Hindu Sangam purchases St Mary's land and buildings.
- Martin Luther Homes hostel opened.
- Boronia Technical School changes name to Boronia Heights Secondary College.
- Chandlers Hill Parkcare Group formed.
- Arthur Cooper passes away.

1991
- Boronia High School closes.
- Rotary Club of The Basin formed.
- Toddler Groups at The Basin Infant Welfare Centre cease.
- Former The Basin Primary School teachers residence opened as The Basin Community House building.
- Blon Wright passes away.
- Martin Luther Homes hostel officially opens.
- Melbourne Vinayagar Hindu Sangam temple foundation stone laid.

1992
- The Basin 125 Year celebrations.
- "*Fire on the Hill, Flowers in the Valley*". History of The Basin first published.
- Ferndale camp closes.
- Knox Council proposes an Overall development Plan for Salvation Army lands in The Basin.
- Melbourne Vinayagar Hindu Sangam temple consecration.
- The Basin Post Office robbed.
- Toorak Avenue constructed. The first street in The Basin to incorporate speed restricting devices.
- First wedding in The Basin Progress Hall.
- Jean Hill wins medals at the Culinary Olympics.

1993
- Major building alterations to The Basin Kindergarten.
- Clevedon celebrates its centenary.
- The Basin Gumnut Guide Unit formed.
- Edna Chandler inducted into the Lyrebird Awards Hall of Fame.
- Hazel Dell sold by the Uniting Church of Australia to be used as a residential property.

1994
- The Basin Football Club Seniors win their third premiership (Div. 3).
- Don Maguire passes away.
- Cassandra Aroin the first 1st The Basin Guides to receive the Baden Powell award.
- Melbourne Vinayagar Hindu Sangam temple in The Basin officially opened.
- Sherbrooke Council applies to include The Basin and parts of Ferntree Gully into its boundaries.
- Boronia and The Basin News (BBCN) officially registered as an incorporated association and the first paper produced.
- Gates installed on tracks into Ferntree Gully National Park land once the New Mystic Lake Estate.
- Right-of-Way path between Claremont Avenue and Mountain Highway concreted.

1995
- New classrooms finished at The Basin Primary School.
- The Basin Basketball club starts using the name "*The Basin Wildcats*".
- Fergus Chandler passes away.

1996
- The Basin Neighbourhood Watch celebrates its tenth birthday.
- A 15 acre block incorporating the Bert Chandler Gardens sold to George and Pat Hetrel.
- Access track constructed from the eastern end of roads in The Ravine up to Mountain Highway.
- Ferntree Gully Technical School closes.

1997
- Severe bushfires in The Basin and Ferny Creek.
- St. Bernadette's Community Hall opened.
- Mountain Gateway Estate opened.
- Batterham Tennis Club celebrates its 25th Anniversary.
- The Basin Fire Brigade celebrates 70 years of establishment.
- Original Service station on the corner of Miller Road and Mountain Highway demolished and a modern new service station erected complete with car wash.

- Forest Lodge Restaurant closes.
- Mountain Gateway Estate opens for sale.
- Goodwin Estate commences a Pre-kinder for 3-year-old's.

1998
- Rail line underground at Boronia crossing.
- Moonshiners restaurant in The Basin closes.
- Edna and Fergus Awards instituted by The Basin Theatre Group.
- Windows 98 released.
- Como open gardens commences.

1999
- The Basin YWCA Friendly Circle closes.
- George Leake closes his chemist shop which was open for 36 years.
- Allan Small steps down as Captain of The Basin Fire Brigade.
- Roy Ritchie receives the Queens Long Service & Good Conduct Medal.
- Wrights Store adds a takeaway food section.
- Suspicious fire at the Hindu Temple.
- Seventh Day Adventist Youth Camp on Basin-Olinda Road closes.

2000
- Mal Leather opens the Oak Tree Tavern.
- Wrights Store remodelled to create a takeaway food section.
- Allan Small becomes Group Officer of the Knox Fire Brigades Group.
- BBCN wins the Proud Communication Award.

2001
- Seventh Day Adventist Camp land and buildings purchased by the Romanian Seventh Day Adventist Church.
- Kate Hall opens Calendula restaurant.
- The Basin Netball Club deregistered.
- Extensions to The Basin Community House.
- Mal and Aileen Leather open the Acorn on Forest restaurant.

2002
- Artificial grass courts installed at Miller Park Tennis Club.
- The Basin Rotary Club closes.
- The Basin Aquarian Spiritual Church incorporated association deregistered
- Boronia Heights Secondary College becomes Boronia Heights College.
- BBCN wins the Proud Communication Award.
- Cameo Theatre in Belgrave screens increased to 5.

2003
- Edna Louise Barrett Chandler passes away.
- Time capsule buried in village square in Upwey. To be opened in 2053.
- The Basin Progress Hall land ownership transferred from trustees to The Basin Progress Association.

2004
- The Basin Progress Hall and land sold to The City of Knox for $1.
- The Basin Progress Association disbanded.
- The Basin Theatre Group celebrates its 50th birthday.
- Century cinema in Boronia reopens as Regent cinema then closed for breaching safety regulations.
- Allan Small receives the Australian Fire Services Medal.

2005
- First The Basin Music Festival held.
- Bill Wright passes away.
- Jan Flanigan takes over the Oak Tree Tavern.
- The Basin Primary School the first Knox School to be accredited with the Performance and Development Culture award.
- Century cinema in Boronia reopens as Metro cinemas.
- New modern building erected on the Ferndale site with the view aligned to the tallest building in the Melbourne Central Business District.

2006
- The Basin Progress Hall kitchen upgraded.
- The Basin Netball Club registered as The Basin Netballers.
- The "*Chandler"* mural on the outside shop wall facing The Basin Olinda Road painted as part of a "*work for the dole*" program.

2007
- New toilets, exterior repaired and painted at The Basin Progress Hall.
- Melbourne Vinayagar Hindu Sangam temple in The Basin has extensive renovations and second consecration.
- Miller Park Tennis Club celebrates 21 years.

2008
- Barry Valentine takes over the Oak Tree Tavern.
- Allan Small named Knox citizen of the year.
- John Mortimore elected to Knox Council.

2009
- "*Black Saturday*" with severe bushfires. 173 deaths.
- Clevedon site leased to the Christadelphian Society to be used as a school.
- Max White passes away.
- Jim Stephens passes away.
- The Basin Marinda Ranger Guide Unit formed.
- VCAT rules against the proposed healing centre in Augusta Road.
- The Basin Rural Fire Brigade deregistered.
- Service station on the corner of Mountain Highway and Forest Road stops selling fuel and concentrates on repairs.

2010
- Last house removed from The Triangle and toilets and playground installed.
- Christadelphian Heritage College opens.
- Colin Hart passes away.

- Cameo Theatre in Belgrave screens increased to 7.

2011
- Bio-infiltration system installed in Wicks reserve.
- The Basin Primary School reunion for former students who finished Grade six between 1978 and 1985.
- Roy Ritchie passes away.
- Plaque unveiled and flowering gum planted in the Triangle in memory of Colin Hart.
- Thrift shop opens at The Basin Salvation Army Church.

2012
- Bio-infiltration System in Wicks Reserve named the "*Ferdinand Von Mueller Raingarden*".
- The BBCN celebrated its 200th issue.
- The Basin Big Break Youth Stage (part of The Basin Music Festival) has its own weekend.

2013
- April Himmelreich wins the Education Award at the CFA Fire Awareness Awards for "*The Captain Koala and Friends Show*".
- The Basin Fire Brigade siren reintroduced.

2014
- Permanent pavilion constructed in The Triangle. The Basin Progress Hall stage and surrounding walls removed and rebuilt around the pavilion.
- The Basin Football Club incorporates a Netball group into the organisation known as "*The Bearettes*" and changes its name to The Basin Football Netball Club.
- Open days at The Basin Fire Brigade commence.
- Lowline Industries closes.
- The Basin newsagency closes.
- Boronia Heights College closes.
- Monument on nature strip outside what was once "*Clevedon*" on Mountain Highway repainted by residents.

2015
- Colin Tan takes over The Basin Post Office.
- Suzanne and Ross Mackintosh take over the Acorn on Forest restaurant.
- Chandlers Hill Parkcare Group celebrates 25 years of service.
- Fiskville CFA training complex closed.

