



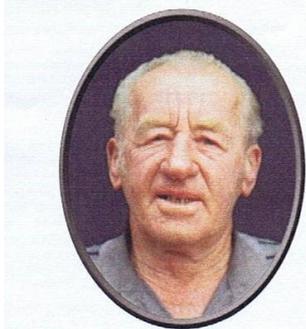
FORREST HISTORY NEWSLETTER



Issue 10

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Farewell Bruce Neale



Many warm memories came flooding back for the relatives and friends who attended the Requiem Eucharist at St Johns' Anglican Church for our Society member Bruce Neale on the 19th Jan. They followed the funeral to the Forrest Cemetery and then to the Football Club Rooms for refreshments.

Bruce got his secondary schooling at Ballarat Junior Tech. He passed his Intermediate. When the 2nd WW broke out he had to come home to work on the farm because manpower was short.

However, at age 17, Len Keating, the Forrest Primary School Head was keen for Bruce to continue his studies and gave him a temporary position as student teacher at the school. However he was soon needed at the farm.

We will always remember Bruce for his unflinching generosity, good humor and total support for the Forrest Football Club.

Bruce invited us to meet with him in Corangamara to hear his contribution to our event "Who Lived Where and When". Some highlights of that interview are in col.3 Page 4.



It is also sad to record the passing of George (Pud) Trew last Nov. at age 80. He lived for a time in the Station House and his wife operated the train turntable. Pud is remembered as a great footballer.

THE FORREST I REMEMBER

On the 29th May last year we had one of the most memorable of our regular Society events. Around 32 members and friends gathered to hear a wide variety of stories and memories from the past.



We promised to reveal who it was in this archive photo. It was **Dawn Jarrold** who was there to recall those carefree days at the swimming hole below the hotel. **Eunice Gill** was also there to talk about her younger days living in the Station Masters house on the other side of the railway line.

Alby Halliday remembered the stress of living at the family farm for nearly ten years not knowing when they would be required to vacate to make way for the West Barwon Dam.

Memories were flowing so freely that it was decided to keep going after lunch. With a little help from the accompanying liquid refreshments we finally prevailed on one of our members to relate her first experience of sex education at the primary school. A boy tied a condom to a drinking tap and it exploded drenching the students. It wasn't easy to explain to the teacher what happened and even more difficult for the teacher to explain what a condom was for!

Edna Crabbe was unable to attend but the notes she sent were very typical of the recollections of others:

I can't remember my first day at school but that's a long time ago. There were 4 of us Wilsons, Alf, Dorrie, Artie and myself. At that time we were living on Boundary Rd (boundary of Gerangamete & Forrest) where Grant's dairy is now.

We walked to school each day on the way meeting up with Maurie & Alan Whelan who lived where Max Whelan is now, then Ollie, Ettie, Keith & Joyce Wilson (cousins of ours) they lived where Tassie Whelan's house is. (This is a waking bus!) Then further along around Roadknight Creek Rd would meet Jim Pitman (he is still alive) then Bill Hill, Lois Henriksen, Marg Simmons (Fox), who lived where McNabbs are now, then Ethel and Norman Tyrell would join the group to make our way at last to school.

Many a time we would make sure we left home early before daylight to enable us to catch a ride with the Bilson delivery van that carted produce to Forrest & Barramunga. The only space for us was

riding on the running board of the truck. No way would you be allowed to do that today. On these days we would arrive at school before the teacher was out of bed, he would come over to the school in his dressing gown to open the school doors so that we could light the fire, he didn't seem to mind doing this as the room would be nice & warm when he returned ready for the day.

There was a Mrs Newcombe who milked a few cows who gave milk to the teachers wife and she used to make hot milk cocoa for us all, Mrs Black provided the cocoa.

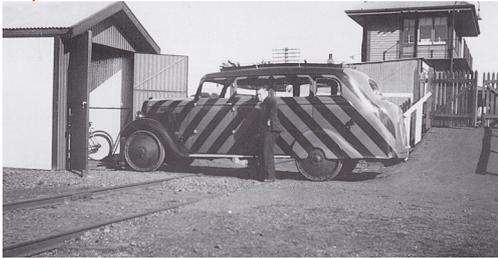
I remember a Miss Pengilly a teacher who had a single seater motor car. I think it was a Singer make. She would give us a ride home on VERY wet nights, which was lovely of her, she said she did this as we were the ones that lived the furthest away and we were never late for school.

There are five of us from this group still alive these being myself (Edna Crabbe ne Wilson) Maurie Whelan, Ettie Parker (Wilson), Jim Pitman and Lois Rourke (Henriksen).

Just a short note of my school days. Edna Crabbe.



