

F&DHS DOCUMENT ARCHIVE
Title: A. Welcome Sight
Poem on new house Sebringmels
Source: Kim Balcombe
DOC: 0113
built by Ken Widdowson

A WELCOME SIGHT

This brand new home
Deserves a poem.
As I watch Doug, Robbie & Tully Gray
My mind goes back to another day
Out the back there's Roadrights track
Following aboriginal walking was the knack
After Barramunga the problems started
Bullock teams with provisions carted
Convict ancestor lived across the road
Ball and chain, a heavy load.
As kids we called this place 'Old Gils'
Today we try to pay the bills
Honeymoon shed after the war
Stands right next door
Rotary hoes and picking up sticks
Yugoslav pea pickers knew a few tricks
And now returning to reality
With space curved by gravity
Well may you have a smile
To cross your bridges with style.

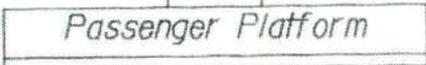
Kim Balwyn

F&DHS DOCUMENT ARCHIVE
Title. GERANCETE & YAUGHER
STATION PLANS
Source. NORM. HOUGHTON
DOC. 0.182.....

From New Hougham

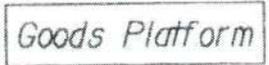
GERANGAMETE

Station Building 

Passenger Platform 

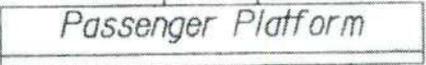
To Forrest

From Melbourne

Goods Platform 

YAUGHER

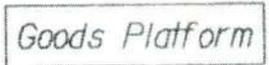
Station Building 

Passenger Platform 

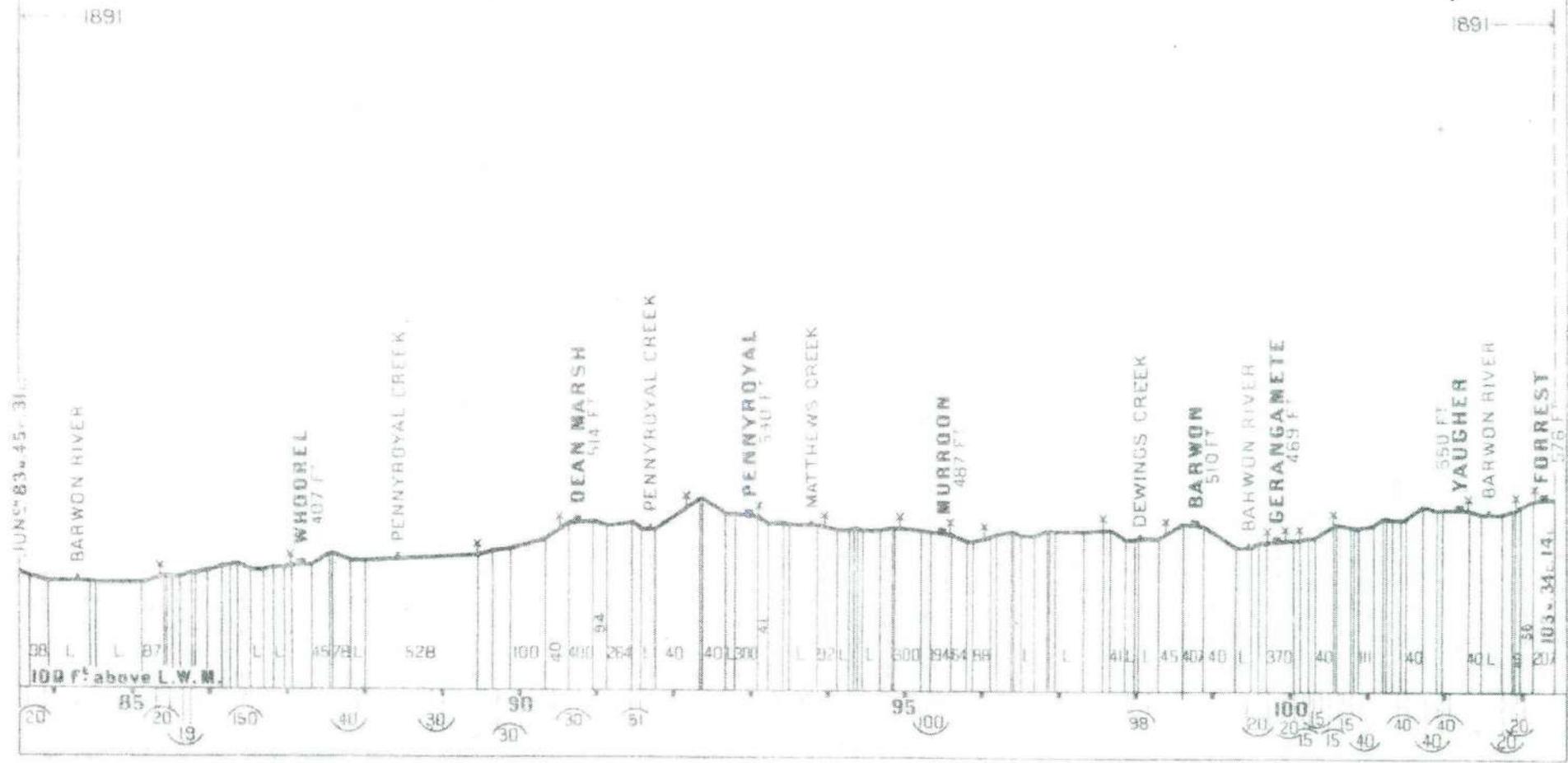
To Forrest

From Melbourne

Cattle Race & Yard 

Goods Platform 

Birregurra to Forrest



F&DHS DOCUMENT ARCHIVE
Title... *GERANGAMEKE History*
Gun Club. 1963
Source *Colac Herald*
DOC *0150*

William and Elsie Whitehead moved from Glenburnie to Mt Gambier in 1916, soon after they travelled to Victoria and took up residence in the Serangamete Post Office, where Elsie was the Postmistress and William worked as a farm labourer, he died at the age of 48 in 1924.

Son Frank farmed at Serangamete for a few years after being married, he later moved to Forest.

F&DHS DOCUMENT ARCHIVE
Title *GERANGAMETE STATION*

Source *PAM JENNINGS*
DOC *013A*

hm
Pam Jennings

GERANGAMETE STATION