2016
- Tony Eastward takes over the Acorn on Forest restaurant.
- Service station on the corner of Mountain Highway and Forest Road closes.
- Bayswater rail line relocated under Scoresby Road and Mountain Highway and new station built.
- Norma Ann Sykes (Sabrina) dies.

2017
- Plaque on the cairn in The Basin Centenary garden was to be removed and the bottle containing a copy of The Basin centenary handbook extracted from the brickwork. See **2022**.
- Boronia Heights College buildings demolished.
- The Basin Food is Free project commences.
- Mount View Estate opens.

2018
- Time capsule buried at The Basin Primary School in 1985 recovered and stored in the School office. A new basketball stadium being constructed would have covered the time capsule.
- Jack Wallace, founding member of The Basin Cricket Club, passes away.
- The Basin Food is Free Project and Community Garden formed.
- John Mortimore elected mayor of The City of Knox.
- City of Knox declares the Millers Homestead site surplus, but after a public backlash reverses its decision.
- Basketball stadium erected at The Basin Primary School.
- The Basin Basketball Club (*Wildcats*) commences using the new basketball stadium at The Basin Primary School as their base.
- Martin Luther Homes win Victorian Aged Care Provider of the Year.
- The Basin Football Club form the first women's team to play in competition football.
- George and Pat Hetrel donate $1,000,000 towards upgrading facilities at Batterham reserve.
- The Basin Elderly Citizens Club deregistered.
- The Basin General Store/Milk bar closes (Alchester milk bar also closes).

2019
- The new The Basin Community House opens.
- The Basin Cricket Club 1st's win their first premiership.
- Como open gardens program closed.

2020
- Severe bushfires in Victoria and NSW.
- Coronavirus pandemic.
- Kevin Chen takes over The Basin Post Office.
- Jude Dwight elected councillor for Knox Chandler Ward.
- Pedestrian lights installed in Forest Road near the carpark.
- Christadelphian Heritage College relocates to Ferntree Gully.
- Fernbrook School takes over the Christadelphian Heritage College facilities.

2021
- Melbourne Vinayagar Hindu Sangam temple in The Basin extensively renovated and has third consecration.
- An area for a *"Fire Authority Reserve*" of about 0.6 Hectares appears on public maps along The Basin Olinda Road.
- Martin Luther Homes win Victorian Aged Care Provider of the Year.
- Coronavirus pandemic.

- An Expression of Interest (EOI) process advertised for the 100 ha of land owned by The Salvation Army in The Basin.
- Matea Gluščević, shoe designer and shoemaker, moves to The Basin.

2022
- Coronavirus pandemic.
- Plaque on the cairn in The Basin Centenary garden removed and the bottle containing a copy of The Basin centenary handbook extracted from the brickwork. The bottle was cracked and the handbook in poor condition. Cairn and plaque were restored.
- Electronic speed limit signs installed in The Basin shopping centre.
- Pedestrian lights installed on Mountain Highway at the top end of the Shopping centre in The Basin.
- John Mortimore, editor of Boronia and The Basin Community News, receives a Victoria Day Award for community service.
- Rumours spread that a trout farm would be established at the Retarding Basin, but later found to be a prank.
- Knox Council presents to the community a draft of The Basin Triangle Masterplan.
- Batterham Tennis Club celebrates its 50th Anniversary.
- Community picnic held in The Basin Triangle to celebrate opening of the time capsule buried in 1967.
- Vintage W-class tram installed at Acorn Bar and Grill.
- Michael Johnson, founder of The Basin Food is Free Project & Community Garden, receives a Victoria Day Award for community service.

2023
- Margaret Penford receives a Victoria Day Award for community service with The Basin and Boronia Community News
- Joel Clarke awarded Knox City Council Clubperson of the year for his involvement with The Basin Cricket Club.
- Michael Johnson presented with the "*Tilly Aston*" award in the category of Local Hero.
- Ray Brown, a long time volunteer with The Basin Fire Brigade, founder of The Basin Junior Field Naturalist' Club and local identity passes away.
- Como Gardens opens for Garden Clubs, Weddings, Special Events and Private Functions.
- The Victorian state government approves plans for high density housing at the former Boronia Heights College grounds.
- Vintage W-class tram installed at Acorn Bar and Grill in 2022 removed.
- The Fire Reserve area on The Basin-Olinda Road officially purchased by the CFA.
- Recovered time capsule placed on permanent display at The Basin Community House.
- Jude Dwight elected mayor of The City of Knox.
- Carols by Candlelight cancelled because of heavy rain.

2024
- New time capsule presented at a community picnic in The Basin Triangle. To be stored in The Basin Fire Brigade current meeting room and opened in 2042.
- The Basin Bakery wins the Triple MMM Best Bakery of Melbourne award.
- A scheme allowing for the development of a solar farm on Salvation Property in The Basin submitted to the Victorian Government. Submissions for/against the proposal to be submitted by December 2024.
- Ben's Place wins the Tilly Aston Community Award in the category of Mental Health and Wellbeing.
- Matea Gluščević wins numerous award categories at the 2024 Global Footwear awards.
- Paige Kennet elected Councillor for Chandler Ward.

2025
- In January, a proposed amendment submitted to a planning scheme for a solar farm on Salvation Army property. The amendment involved creating a subdivision for the solar farm.
- Solar farm on the Salvation Army property approved in May.
- Ben's Place Pantry closes.
- The "*Chandler"* mural on the outside shop wall facing The Basin Olinda Road refurbished.
- The Peacock Den wins the Quality Business Award 2025 as the Best Wine Bar in the City of Knox.

2027
- Centenary of The Basin Bush Fire Brigade formation.

2035
- Time capsule stored at The Basin Primary School to be opened. The capsule contains memorabilia associated with Victoria's 150th year celebrations in 1985.

2042
- Time capsule stored at The Basin Fire Brigade current meeting room to be opened celebrating the 175th anniversary of the town. The capsule was prepared at a community picnic in The Basin Triangle in January 2024

2053
- Time capsule located in town square in Upwey to be opened.

2067
- The Basin township Bi-Centenary.

2080
- The Basin Primary School Bi-Centenary.

Chapter 16 Places of Interest

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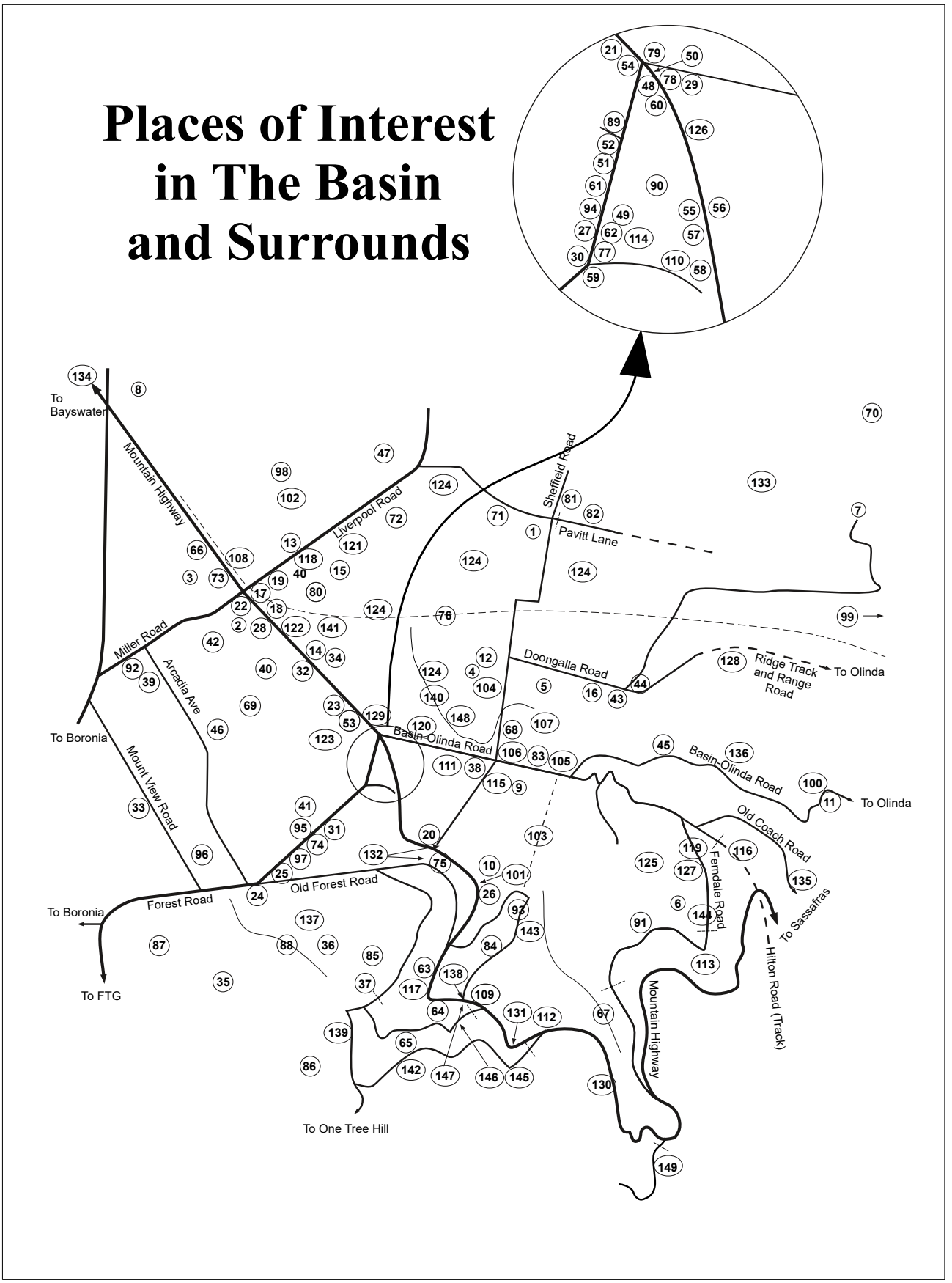
Summary