They're making great progress with the Tiger



Tiger being parked at Birregurra Station (latest archive picture from Norman Houghton)



The Tiger on the scrap heap at Benalla before being rescued.(Photo Brad Murnane)



Latest progress in restoration

Following our visit to the Spa Country Railway Society, Daylesford , Feb 2009, to view the restoration of The Tiger, Alan Winter, our local railway enthusiast (and weekend cook at the time) was able to find a convenient time to visit on his own. He has volunteered to act as liaison between Brad Murnane, the technician in charge of the restoration, and our Society. We identified a number of ways in which we could contribute to the restoration by funding and organizing certain parts like a new petrol tank or generator or helping with new upholstery. We have a letter from their Society authorizing us to raise funds for their project. When completed it is planned that we may have it shipped to Forrest or other interested townships on the former line for exhibition on special occasions. What a reunion! And great photo opportunities! Lots of memories of old times! Is any member interested in looking for sources of funding, preparing applications and following them through? We hope to raise \$500 to \$3000 .

SCHOOL REUNION At the 125th School Anniversary held 21st November 2010 some former students rashly decided that they were not going to wait another 25 years to see each other again and decided to come back the same time every year! Linda Fisk arranged the first reunion lunch at the Brewery Café, Forrest on Sunday 20th November. Twenty two classmates turned up for a very happy occasion, all resolving to do it again next year!



Where People Lived and When

On the 6th Nov. last year over 30 members of the Society came together to undertake a very ambitious project: **To log the history of every property in the township and surrounding district.**

Every property in the Township, initially, has been photographed and entered on its own a data sheet. Those attending were then invited to work on those sheets recording whatever they knew of as many properties they could.

In the last days before our meeting some very useful information was received to assist us.

Phil Armistead called to say he could not attend then sent three maps of Forrest with a list of every resident he could remember from 1935 to 1950 corresponding with location numbers on the maps. He was assisted by Alison Pam Jennings, as reliable as ever, sent two block maps with resident's names, and two lists of ratepayers in the past with dates and addresses.

In the afternoon the group took a walk around the town continuing to recall former inhabitants and places of historic interest.



One of Pam Jennings very useful maps.

HELP HELP HELP

There is still much work to do on this important project. Is there a member who would be willing to help consolidate the rate lists, maps and information supplied on the day with the data sheets for each property? Please call Ken on 52366327

THANKYOU LOMA CUNNINGTON

Ron Cunnington has made available to our Society to copy, one of the most remarkable records we have seen. In June 2004 his late mother, Loma copied her mother's diary (Stella Green,



1920 Doreen Hayden died 10-2-1920 aged about 3. Youngest daughter of Mr & Mrs William Hayden of Hayden Brothers Timber Mills, Barwon Downs. She fell from a swing and ruptured her spleen.
 - Mr & Mrs Howe a son 26-2-1920
 Mr & Mrs William McLennan died 21-3-1920 lived at "Kilgarden" Barwon Downs. Came from Northern Ireland. Chamber in Family.
 J & P Callahans sale April 20th 1920
 Doris Griffiths died 21-4-1920 aged 14 years 9 months.
 Mrs Bob McLennan a son April 1920. McLennan
 Mr & Mrs Barrys sale 13-7-1920
 Green. Elizabeth (nee Walker) wife of Fred for a son George Leonard
 (born July 19-1920 lived at unoon
 Mr & Mrs Farquarson died 22 July 1920
 J. Mcullins died 26 July 1920
 Mr & Mrs Halliday Daughter 2-10-1920
 Green. Fred & Connie (nee Soudard) daughter born 11-11-1919 (aged)

nee Wilson, born Feb. 1896.). The diary runs from 1917 to 1943 recording not only births and deaths in the district but every notable event. For example: 1919 Train starts to run every day from 18.11.19. 1921 Trains to Forrest stopped running every day 4.1.21. 1919 Kate and John Day a son. They arrived in Barwon Downs in 1911 from Macedon area. Before they left, the artist Fred McCubbins painted "Pioneers" from this family.. 1920 Doreen Hayden died 10.2.20 aged about 3. Youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs William Hayden of Hayden Brothers Timber Mills, Barwon Downs. She fell from a swing and ruptured her spleen. 1921 Frank Green started milking with machines 15th Oct. The second booklet contains a history of the McLennans in Barwon Downs accompanied by a collection of newspaper cuttings. The family originated in Rossmere Scotland and played a significant part in the early days of Bawon Dns.

Excellent progress on tiger rail trail

These beautiful Autumn days are an ideal time to walk or cycle the Tiger Rail trail and check out the excellent work that has been recently completed. If the full distance deters you start at the football ground and head north to enjoy the magnificent stands of eucalypts. Read the well designed signs, note the restored Yaugher Station sign, pass the valley which was flooded when the Lake Elizabeth dam burst and inspect the famous brick lined culverts. And it's level travelling nearly all the way!