William Roadknight took up the Gerangamete Run in 1840. On the old files in the Lands department is an application for the lease of 'Gerangamete', written and signed by William ROADKNIGHT Snr. It is dated 3 April 1848 and published in the Port Phillip Gazette 14 March 1849, with all other applications submitted in the Portland Bay District.

At the time the station was situated in the Co. of Grant but later the area was reduced and included in the Co. of Polwarth where Gerangamete is now located.

With the establishment of the Buntingdale Mission late in 1839, William ROADKNIGHT Snr. was left with some 21,000 acres which comprised the 'Gerangamete' run.

"Commencing at marked tree upon the north source of the Barwon River, then by a line south about three miles to a marked tree at the Grass Tree Plain, then by a line nearly south south-west to a marked tree at Porcupine Creek, and by that creek until it meets a line of marked trees running nearly east to the south source of the Barwon River, and by that river to its junction with the north source of the Barwon, and by the north source to a marked tree just described. Bounded on the north by James Austin, on the east by Fred Dewing, on the south and west by dense bush"

Signed: William Roadknight

The carrying capacity was assessed by him at 640 cattle, the equivalent of a beast to 32 ½ acres. This appears extremely light when compared with the present day heavy carrying but the best land was resumed by the Mission. The land to the south and west merged into thick bush and heavy timber, whilst the more open country comprised mainly of kangaroo grass and ti-tree scrub with some timber.

There was also the extensive Gerangamete Swamp and the fact that a large acreage of the soil was acid, especially where the ti-tree grew. These restricting conditions were not rectified until the swamp was drained and the soil treated with lime, potash and trace elements.

The Roadknights built their slab hut near the Gerangamete peat swamp to ensure an adequate and easily accessible supply of water. The hut would be a rude comfortless shelter, and the earthen floor a haven for fleas. The staple diet comprising salt beef or mutton, damper and billy tea would become monotonous unless augmented by local game.