This chapter shows a map with references to places of interest in The Basin.


Places of Interest in The Basin and Surrounds
To Bayswater
To Boronia
To FTG
To One Tree Hill
To Olinda
To Olinda
To Sassafras
Mountain Highway
Liverpool Road
Sheffield Road
Pavitt Lane
Miller Road
Arcadia Ave
Mount View Road
Forest Road
Old Forest Road
Doongalla Road
Ridge Track and Range Road
Basin-Olinda Road
Basin-Olinda Road
Old Coach Road
Ferndale Road
Hilton Road (Track)
Mountain Highway

1. Site of house and cultivation associated with the first known freehold land in The Basin. Freehold title was granted in 1867 to William Watson. An 1866 map shows the location of a house and cultivation on the corner of Sheffield Road and Pavitt Lane beside the Dandenong Creek.
   This site may also have been the location of the first house in The Basin built by William Turner in 1851. See also Places of Interest No. 4.
   The land was purchased by David Dobson in 1872 who sold it to the Salvation Army in 1897. In 2025, land is still owned by the Salvation Army.
2. Site of "*Bayswater*", the original home of James John Miller. Original house no longer exists and is a residential property.
3. Site of the second home of James John Miller. When purchased by John Yeadon in 1907, he renamed it Melrose. In 2025, the house has been restored to its original state, is managed by the City of Knox, and known as "*Millers Homestead*".
4. Site claimed by descendants of William Turner to be the location of the first known house in The Basin built by William Turner in 1851. Turner may not have built his house here, but in the location of Places of Interest No. 1 because it is closer to a good supply of water from the Dandenong Creek.
5. Site of Como House, second house of early settler William Chandler and family. Original house no longer exists and is a residential property.
6. Site of Ferndale homestead built by early settler James Griffiths around 1900. Destroyed in the 1962 bushfires. In 2005, a new owner erected a new building with its view aligned to the tallest building in the (Melbourne) Central Business District (CBD). Major landscaping finished restoration of the property which is maintained by full time gardeners.
7. Site of house and property called "*Fern Glen*" built in the 1880s. House partly destroyed by a flood in 1891.
   The property was purchased by Sir Matthew Davies in 1891 and he erected a mansion called Invermay. Davies was declared bankrupt in 1892. The bank foreclosed on the property and took possession.
   In 1908, it was purchased from the bank by Miss Helen Archbald Luke Simson and later by T M Burke. The house was destroyed by a bushfire in 1932.
   The site was purchased by the government in 1950 and in 2025 is part of the Doongalla Forest Reserve.
8. Land purchased by early settler Samuel Collier in 1871.
9. Site of Wicks Homesteads. First house built in 1877 close to The Basin-Olinda Road. Replaced with a more prominent house higher on the hill in 1905. Destroyed by bushfire in 1962. In 2025, the site is a residential property.
10. Site of property first known as "*Cleve House*" built in 1893 by Charles Chandler, brother of early settler William Chandler. Later used as a guest house and camp for many years and known as "*Clevedon House*". Destroyed by fire in 1972.
    In 2010, the site was the base for a Christadephian Heritage College for 10 years. In mid 2020, the school relocated to Ferntree Gully.
    Fernbrook School commenced operation in 2020, taking over the land and buildings from the Christadelphian Heritage College.
11. Site of building known as "*Hazel Dell"*. Built in the 1880s as the home of early settler Thomas Hodgson. Later became a guest house run by various families. Later a church camp run by the Uniting Church. In 2025, a residential property.
12. Site of Salvation Army Boys Home No. 1 (1897-1987. In 2025, used by the Salvation Army as an alcohol and drug rehabilitation program known as "*The Bridge*".
13. Site of the Salvation Army Boys Home No. 2 (1899-1983. In 2025, site of a thrift shop with some community support services and The Basin Salvation Army Church.
14. Original site of Salvation Army Boys Home No. 2. Destroyed by fire in 1913. In 2025, residential properties.
15. Building first built by the Salvation Army and used as a Boys Home Special School. A fire early 1972 destroyed almost half of the buildings, and they eventually became vacant.
    The Basin Primary School started using the remaining buildings in the early 1980s. The buildings and land were later amalgamated with The Basin Primary School.
16. Site of The Dandenong Ranges School (The Basin State School) 1880 - 1899. In 2025, a residential property.
17. The Basin State School was moved from its site in Doongalla Road to this corner site in 1901. A new building was erected in 1925 away from the corner.
18. The Basin Primary School 2025 site. Has one of the largest grounds in the State of Victoria.
19. Site of Methodist Church from 1903-1958. The building was shifted to Boronia in 1958. Land was purchased by the Education Department and added to The Basin Primary School.
20. Site of Church of England 1934-1948. In 2025, residential property.
21. Second site of Church of England 1949-1989. See 20 for original site. In 1990, the land and buildings was purchased by a Hindu religious group and a Hindu temple erected.
22. Site of garage first established in 1962 by Fred and Maurie Cook. In 1997, this station was demolished