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**Don't Miss our Next Event
FORREST FAMILY HISTORIES**

**At the Terminus Hotel,
Sunday 22nd April from 10.30am**

We will hear a presentation from Peter Shanahan on his great grandfather Thomas Pengilley's epic voyage to Australia and his son William, the first licensee of the Forrest hotel. Jen Cunnington will tell us about the Curtis's and Ron, the Greens. Other families to research on the day include the Callahans, Whelans, Whiteheads and Hallidays. We will see a video of being at sea on a sailing ship in a roaring forties gale.

Please come along and tell us your Forrest family's history, when they arrived, what they did, descendants and relations.

Congratulations to Win 'Nan' Hoult on her 100th birthday. Here she is showing the card she received



Can anyone recall war time plane spotting?

Bruce Neale remembered plane spotter shifts in Forrest. Now the Birregurra History Centre is researching the subject. They are compiling a list of those involved. They appear to have been official members of the RAF Volunteers Air Observers Corp. Kathleen Berry received the Certificate below. Can we list those involved at Forrest? Where was the depot? Did our people receive recognition? There was only one sighting. The Cape Otway Lighthouse Museum has a record of witnesses who saw a Japanese submarine surface and launch a flying boat with collapsible wings which flew off to Melbourne to observe our facilities. A Birregurra youth, Lawrie McGrath even did a convincing drawing of a Japanese plane, below. Can anyone help with further information?



Bruce Neale's comments for our Who Lived Where event , recorded 26.10.2011

Bruce bought their property in 1933 and moved there from Warrion. Billy Gale occupied the property before him. He was related to the Frizon's. Bruce remembers Frizon's store, a lolly shop and pie shop and they had a billiard room. Queenie's husband was Alf Frizon who was "like my old man, a real rouge, liked his beer." Queenie and Alf were great euchre players and would take on anyone in the Forrest Pub. Alf Frizon was an SP Bookmaker.

He remembers the Bakery when Pitkethley was there and they would go up on Sunday night to get a fresh loaf. They could go right into the bake house and then they would go on to the Pub, enter through the backdoor and get a few beers before going home. Bobby Green next door sold the Baker's bread and it's possible that they financed the Bakery. The Baker lived where Alan and Tess Winter live now. The butcher's shop was next to Alan's place. It was run by Jim Muir, where the infant welfare centre was until recently. They delivered. There was also a butcher at Barwon Downs that came to the corner to sell his meat and they were in competition. Alf Frizon built the post office which is now Peskett's garage.



Bruce in the 1952 Premiers team.

JH Grant had that big house which looks down Station St. He had a sawmill and the tramway came down past the police station to the mill.

He remembers the old Hall which had been condemned. He got a call about 10.00 pm and they rushed up because it was on fire and they couldn't do anything because they had no water and the secretary, a person named "Carver", said let it burn because it was insured.

The Catholic Church Hall was opposite DSE. They had two dances a week on Wednesday and Saturday which were open to all. It was closed during the depression and converted to a residence.

The Hotel he remembers was conducted by Gilbert and prior to that it was a Hurley. They had accommodation , for exam-

ple for single school teachers. It was also set aside as a morgue.

In the tin shed on the corner where the Dr is now was occupied by Bob Miller who used it and he was a friend of Ethel Black. Bruce remembers the dances in the old hall where fiddler Fletcher played the violin and May Jennings had a tuck shop, opposite the Hall and when they showed pictures once a week she would come up and sell sweets there.

The Whitehead's bought their house from Penman's who originally had a guest house there. The Whitehead's created their bus service. Bruce remembers the coming of electricity and he was canvassing for fund because the electricity authority nominated an amount which they had to provide to the authority on loan at perhaps 1% in order for electricity to be connected. He remembers going to the old fellow Ireland who was a millionaire whom he thought would be a good chance but he refused to give anything because he said "I had a brother who was electrocuted". The committee said, then he would be the last to get electricity, and he was.

Bruce remembers the war years where there were a lot of things going to raise money for the war and everybody gave a lot of support. There was good fishing in the town but the dam ruined it as the water was muddy and fish couldn't get up stream to breed. They were also getting eels and blackfish. He knew Harry Black and also Bill Black who was a 'commo' and worked at Hayden's Mill. He was the number one suspect when it burned down. He was also a leader in instigating a major strike there which affected the whole union movement throughout Victoria. Old Harry Black and Bill Black lived on the Curwood's corner and Effie and Dorie and Ray Dawson lived in the old Grant's house.

Eric Gourley had the butcher shop and Bruce can remember them opening a drawer of historic photos. After he died he waited a week and asked for the photos but the family had already burned them.

Bruce remembers travelling in the Tiger and he loved the steam engines. As a boy they used to run down and see them and the driver would let off steam for them. When they were building the butter factory at Apollo Bay all the bricks came to Forrest by train and the school boys would run down after school and help load the bricks in exchange for lollies.

Bruce worked for Frank Frizon for 15 years. He drove a log truck for him and they were bringing logs in from all over.