It is possible that Roadknight employed an overseer at this run and no doubt Thomas Roadknight would be in constant touch from their run 'Yan Yan Gurt'. Presumably Thomas moved to 'Gerangamete' and managed the station for his father when Thomas VICARY, his brother-in-law, took over 'Yan Yan Gurt' in 1842. William subsequently transferred 'Gerangamete' to Thomas in March 1853.¹

In 1851 after six months of labour, William Roadknight cut a track from Gerangamete to Cape Otway via Apollo Bay. Conditions on the track were appalling and they could only be negotiated on foot or by pack horses.

On 27th January 1885 the Gerangamete Swamp was opened for selection and those who purchased were:

| | | |
|------------|----------------|--------------|
| G.ARMYTAGE | CALLAHAN Bros. | W.S.ANDERSON |
| T. HANCOCK | A.CHILDS | T.DAVIS |
| W.PRICE | S.H.REID | H.BUCKLEY |
| D.THOMAS | | |

28/5/1886 Colac Herald: The Gerangamete drain is nearly completed: David Irvine, contractor. Will relieve about 800 acres of some of the richest land in the district which is periodically submerged by the overflow of the Barwon River. The humid climate of the district is admirably adapted for cultivation of oats, maize and

¹ 'Story of the Roadknights' by W DEXTER (GHC Family History Collection)

many other cereals and I hope the outlay incurred by the landowners interested will be amply rewarded in due course.

LAND SALES

Colac Herald 27.1.1885 Gerangamete Swamp land sale:

Purchasers: G ARMYTAGE, T HANCOCK, W PRICE, H BUCKLEY, CALLAHAN Bros, A CHILDS, S H REID, D THOMAS, W S ANDERSON, T DAVIS

CREAMERY

The proposed creamery at the Barwon near the Gerangamete Railway Station promises to be a success as the dairy proprietors appear to be unanimously of opinion that they must keep up with other parts and I think Colac people are to be congratulated for the promises of success with which their enterprise is meeting, and at the same time I think it rather slow on the part of Birregurra to let Colac cut them out in this fashion. Why could Birregurra not start a butter factory and get the support of all the dairies along this line instead of letting cream pass their doors in an opposite direction to the Market. I am sure they have the men, money and resources and I cannot think of anything that they are really short of unless it may be energy.²

GERANGAMETE POST OFFICE

The following contract for the conveyance of mails has been accepted by the Postal department: To and from post office and railway station, Gerangamete, five days a week, at the rate of 8/- per week – T W FLETCHER³

SHIRE CORRESPONDENCE

Thomas FLETCHER wrote to the Winchelsea Shire Council drawing their attention to the fact that Fletcher's Bridge at Gerangamete was in a dangerous state. The Council agreed to look into the matter and see if the Colac Shire would share the costs.⁴

By 1891 a temporary construction with sleepers across the Barwon at Fletcher's station ground saw two accidents within a short time of each other. A teamster named NICHLAND had one of his bullocks pushed over the side resulting in a broken neck, and the other case when a drayman crossing with his horse, shied and the cart and horse capsized into the river but the driver was able to jump clear. The damaged sustained was a scratched horse and damaged cart.⁵

SEASONAL REPORTS

The following reports from district correspondents give a glimpse of everyday life in the district....

AUGUST 1890

"Mr J WOOD and J J BIRD are giving early potatoes a trial this season. H IRELAND and J WILSON are increasing the area of their hop plantations. David PRICE and William PRICE of Gerangamete intend planting out hop yards, but it is thought the latter will not achieve much success in the new venture as it seems only folly to attempt to grow hops on that portion of the west Barwon, the land being reclaimed marsh, too exposed to storms and hot winds, and land too wet for hops that strike deep rots and are in danger of root rot'.

Colac Herald

15/1/1886 but written 12/1 – only a few small showers in the past 33 months – the worst drought experienced so far at Gerangamete- crops are very poor, many potato crops not worth digging, many have failed in any case. The hops are looking very well as the roots are deep rooted and do not depend on moisture from the surface.