and a modern new service station erected with car wash

23. Site of Harrison's Weaving Mill (Locksley Textiles) which opened in 1946 and was an early source of local employment. It closed in the 1960s and the buildings and site were taken over by Low Line Industries which closed in 2016.
    The land was subdivided in 2017, and became the Mount View Estate.
24. Store most popularly known as "*Wrights Store*". Original store was built in 1926 and run by Albert James Gandini. Various owners over the years. Rebuilt in 1972. A takeaway food section was added in 1999. In 2025, is still operating and has as a public phone box and letter box outside.
25. Site of store known as the "*Junction Store*" first run by the Fielder family It operated from the early 1930s to the 1940s. In 2025, a residential property.
26. Site of store built in 1942 by George Langdon and first known as "*Langdon's Store*". Had a public phone box, letter box and fire alarm bell outside store. In 1954, Mr Langdon sold the store, and it was taken over by Mr. and Mrs. Usher for about one year and then later by Rod Travis and his wife. Closed in 1965. In 2025, a residential property.
27. Site of store first known as "*Howe's Greengrocer*". Later the Forest Lodge Restaurant. In 2025, The Acorn Bar and Restaurant.
28. Site of store known as the "*School Store*". Owned by Eddie and Alice Williams. Had a public phone box and letter box outside store. Opened in 1949 and closed in the late 1960s. In 2025, a residential property.
29. Site of house known as the "*Lolly lady's"* in the 1930s. In 2025, a residential property.
30. Site of the first garage in The Basin built around 1928-1930. Owned by the Thompson family and known as "*Thompson's Garage*". Sold to the Cook family in 1953 and closed and dismantled in 1960. In 1985, a group of shops were erected which in 2025 are known as "*The Basin Central shops*".
    In 2025, the Oak Tree Tavern is the longest tenant in one of the buildings, having been there since 2000.
    One of the shops is said to be haunted.
31. Site (rear of 334 Forest Rd) of bus depot when Wilson took over the bus run in 1950. Continued as a depot until early 1960s when Wilson sold to Nugent. In 2025, a residential property.
32. St. Bernadette's Roman Catholic Primary School. Established in 1983. A Community Hall was added in 1997.
33. Original site of Boronia Heights Secondary College. First called Boronia Technical School. Established in 1973. Closed in 2014 and land slated for residential development.
34. Water tanks Mountain Highway. Opened in 1978.
35. Water tank Hansen Track. Opened in 1960.
36. Water tank Bayview Crescent. Opened in 1981. Previously, there was a house on this site built by Tom Stephens in 1931. Tom was the father of Distinguished Resident Jim Stephens. In the late 1960s, a resident of this house was fatally burnt when he attempted to refill a generator with petrol. The petrol ignited, and he was unable to escape the flames. The house was destroyed by an arsonist in 1972.
37. Water tank Schneider's Hill (underground). Built in 1987.
38. Wicks Reserve. In 1942, The Shire of Ferntree Gully purchased a section of land owned by John Wicks. His family had considerable influence in the early development of The Basin.
39. Batterham Reserve. Home of The Basin Football Netball Club and The Basin Cricket Club. Named in honour of Edgar Rowlstone Rowley Batterham who sold the land to The Shire of Fern Tree Gully to be used as a reserve.
40. Grumont Reserve. The name "*Grumont*" is in recognition of George Grumont, a resident of The Basin for over 60 years, who contributed much to the development of The Basin.
41. Mortiboy Reserve. Named in memory of Mr Ted Mortiboy who originally owned the land the reserve is situated on. Ted, a keen scouter, bought 4 blocks of land in Stuart Street in the 1920s and often brought his troop, the 6th Malvern Scouts, there for weekend camps. A bunkhouse was built and many a pleasant weekend enjoyed.
    Ted and his scouts attended the scene of the first Boronia level crossing accident on 27th April 1926 rendering help to the injured survivors. A plaque on Mortiboy Reserve commemorates their efforts.
42. Gravenstein Reserve. Created in 1974 when the Goodwin Estate opened in the area once used as an apple orchard. The name "*Gravenstein*" follows the naming of areas in the estate after types of apples
43. The first The Basin Theatre called "*The Hut*". Used for productions from 1963 to 1973. In 2025, still exists and used.
44. The Basin Theatre. Built in 1973, extended in 1989.
45. Seventh Day Adventist Camp & Conference Centre. Established in 1935, closed in 1999. Purchased in 2001 by the Romanian Seventh Day Adventist Church.
46. Goodwin Estate Pre-School. Established in 1979.
47. Retarding Basin. Constructed in 1969/70. Controls the runoff from 1450 hectares of hilly semi rural catchment and protects extensive residential and industrial development on the downstream flood plain.

In 2022, rumours spread that a trout farm would be established at the Retarding Basin, but was later found to be a prank

48. The Basin Progress Hall. Land was purchased in 1930 by three residents as trustees for The Basin Progress Association. Building commenced in 1930 using voluntary labour and completed in 1931. Many improvements were made over time and trustees changed.
    In 2004, The Basin Progress Hall and land were sold to The City of Knox for $1.
    In 2015, the stage and surrounding walls were removed and rebuilt which included a new stage, a new entrance, and windows facing towards a new pavilion.
49. The Basin Senior Citizens Hall. Built in 1973. The Basin Senior Citizens group used the hall until 2018 when the group disbanded. In 2025, the hall is used by community and private groups with bookings organised by The Basin Community House.
50. Site of the first store in The Basin known as "*Smith's Store*", built in 1924. In 1926, a barn was added to the rear of the store. First run by R B Smith, later Harold and Edith Poulter, Bert Horsfield, Keith and Mary Youl, Davey and Spong. In 2025, site of book store, Post Office and cafe.
51. The Basin Pre-School Kindergarten. Established in 1958. In 1967, the Shire of Knox allocated a portion of land at the rear of the kindergarten to be used as a playground which was previously used by The Basin Scouts.
52. Site of store built in 1934 by Bert Gretton. He operated the shop for a year or two. The land was eventually donated to the Shire of Ferntree Gully. In 1956, on this land and the adjacent block, The Basin Maternal & Child Health Centre opened.
53. First site of The Basin Post Office. 1916-1953. Located at approximately 1288-1290 Mountain Hwy. The Dickson family owned the property and had a house at the rear. The Post Office was a separate small building in the front yard. The building can be seen in the land brochure for the Eden Park Estate.
54. Second site of The Basin Post Office 1953-1964 with two public phone boxes and letter box located outside. In 1964, the Post Office moved across the road with the phone boxes and letter box.
    In 1965, a service station was built on the site and the Cook family operated the business. Fritz Vanderlee took over the business. Later owners included Hart and Riley. In 2009, the station became known as "*Hillview Motors*" run by Ian Hedrich. It closed in 2016. In 2025, the site is owned by a property developer and is vacant.
55. Site of butcher shop run by Mr. Herbert (Bert) Clarke and his daughter from about 1928 to 1934. Bert was active in local affairs and was a member of the first The Basin Bush Fire Brigade. In 2025, part of The Basin Triangle.
56. Site of another early Butcher shop. Not known who owned the shop. In 2025, a residential property.
57. Site of service station owned by Benson in the 1950s. In 2025, part of The Basin Triangle.
58. Site of shop built by Claude Cane and known as "*Canes Store*" which opened in 1925. Demolished in 1973. In 2025, part of The Basin Triangle.
59. Site of Presbyterian Church from 1935 to 1964 when the congregation moved to St. David's in Boronia. The church building and land was later purchased by The Basin Scouts and used as a Scout hall. The building was destroyed by fire in 1972 in suspicious circumstances. In 2025, a residential property.
60. Site of The Basin Scout hall built in 1984 by voluntary labour and financed by the sale of the old site. See 59.
61. Site of second The Basin Fire station opened in 1953 built by voluntary labour. The Brigade's first siren was installed on an old windmill stand. Also, the site of a temporary fourth station used while the fifth station was constructed on the opposite of the road. In 2025, a commercial property.
62. Site of the third The Basin Fire station opened in 1967. It was financed by fundraising and local contributions, and built using volunteer labour. This was later demolished, and the fifth station opened in 1977 on the same site. A fourth temporary station was used on the opposite side of the road for about one year whilst the fifth station was built.
63. Stone wall. Originally built by sustenance workers during the depression of the 1930s. Has been repaired several times.
64. Site of log loading bay used between 1936 and 1940. A bullock team pulled the logs down to the high bank of Mountain Highway and the logs were rolled into a truck.
65. New Mystic Lake Estate opened in 1953. A few houses were erected, but some were destroyed in the 1962 bushfires. Land and remaining houses progressively purchased by the Government to become part of the Dandenong Ranges National park. There are numerous unofficial walking tracks in the area.
66. Site of quarry established by John Yeadon and later purchased by The Shire of Ferntree Gully. The location can be easily pinpointed as the roadside margin has a peculiar bend around the site. It was used as a source of stone for local roads. Not used after about 1935.
67. "*Griffiths Falls*". Also known as "*Ferndale Falls*" or "*The Basin Falls*". Accessible by following the creek upstream from the end of Golden Grove.

Difficult terrain with many logs across the creek. Was once accessible via a track from Mountain Highway.

68. Oak tree planted in 1875 by William Chandler. One of the finest specimens of English Oak in Australia. Also site of Centenary cairn erected by the Chandler family as part of The Basin centenary celebrations in 1967.
69. Site of training and trotting tracks known as "*The Trotto"* built by James John Miller. In 2025, residential properties.
70. Land known as "*Barne's Lookout*" until 1927 when T. M. Burke, a local Real Estate Agent, presented 7 acres, including the lookout, to the Crown to be used as a public park. He also asked it be known as "*Burke's Lookout*" from then on. Officially gazetted in 1929.
71. Site of pig farm established by The Salvation Army in the 1950s. In 2025, residential property.
72. Dobson's orchard & packing shed. Also, various old and new houses owned by the Dobson family. Liverpool Road originally ran past this area on the road now called Dobson Lane. A new straightened Liverpool Road was added in the 1960s.
73. Remnants of a hawthorn hedge bordering James John Millers land.
74. Site of Les Greenwell's case factory operating from 1960 to 1973. In 2025, a residential property.
75. Site of Mrs. Helen Walker's Estate agency which operated in the 1950s in a building at the front of the property. In 2025, a residential property.
76. Approximate route of a proposed tramway to run from Bayswater station to Olinda township past The Basin. Promoted in 1888 by a consortium including James John Miller. The proposal gained high level support and permission was granted by the Shire of Berwick to build the tramway. The tramway was to operate as either Cable or Electric. The proposal never got past the planning stage.
77. Shed with fire fighting gear and an alarm bell used by The Basin Fire Brigade up until 1953. The shed was located behind the The Basin Progress Hall and the Brigades first station. A new bell was donated to The Basin Fire Brigade in 1932 by T. M. Burke in appreciation for their efforts in attempting to save his Doongalla residence from burning down in 1932.

    In 2025, the bell is mounted on a stand and given pride of place in the current The Basin Fire Brigade station meeting room.
78. Site of The Basin Tennis Club courts that operated from 1932 to 1954. In 2025, the courts would have been behind The Basin shops.
79. The Basin Centenary Garden. In 1967, land was donated to The City of Knox by The Salvation Army to place a time capsule, cairn and plaque commemorating The Basin Centenary in 1967. The time capsule was opened in 2022 and in 2025 its contents are on permanent display at The Basin Community House. The display includes two History of The Basin books. A new plaque was erected in the same location as the old plaque. A new time capsule was created in 2024 and is stored in the current The Basin Fire Brigade station meeting room. The capsule is due to be opened in 2042.
80. Site of time capsule buried at The Basin Primary School in association with Victoria's 150th Birthday in 1985. The capsule was recovered before a new basketball stadium was erected over it, and in 2025 is held in The Basin Primary School office. The capsule is due to be opened in 2035.

    The basketball stadium was erected in 2018 and is home to The Basin Wildcats. It is used extensively by The Basin Primary School.
81. Doongala Horse and Pony Club. Officially registered in 1971. First building erected in 1971.
82. Lilydale Bowmans Club. Established in 1977.
83. Baron Von Mueller, a botanist, camped in this area in 1853 and reputedly thought of the name "*The Basin*". From the camp, he made excursions into the bush collecting botanical specimens. The first written reference to "The Basin" is in an 1868 field book by surveyor John Hardy.
84. "*The Ravine*". So named because it was once difficult to access and resembles a gorge with steep sides. The land was carved up as Schneider's Estate in 1913 which included the Bayview Crescent and Mercia Avenue areas. Lot 581 was purchased by the Ferntree Shire in 1950 and converted into a road to give Inverness Avenue access to Mountain Highway.

    Before 1984, Inverness Avenue was cut by a creek splitting the community living there. This changed in 1984 when the road was constructed over the creek. All roads in the Ravine were constructed in 1985/86.
85. Schneider's Hill. So named as this hill was the highest part of the "*Schneider's Estate*" first offered for sale in 1913.

    A track runs to the top of the hill, constructed by the landowner who owned property on top of the hill. The owner never had a chance to erect a house because the surrounding land was reclaimed by the Government to become part of the Dandenong Ranges National Park.
86. Chandler's Hill. Unknown how named.
87. Boronia Hill Estate. First offered for sale in 1920. Some properties were purchased by the Government and amalgamated into the Dandenong Ranges National Park.
88. *"Old Joe's Creek."*. Runs underground in pipes

from where it crosses Bayview Crescent. Intermittent flow. Sources near the junction of Crete and Hansen Tracks. Thought to have been named after Joseph Gadd ("*Old Joe")* who lived in a humpy alongside the creek above Bayview Crescent.

89. Site of Butcher shop and Milk Bar run by distinguished resident Roy Ritchie. Operated from 1957 to 1987.
90. The Basin Triangle. Originally residential properties. Progressively purchased back by the City of Knox and developed to be used as a recreation area and passive park.. In 2025, site of The Basin Progress Hall, The Basin Fire Brigade, The Basin Scouts and The Basin Elderly Citizens Hall. Major developments include car park, childrens playground and public toilets. Major events held there are The Basin Music Festival and Carols by Candlelight.
91. Site of Ferndale Camp. Used by the Congregational Church as a youth camp from 1962 to 1992. Site acquired in 1992 by the government to become part of the Dandenong Ranges National Park.
92. Batterham Park Tennis Club, part of Batterham Reserve. Founded in 1972.
93. Site of saw mill used in the 1920s. In 2025, residential property.
94. Site of store known as "*Youl's Store*". Later became the Moonshiners restaurant (1974-1997). Later, the Calendula restaurant which closed in the late 2000s. In 2025, the Peacock Den.
95. Site of Les Greenwell's wood merchant yard. Operated from 1950 to 1960. In 2025, a residential property.
96. Martin Luther homes for the aged. Established in 1967.
97. Site of Hornby's Dairy. Commenced operation in the early 1930s and ceased in the late 1930s when local shops began selling milk. In 2025, a residential property.
98. Sugar Loaf Hill. Unknown how named.
99. Property originally known as "*Dodd's Gully*" and named after George Dodd, the original land selector. Located near the source of the Dandenong Creek below Olinda. Land first settled in the 1880s and is known for its scenic setting. The area has not been subjected to any bushfires in modern times.
    The property was purchased in 2014 by the Government and in 2025 is known as "*Rainbow Gully Reserve*".
100. House and property first known as "*The Bungalow*" and later as "*Glen Elborn*" when it became well known for its three hectares of botanical gardens. In 2025, the property is a bed and breakfast called Glen Elborne Estate.
101. Miss Girlie Lee Monument. In memory of Miss Girlie Lee who died in the tragic accident between a bus and a train at the Boronia level crossing in 1952. Nine people were killed. The monument was repainted by residents in 2014.
102. Site of Salvation Army Boys Home No. 3 (1931-1946).
103. Site of the Mill Track. Used in the 1920s for access to a saw mill and residents in The Ravine. In 2025, residential properties.
104. Early settler David Dobson's original house site. This house was demolished by the Salvation Army in the 1970s and a new house erected. In 2025, still used by the Salvation Army.
105. Site of Como Nurseries. Established by early settler William Chandler and carried on by later generations. Closed in 1988. In 2025, a residential property.
106. Site of "*Mail Bag Corner*". From 1900 to 1920 a mail post was located on the corner of The Basin-Olinda and Sheffield Roads and a loose bag hung there to collect mail.
    Also site of the "*Bert Chandler Gardens*", a display and retail outlet for Como Nurseries. In 2025, a residential property with portions of the gardens retained.
107. Site of early settler William Chandler and the family first home called "*Fern Glen*". Later the name was changed to Como as Fern Glen was the name of another property near The Basin. See 7.
108. Miller Park Reserve. Established in 1982. In 2025, home of Boronia Park Football Netball Club junior teams and Miller Park Tennis Club.
109. Site where accomplished surgeon Dr Yoffa resided in a tent. In 1959, she was killed in the tent by a deranged young man.
110. Site of the Glideaway Hall. Was attached to Canes Store. Demolished in 1979. In 2025, part of The Basin Triangle.
111. The "*Ferdinand Von Mueller Raingarden*" bio-infiltration system established in 2011. The system captures storm water and filters it through layers of sandy soil and plants, and then passes this clean water into Dobsons Creek.
112. Track running from Claremont Avenue, Golden Grove and Inverness Avenue to Mountain Highway through Crown land. Can be used as a fire escape for residents of the Ravine or access for emergency vehicles. Shown as Inverness Track on maps.
113. Dam on a creek once used by Ferndale as its water supply. In 2025, the dam is partly intact, with a section of the top of the dam wall collapsed. It can be accessed via an overgrown track from Mountain Highway.
114. Plaque and flowering gum in memory of Colin Hart. He served with The Basin Fire Brigade for forty years, filling many roles. Colin is best

remembered for the key role he played in the introduction of the Wajax fire hose couplings into the CFA.