² Winchelsea, Birregurra & Lorne Star 21.10.1891

³ ³ WB&L Star 5.8.1891

⁴ GA 4.8.1888

⁵ WB&L Start 16.5.1891

7/9/1886 land leases

Former reserve between the holdings of W Price and S H B Read – Lot 21 38 acres upset price of 2 pounds (21/9/1886)

CH 3.1.1888 A little boy of Mr W A Tranter was bitten by a snake on Wednesday. It appears that the children were in the habit of yoking up lizards like horses and the child, who was playing in the stable called to his brother that he had caught a big lizard. The snake bite the back of both his hands. The horrified mother tied a ligature around the child's wrists and lacerated the wound most severely. Taken to Colac and a telegram sent to Mr Tranter who was absent on holidays. The child died on Friday

CH 14.12.1888

The oat crops are turning red from want of moisture and the hop plantations are looking miserable from want of rain and insuffic attention to the plants and not keeping the ground in a proper state of tilth. The area has been reduced to a very small proportions only 2 growers cultivating about 4 acres, all the others having eradicated their plants and sown down artificial grasses.

18/5/1897 CH - Clearing sale at Gerangemete re Mrs. Childs following death of husband. In addition to livestock, farming implements and furniture, the right to lease the farm of 205 acres for a term of 3 years will also be submitted. 3 miles from Gerangemete station. 4 bedroom weatherboard house, well known trotting pony ""Ballyganley' etc.

THE SELECTORS

ANDERSON, Walker Smith

Born: Christened 28 Oct 1829 Wilsden, Yorkshire, Eng.

Died: 12 Aug 1910 aged 82 yrs at Gerangamete

Buried: Inverleigh Cemetery

Married: 18

Susannah RAMSDEN

Born: christened, 5 Aug 1827, Saint Peter Bolton, Lancashire, Eng

Died: 4 Oct 1868 at Inverleigh

Married: 1870

Annie HODGSON

Born: abt 1840 Keswick, Yorkshire

Died:

immigrated Aug 1860 aboard vessel "Ocean Home" into Geelong

Immigrated to Australia on "Royal Charter" Dec.1858 into Geelong with wife and daughter Mary. They settled at Inverleigh near Geelong and produced further children;⁶ The Anderson family of "West Barwon" a station or run at Gerangamete which was in family from pre 1900's till 1955.

ARMSTRONG, Jonathan

Married: 1855

Agnes FINLAY

In Gerangamete district 1875

BUCKLEY, Henry

Henry, boundary rider of Gerangamete on the morning of the 28th March 1880, had a two roomed detached building used as a kitchen and storeroom, destroyed by fire. Also lost was about 1 ½ tons of cheese and other provisions. The value was 150 pounds. It was supposed to have been caused by incendiary. The property was uninsured.⁷

CALLAGHAN, ?

Born:

Died: 24.5.1879 & 26.5.1879 killed at Gerangamete

CHAPMAN, Edward Samuel Vincent

⁶ JENNIFER TRIGG ianandjenny@iprimus.com.au

⁷ GA 16.4.1880 & Police Gazette

Married: 1863

Georgina TOMS (d.o.Charles & Mary (MILES) TOMS)

Born:

Died: 1934 St Kilda

CRABBE, George

m. Annie DWYER

George, the eldest son and fourth child of George and Mary Crabbe, was born at sea aboard the vessel *Time and Truth*, on the 29th September 1852.

From an early age, George helped his father work their vegetable crops and at the age of nine, he left school and his work included scaring crows from the gardens. The produce was then taken by horse and cart, to the Geelong market to supplement the family income.

As George grew older he found employment as a farm labourer in the Inverleigh district.

On the 18th July 1872, George applied for the lease of Lot 64, an area of 6 acres in the Inverleigh 'suburbs'.

Another early family of Inverleigh was the Dwyers and on the 15th July 1874, George married Annie DWYER at St.Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Geelong. Annie was the daughter of William & Ellen (Maher) Dwyer and had been born at Inverleigh, Victoria in September 1854. She was apparently the first white child to be born in the town following the name change from "Lawsons" to "Inverleigh". Her father had a small farm and had arrived from Tipparary about 1853. Annie found work as a domestic servant in Geelong until her marriage.