115. Wicks East Nature Reserve. Established in 1972.
116. Section of track formerly known as "*Cobblestone Road*" and used as a coach route through The Basin to Ferny Creek and beyond. Steeper sections of the track were lined in cobblestones. When the road was closed, the cobblestones were recovered. In 2025, it is called Hilton Track and closed to vehicles.
117. Site of Boyup guest house. Operated in the 1920s. In 2025, a residential property.
118. Site of quarry created by John Yeadon after he purchased part of Crown allotment 72 from John Bruce in 1904. Operated for about 10 years. At the time, the land was not part of The Basin Primary School land but was later purchased by the Education Department.
119. Ferndale Road was originally created in the 1880s by Rivers Beachcroft Dickinson as a private road through his selection up to his property "*Hilton*", in Ferny Creek. It was marked "*Private"* on early maps. Past Mountain Highway, the road continued on tracks now known as Stewart, Edith, Helen and Danieda tracks.
    In 2025, Ferndale Road is part closed and all other tracks are closed to vehicles.
120. In 2021, an area for a *"Fire Authority Reserve*" of about 0.6 Hectares appeared on public maps. Thought to be reserved for a new fire station for The Basin Fire Brigade.
    In 2023, the site was officially purchased by the CFA from the Salvation Army.
121. Site of The Basin Community House 2019-2025. Displayed in a glass cabinet are historical books and contents of the time capsule opened in 2022.
122. Site of The Basin Community House 1987-2019.
123. Site of 2009 proposed healing centre in Augusta Road which never eventuated.
124. In 2025, Salvation Army Land. Approx size 88 ha or 217 acres. Purchased in 1897.
125. Site of lemon orchards grown in the 1930s by the Beaumont's and the Crawfords.
126. Site of George Leake's chemist shop which operated from 1963 to 1999 (36 years), making him in 2025, the longest serving shop proprietor in The Basin.
127. Site of proposed Ferndale School in 1983. The Health Department inspected the site and gave tentative approval. The proposal was squashed when The Shire of Sherbrooke advised the use of the property as a school was prohibited.
128. Track following a ridge to Olinda. First known as the "*Bullock Track*" created in the late 1840s. Used by early botanists, settlers and timber workers. In 2025, Ridge Track and Range Road are closed to vehicles.
129. Site of public toilets erected in 1967 on land purchased by the Shire of Knox from the Salvation Army. The toilets were removed in 2010 when new, more modern, public toilets were erected in The Triangle. In 2025, used as a car park.
130. Mountain Highway from The Basin to Sassafras. The primary survey was made in 1914. Construction commenced in 1920 and finished in 1925 as a gravel road. Sealed in late 1936. First known to as the "*1 in 20"* Road because of the road gradient.
131. Track into the rear of Inverness Road properties. Can be used as fire escape. Not shown on maps.
132. Vacant land between Old Forest Road and Mountain Highway and vacant land from Mountain Highway to Wicks Road. Both these blocks were part of the first surveyed road which came up Boronia Road, Forest Road, Old Forest Road, down to Toorak Road, across Mountain Highway and down Wicks Road. These sections were originally all connected and called Government Road. It was intended to be the main road into the area and was considerably wider than other roads. When Schneiders Estate and Mountain Highway were planned, the Shire of Ferntree Gully converted the sections of Government Road into vacant land and blocked vehicle access.
133. Doongalla Forest Reserve. Originally part of Doongalla estate. In 1950, the estate was offered for sale with a proposal to subdivide part of it into 339 blocks. The Government stepped in and purchased the land, creating the Doongalla Forest Reserve.
134. Mountain Highway Bayswater to The Basin. First called Bayswater Road.
135. Old Coach Road. Used for a coach service between Bayswater, through The Basin, to Sassafras until the mid 1920s when other routes and motor vehicles were used and it was closed to vehicles.
    The road passed through land selected by John McClare. A steep section was known as "*McClare's Hill*" and is marked on early maps. The hill was so steep some lower class coach passengers helped push the coach up this hill.
    In 2025, the road is partly closed to vehicles.
136. Up to the 1950s, the road stopped near Hazel Dell. The Shire of Ferntree Gully purchased land and extended the road to Olinda naming it "*The Basin – Olinda Road*".
137. When land in the Bayview Crescent and Mercia Avenue area was subdivided in 1913, the streets were not connected except at Nyora Avenue. In the 1950s, lot 135 was purchased by the Shire of Ferntree Gully and converted into a road to connect Mercia Avenue and Bayview Crescent midway.

138. When land in the Ravine was subdivided in 1913, Inverness Avenue did not connect to Mountain Highway because it did not exist then. In the 1950s, the Shire of Ferntree Gully purchased lot 581 and converted it into a road to connect them.
139. Government Road and Outlook Track. These roads were not surveyed in the original land selections but added around 1880 after complaints by selectors that they had no road access to One Tree Hill.
140. Dobson Creek. Originally called Blind Creek. Renamed in 1967 after a submission by The Basin Progress Association.
141. Released in 1997, the Mountain Gateway Estate was the first major housing subdivision of land purchased by the Salvation Army in 1897.
142. Block of land on Tobruk Avenue that once had a house. In 2025, a driveway, levelled area and collapsed chimney can still be seen.
143. An extensive tiered bio-infiltration system in Golden Grove and Bowen Avenue within the council reserve immediately next to the creek. Associated with the "*Ferdinand Von Mueller Raingarden*" bio-infiltration system established in 2011. See 111.
144. A noticeboard created by a local resident displaying historical information about Ferndale. In 2025, the display is in poor condition.
145. Site of the Tozers's home where they lived from the late 1950s. The Tozer family owned the Lower Ferntree Gully Grocery Store for many years. The house was next to a creek with a beautiful waterfall and rock ledges. There was a set of pipes, and a pump drawing plentiful water from a creek into tanks for their personal use. The waterfalls were a magnificent sight in wintertime. A track once followed the creek up the hill to Tyson Track. A dam accessible from Tyson Track was constructed after the 1968 bushfires on the same creek. In 2024, the levelled house area, driveway and non-native vegetation were still visible. In 2024, part of the Dandenong Ranges National Park.
146. Site of a house built from 1953 by William and Yola Pope, for his mother-in-law Stella Patrone. She lived there alone, on tank water and kerosene lighting/refrigeration up until around 1968 when she fell into poor health. No telephone or electricity was available for many years in the street. In 2024, part of the Dandenong Ranges National Park.
147. Site of two-story house built by a Mr. Meisel. He originally ran the Men's Clothing business of the name "American Tailors" (In 2024, still in operation in Bourke St Melbourne by the owners since the 1990s). The house had a table tennis in the cellar, a huge lounge on the patio overlooking the highway, and a magnificent in-ground pool in the yard. The house had the luxury of an inside toilet, and a second water tank for making hot running water. In 2024, part of the Dandenong Ranges National Park.
148. The Basin solar farm on Salvation Army land. Approved in May 2025. The plans included an eight-hectare solar farm with approximately 11,000 solar panels on two to three-metre-high frames to allow the use of land underneath for sheep grazing and carbon farming.
149. Site of houses purchased by the government and amalgamated into the National Park.

Chapter 17 Research Notes

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Summary

This chapter details some of my research notes.

Research Notes

William Turner

Helen Coulsen in her publication "*Story of the Dandenongs*" and Muriel McGivern in her publications "*History of Croydon*" and "*Founder of the Dandenongs*" have numerous references to William Turner.

Neither author refers to a series of letters between William Turner and Government Officials discovered in the Public Record Office Pastoral Run files which provide valuable information about where he lived and when. The letters which have been reproduced in Chapter 1 were copied from faded handwritten copies and translation may not be correct. Letters are copyright The Public Record Office.

Neither author mentions the Pre-emptive right application by Turner listed in Marjorie Morgan's "*Crown Lands Pre-emptive Right Applications: Victoria 1850-1854*" publication.