Presumably George and Annie lived on their 6 acres and after pooling their life savings, had 10 shillings to begin their life together.

In 1874 George owned 80 acres & house at Bambra, while still residing at Inverleigh

Their first child, Mary Ellen, was born at Inverleigh in 1875. on the 8th January 1877, George made application to the assistant surveyor-general to purchase the land under the Land Act of 1869. Many improvements had been carried out by George: fencing (rail and 3 wire) costing £28.15.0, a water hole costing £1.0.0 and by 1877 the land was rated at £3 per acre.⁸

Not long after this purchase, George gained employment as a boundary rider and drover on the "Ingelby" estate and so George, Annie, Mary & baby George had to move to Whoorel. George was a proficient rider and in later life bred and broke-in horses, continuing this well into his eighties.

The family moved into a slab hut and bark-roofed hut on the rise where the Riflebutts Road and Birregurra /Deans Marsh roads intersect. This is possibly the land referred to in the Winchelsea Shire Rate Books in 1875, Parish of Bambra, Allotment 70 which was 'partly fenced with a dwelling house'. Here a further three children were born.

In 1882, six weeks following the birth of baby Elizabeth, George moved his family to Gerangamete where George was to work on the "Studbrook" part of "Ingelby". The manager was Mr Lovell and Mr Hayes was the overseer. A house was already provided on the property.

At night the older children would yard the horses by lantern- light so that they were ready for their father's early start in the morning, which often meant riding 34 miles, to check the furthest parts of the station.

A nephew of George's, Alf Amezdroz, came to work and live with the family and with Annie's help, he slatted with wooden planks, a dairy yard so that they could begin their own milking. Baby Elizabeth was such a good baby that Annie was able to help with a lot of the outside work while George was away droving. A epidemic of whooping cough came to the district and baby Elizabeth had a very severe attack and Annie feared for her life but with great attention from Annie, Elizabeth survived.

In 1891 it was reported that "foxes were becoming very numerous and Mr.Crabbe, of 'Ingelby Estate' while going his usual round, with the aid of his trusty dogs, captured 2 of the full-grown animals".⁹ A special occasion of this same year was the opening of "Studbrook's" woolshed to which all the workers and their families were invited. A photograph shows George, Annie and all others in attendance.¹⁰

George appears to have been quite a land speculator, purchasing various lots around the district. In 1885 the church of St.Michaels and All Angels at Pennyroyal, purchased ½ acre of land for £2 from George to establish the Church of

⁸ Land documents, Public Record Office, Laverton

⁹ "Colac Herald" 2.5.1891

¹⁰ "Coast to Country" Shire of Winchelsea p.30

England church. George also owned land at Gerangamete (Lot 13 - 133 acres) which he sold on the 1st November 1890 to James Mundy for £737.6.3.

In 1911 Annie became president of the Yeo branch of the Australian Womens' National League. One of the meetings was reported that they would "support the selection of the Liberal candidate, Mr.J.Johnstone for reelection."¹¹

On the 16th November 1915, George purchased the homestead paddock, where the family had been living, when "Ingelby" (except for 1700 acres), was broken up. The price paid was £15.5.0 per acre. This land had probably been originally purchased by Armytage from Roadknight. It consisted of 12 acres of orchard, which Roadknight had planted, and a large stockyard. In total George bought the 190 acres and the house.

George and Annie were now able to establish their own dairy herd. This meant long hours for all the family, Annie often milking with a babe in arms and the older children taking the hand-separated cream some four miles to the Gerangamete rail station. Elizabeth and Bertha would yoke two bullocks to a sledge and cart wood for home use, along with water in a small tank from the West Barwon River.

The Gerangamete school had been opened, with Barramunga, Mr Grenice being the teacher on a part-time basis with both schools. The Crabbe children had a three mile walk to Gerangamete until the school closed and the younger ones then had to walk to Barwon Downs.

George made sure that all his children were good horsemen and women like himself, and George was also a very good blade shearer who could handle 100 sheep a day! Annie was also an accomplished horsewoman and owned a horse named "Topsy" which pulled a light buggy, which was used for many years, long before the days of motor cars!