Robert Hoddle, who became the surveyor general of the Port Phillip District in the early 1800s, wrote in his letter book in 1851 an instruction to Assistant Surveyor H.B. Foot to:

"*…mark lots for Turner and Thompson…"*

These instructions are cited by both authors. McGivern cites Hoddles letter book stating the survey was complete. I have not checked this citation.

Coulsen writes Turner selected land in The Basin and indicates the selection may be linked with the 1851 instruction to Surveyor Foot. Letters 2 (page 7) and 3 (page 7) from the Public Record Office Pastoral Run files have made it clear the 1851 instruction referred to land found to be on John Thompson's run. Also, an entry in the "*Applications Register for the purchase of Land under Pre-Emptive Right*" held by the Public Records Office confirms this.

McGivern wrote:

"*In 1851 Turner was satisfied with 81 acres of land on his homestead site in The Basin as he had applied for and obtained a license to 'east of Rouke Bros run' at Bayswater so described."*

The references to "*1851*", "*81 acres*" and "*east of Rouke Bros run"* are explicit, but I have been unable to find evidence to support the claim in 1851. However, the 81 acres mentioned is the same size as Crown allotment 72A in The Basin east of Rourke Bros run. Turner mentions similar land in letter 5 (page 10) but the letter is dated 1858. McGivern may have had an incorrect date, but "*Bayswater*" was not a term used in 1851.

When William Chandler applied for a license of 40 acres, later surveyed as Crown allotment 72B, he described his land as "*east of Turner's 42nd Section known as The Basin.*" If Turner held any right to Crown allotment 72A, this land is west of Crown allotment 72B as described by Chandler. The 42nd Section applied to land acquired under the 1865 land act, so it is assumed Turner had applied for a lease on this land earlier than 1865.

Other publications record Turners elder son, William, took over The Basin license on Crown allotment 72A, but lost it for encouraging "*illicit distillation*". The "*Turner*" William Chandler referred to above is most likely also Turners oldest son.

McGivern also refers to a lease by Turner of 320 acres in the forest just below Sassafras. Many "*put away*" 1868 maps of the Dandenong State Forest area by John Hardy show handwritten annotations referring to an area of 320 acres just below Sassafras. On one map, "Wm Turner" is written on the map but no land area is shown. Other maps refer to "*Thomas Turner*" (Wm Turners son) and rough boundaries of the area have been drawn. The land appears to be in the same area as land later held by Rosney and Hodgson with an additional section located northeast, crossing the Dandenong Creek and finishing below Mount Dandenong in the area later granted to George Dodd. If Turner held land in the area Hardy proposed as State forest, then possibly his license or lease was revoked. However, no official records have been located confirming any licenses or leases in the location.

The 1868 map of the Dandenong State Forest by John Hardy was also used extensively by surveyors who first surveyed land under the 1869 Land Act. Many maps in the land selection files of The Basin settlers used the Hardy map to indicate the location of the surveyed land on a larger map.

I have located two William Turners active in Victoria around the same time as the William Turner who settled in The Basin. One had holdings in northern Victoria and the other is included in a montage of early explorers and colonists of Victoria held by the State Library of Victoria. The dates ascribed to the Turner in the montage match those of the William Turner who settled in The Basin, but the photograph is different to the one provided by descendants of William Turner.

Turners descendants supplied me with a "*Will*" dated 1884 in which William Turner left all his real and personal estate to his son William Hector Turner, the executor. An online search of wills and Grant of Probate did not locate either. However, if an estate is not complex or large, it is not required probate be granted.

Turners descendants also supplied me with a Turner family tree. The birth dates of some Turners children on the tree do not agree with computed values from the family tree and official birth, death, newspaper records and genealogy websites. However, official records in the 1800s may not be correct.

Many references to William Turner are in The Melbourne Argus. He was made insolvent several times (see articles on 28th January 1848, 10th July 1862, 20th June 1874 and 3rd October 1878). The 20th June 1874

insolvency document is available from the Public Record Office. The 1878 insolvency resulted in an auction of his tailors' stock at his Elizabeth Street, Melbourne premises on 11th October 1878. On 6th November 1888, his land at Lilydale was put up for auction.

Land Selection Files

Land Selection Files are held by the Public Record Office in Victoria and referenced by file numbers found on Crown Plan allotment maps and "*Put Away*" plans. The Public Record Office have guides to assist in selecting the required files.

In The Basin area, some land selection files could not be located and not all documents were in the file. For example, files for Turner, Miller, Watson, Woodhouse and Dobson could not be located. This may be because they were subject to a land act earlier than 1869, the land was purchased outright from the Crown, usually by auction, or the documents have been pilfered.

Index

In the thousands of names entered in this book, some will be incorrect, so I apologise to these people in advance.

Not all names have an index entry. Most names in the appendixes are not indexed because there were too many to enter. Text can be easily searched for in the electronic version of this book.

Many index entries appear to be the same person. For example, "*Cook*", "*Cook, M.*" and "*Cook, Morrie*". These are most likely the same person, but the information came from different sources, and to be safe, I have not combined the entries.

Premiership flags

Premiership flags won by Batterham Tennis Club pack the clubroom ceiling, and it was impossible to remove them for listing or read them from the floor. Also, many flags have been taken by the recipients.

Premiership flags won by Miller Park Tennis Club also adorn the ceiling but are not tightly packed. It was possible to photograph them and read the details from the photograph. However, there may be some errors in translation.

Subdivisions

Subdivisions are an original parcel of land divided into smaller separate titles. Roads and easements may be included. Small subdivisions earlier than about 1900 are shown as a map on the associated title and were created by the title's office.

Documents called Lodged Plan numbers (LP), were used to detail a subdivision which was created by a licenced surveyor. LP numbers were superseded by Plan of Subdivision numbers (PS). In 2025, the Land and Survey Spatial Information (LASSI) website shows these numbers on a map. However, not all LP or PS numbers are shown. LP numbers are also sometimes shown on early titles.

In 2025, the Landata website can be used to purchase LP or PS documents which are known as Survey Documents.

All subdivision plans have the associated Volume and Folio number (Certificate of title reference) written on the plan with the subdivision date.

The appendix lists most of the major subdivisions in The Basin and surrounding area including the associated Volume and Folio numbers. Some Lodged Plans show subsequent subdivisions.

Titles

A title is the official record of proprietorship of land and identified by a Volume/Folio number. Titles contain pointers to the parent title and children titles which can be traced and purchased in 2025 using the Landata website. I have quoted Volume/Folio numbers wherever relevant.

Whenever land is sold, the Certificate of Title contains a reference number relating to a Transfer of Land instrument.

In addition to Transfer of Land references, early titles have numbered references to caveats, red ink entries, court rulings, probate, memos and leases (known as instruments). These instruments had multiple documents registered using the same numbers and most were overwritten when electronically translated. The only traceable instrument numbers on early titles are those relating to Transfer of Land. However, most other old instruments are archived somewhere (I hope).

Transfer of Land

A Transfer of Land instrument transfers ownership of a property. Early instruments were mostly handwritten in a template.

Instruments contain valuable information about sellers, purchasers, dates, titles, costs and other information.

The date on which the purchaser and vendor sign and exchange money for the certificate of title and transfer of land instrument is often called the "*settlement date*". This only grants the purchaser partial rights to the land. Namely, the right to become the registered owner of the land, but not the rights of the registered owner.

Under the Victorian Torrens Title System, a purchaser is not recognised as the legal owner of the land until the Victorian Land Registry receives the transfer of land instrument and certificate of title and records the transfer of ownership information into its own records and on the Certificate of Title.

In early transactions, there was often a delay between the settlement date and the date recorded on the certificate of title by the Victorian Land Registry. This generally occurred because it could take time to lodge the certificate of title and transfer of land instrument at

the Victorian Land Registry office because the documents may have been sent by mail or physically transported. Registration as owner could not occur before the Victorian Land Registry examined these documents and had confirmed there were no issues with the requested transfer. Modern transfers are performed electronically and usually verified in a day.

Older Transfer of Land instruments show the settlement date and signatures by the parties. Below this is confirmation from the Land Registry that the transfer is valid and may be dated the same or a later date than the settlement date. The confirmation date on the Transfer of Land instrument will be the same date as on the Certificate of Title and is the official purchase date.

All instruments are publicly available at cost. I have quoted instrument numbers wherever relevant.

Birth Death and Marriage Certificates

Early settlers did not always record full or correct names on birth certificates. Parents death certificates sometimes did not list all children and may use a child's family pet name. Most early certificates are difficult to translate due to poor writing.

All certificates are publicly available at cost.

Acknowledgements

To Jim Stephens who researched and provided much information used in the book.

To Barbara Stephens who provided the title for the book.

To the proof and fact readers. Amanda Flint (my daughter), Barbara Stephens, Ray Brown and Meryll Williams.

Other

I have used both the terms "*died"* and "*passed away*". Older reports used "*died"*, so I have used this where appropriate.

I avoided use of the pound symbol (£) because younger readers are not familiar with it. Older instrument numbers mostly write pounds instead of using the symbol.

Despite numerous requests, I was unable to obtain a complete list of St. Bernadette's Roman Catholic Primary School principals.

Major Subdivisions in The Basin and Surrounds (3 pages)		
Reference	**Year**	**Description**
LP003188 Vol 1130 Fol 927 Vol 1410 Fol 919	1891	149 parcels. Bayswater township. The plan details subsequent subdivisions.
Vol 1476 Fol 168	c1899	2 parcels Crown allotment 79. The plan details subsequent subdivisions.
Vol 1705 Fol 873	c1899	4 parcels. Crown allotment 72. The plan details subsequent subdivisions.
Vol 2155 Fol 869	c1899	3 parcels. Crown allotment 81. The plan details subsequent subdivisions.
Vol 2225 Fol 925	c1899	6 parcels. Crown allotment 82. The plan details subsequent subdivisions.
LP004773 Vol 2749 Fol 718/731	1907	11 parcels. Crown allotments 71 and 74. James John Millers land. The plan details subsequent subdivisions.
LP006107 Vol 2814 Fol 662	1913	60 blocks. McClares Terrace. Front Door Estate. Sassafras. The plan details subsequent subdivisions.
LP006500 Vol 2732 Fol 206	1914	29 blocks. Crown allotment 64. The plan details subsequent subdivisions.
LP006712 Vol 3750 Fol 969	1915	640 blocks. Mercia, Bayview, Claremont, Inverness. Schneider's Estate.
LP006713 Vol 3750 Fol 969	1915	6 blocks. Mercia.
LP007642 Vol 2225 Fol 925	1919	12 blocks along Old Coach Road near Ferndale Road.
LP007702 Vol 5694 Fol 758	1919	30 blocks bordered by Helen and Clarke Tracks and Hilton Road in Ferny Creek. The plan details subsequent subdivisions. Shows house later owned by Sidney Myer.
LP007740 Vol 4283 Fol 538	1920	76 blocks near Clarke Road and Breens Terrace. Ferny Creek. The plan details subsequent subdivisions.
LP007841 Vol 4323 Fol 460	1920	151 blocks. Hanson, Burston, Lachlan, Philippa Roads. Boronia Hill Estate. The plan details subsequent subdivisions.
LP007857 Vol 4239 Fol 609	1920	11 blocks. Corner Simpsons and Doongalla Roads.
LP008116 Vol 3299 Fol 635	1921	43 blocks. Triangle, Church Street and View Road. Chandlers Hill Estate. The plan details subsequent subdivisions.
LP008442 Vol 4479 Fol 672	1921	73 blocks. Mount View & Erin Roads, Janesdell, Seabreeze. One Tree Hill. The plan details subsequent subdivisions.
LP008540 Vol 3970 Fol 947	1921	33 blocks. Bayswater township. The plan details subsequent subdivisions.
LP009301 Vol 4233 Fol 563	1923	18 blocks. Corner Forest and Old Forest Roads. The plan details subsequent subdivisions.
LP010150 Vol 4783 Fol 541	1924	118 blocks. Waratah, Arcadia, Verbena, Carnarvan. Nareen Park Estate. The plan details subsequent subdivisions.
LP010642 Vol 4132 Fol 318/319	1925	15 blocks. Corner Miller Road and Mountain Highway.

Major Subdivisions in The Basin and Surrounds (3 pages)		
Reference	**Year**	**Description**
LP010942 Vol 4995 Fol 848 Vol 5002 Fol 277	1925	75 blocks. Augusta, Norman, Stuart, Frances. Eden Park Estate.
LP011055 Vol 4849 Fol 969 Vol 4979 Fol 995	1925	86 blocks. Conyers, Harrison Streets. Forest Road. Forest Heights Estate.
LP011520 Vol 5091 Fol 120	1926	20 blocks. Simpsons Road. Milleara Street.
LP011539 Vol 5027 Fol 263	1926	222 blocks. Alpine, Mountview, Highview Roads. Seabreeze, Janesdell, Cascade Avenues. Mystic Lake Estate.
LP012973 Vol 5556 Fol 185/6/7/8	1927	313 blocks. Ferndale, Robin, Helen, Edith Stewart Roads. Danieda Crescent. Part Ferndale Estate. Shows transfers to the Crown.
LP013822 Vol 5904 Fol 758	1934	63 blocks in complete estate. Osprey, Eyre, Ornata,Prion, Toroa Roads. Part of Doongalla Estate Mount Dandenong. The plan details subsequent subdivisions.
LP016567 Vol 4473 Fol 894	1945	15 blocks. Clarke & Hilton Roads, Breen Terrace. Ferny Creek
LP017184 Vol 4666 Fol 933	1946	3 Blocks. Part Crown allotment 83 near Hazel Dell.
LP020104 Vol 3175 Fol 875	1950	30 blocks. Arcadia Avenue. Reserve Estate.
LP021018 Vol 6893 Fol 547	1951	26 blocks. Stanley Street.
LP023861 Vol 3189 Fol 712	1951	28 blocks. New Street. Mountain Highway Estate.
LP026960/1 Vol 8030 Fol 442/3	1952	422 blocks. Alamein, Tobruk Ave. Crete Road. New Mystic Lake Estate. Shows transfers to the Crown.
LP026962 Vol 8030 Fol 443	1952	162 blocks. Macedon, Outlook, Lord Somers Road. Princess Alexandrina Estate. Shows transfers to the Crown.
LP027671 Vol 2477 Fol 396 Vol 7676 Fol 176	1954	16 blocks. Ross Avenue. Clevedon Road. Clevedon Estate.
LP028674 Vol 3175 Fol 875	1954	81 blocks. Arcadia, Rowan Ave. Camelia Cres. Part Reserve Estate Extension.
LP052484 Vol 7638 Fol 054 Vol 8247 Fol 543	1960	36 blocks. Stuart Street. Waratah Avenue.
LP067705 Vol 8093 Fol 426 Vol 8652 Fol 282	1967	3 blocks. Grumont Road. Corsair Road and Track.
LP089144 Vol 8034 Fol 408 Vol 8202 Fol 793/4	1970	40 blocks. Basin, St Ives Court. Goodwin Street.

Major Subdivisions in The Basin and Surrounds (3 pages)		
Reference	**Year**	**Description**
LP092978 Vol 8202 Fol 793/4 Vol 8864 Fol 048	1975	63 blocks. Democrat Drive. Rome Beauty Ave. Yates Court.
LP099420 Vol 9039 Fol 416	1975	119 blocks. Dorrigo Drive, Melrose, Eugenia, Gilja, Hovea, Karri Courts. Part Crown Allotment 64.
LP110984 Vol 8790 Fol 379 Vol 8223 Fol 181	1975	3 blocks. Part Crown allotment 74. Wicks land.
LP116732 Vol 5703 Fol 468	1975	2 blocks. Part Crown allotment 59. George Dodd. Rainbow Gully.
LP126212 Vol 7538 Fol 079/80	1980	27 blocks. Democrat Drive. Winby Court.
LP126483 Vol 7538 Fol 079/80	1981	28 blocks. Democrat Drive. Lorna Court.
LP126484 Vol 9452 Fol 513	1983	8 blocks. Democrat Drive. Christopher Avenue.
LP149656E Vol 9605 Fol 101	1985	23 blocks. Thornton, Suzanne Courts.

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