On one occasion, Sam Crabbe (George's brother) was visiting from Western Australia. George was splitting logs for firewood and there were some big wood grubs amongst them. Sam collected them and cooked them on the hot coals but George did not want any commenting that "kookaburras would starve where ever his brother was!"

One of the boys in W.A. brought his girlfriend home to met his parents and she was told that the Crabbes were good people but had a strange trait in that 'with kindness you may lead them but with force you would never drive them'.

When Alex McLennan married Mary Ellen Crabbe and purchased the property at Larpent, there was only a hut on it. He wanted part of it ploughed to grow potatoes so Cecil was assigned the task. Annie packed everything imaginable that he would require while he stayed there. Annie was a remarkable woman who attempted all tasks, having lived in some very remote areas...one of her sons caught pneumonia and was having trouble breathing. Annie bandaged his chest and the relief was so great that he did not require hospital. The doctor commented how well she had bandaged and that trained nurses could not have done better.

By 1897 George and Annie had reared eleven children. Through their hard work, they had been able to establish farms for all their sons to start their own dairy herds, and give land to their daughters, upon marriage. George often said that he did not smoke as "some fellows were half the day rolling the cigarette and the other half smoking it!"

In 1908 George and Annie acquired land at Yeo (four miles east of Colac) from the Bullivant family and they moved here with Cecil and Harry. George had a dog called "Lass" who would help him take the stock to the Colac market and one sale day at Colac, Lass went missing. The next week , George overheard a man saying how he had a new dog that you yard everything. It was not known if it was Lass but a few days later, Lass returned home. After that, Lass would help take stock up the road but if they turned towards Colac, she would budge no further, and no amount of whistling or calling would change her mind.

Hay was grown on the farm and had to put into stacks and chaff had to cut with horse-power - two horses were harnessed to cross-arms of timber and followed each other in single file in a circle, the driver was seated on a box in the centre and a long iron rod from this went into a shed . Here there were cogs and leather pulleys attached to the chaffcutter and the chaff was cut - one person cut the bands of string on the sheaves and guided it to the knives and the other person kept the chaff clear as it came out a chute to another part of the shed, before being bagged.

Elizabeth, Flora and Charlie remained at the old home at Gerangamete and continued milking 42 cows by hand and working for wage of £1 each per week.

The outbreak of World War One saw their youngest son, Harry, sign up but he was to pay the supreme sacrifice at the Battle of Broodseine.¹²

George and Annie made a trip to Western Australia to visit relatives. George was not impressed with most of the land they saw, no doubt some it was the Nullabor.

George always attended the Royal Melbourne Show as well as the local Colac Show, being interested in all animals and show events. He always wore a wide-brimmed felt hat and when needed, a garbardine coat.

¹¹"Wincheslea Shire Advertiser" 25.9.1911

¹²refer to War Service chapter

During the Depression of 1930-35, George employed a young fellow who stopped at Yeo seeking work. He did not know much about farm work and George suggested he try and find another job but he was unable to. George said he liked the fellow and would keep him on and give him the chance to learn.

Annie passed away on the 7th June 1933. Her funeral left the home at Yeo after a service by the Rev. Bennett. The coffin was placed in an motorised hearse with glass panels on the sides and Annie was buried at the Colac cemetery. On the 12th March 1938, George passed away aged 85.

When Annie passed away in 1933, the funeral was held at the home and the sermon read by the Rev. Bennett. The funeral director was Mr Thomas Sharrow. The coffin was carried from the house and George followed it. The hearse was a motorised one with glass panels on the side.

DAVIS, Thomas

Victorian Police Gazette 1.4.1896

Thomas DAVIS, selector, Gerangamete, near Colac, reports stolen from his dwelling, a light-grey tweed coat and vest, and a dark brown coat and vest.

FLETCHER, Thomas William

Married:
Margaret Jane BLACK

GRANT, Thomas

Married: Bridget GROVES

HANCOCK, Theodore

Married: 1855
Elizabeth Ann WOOLCOTT

JOB, Ananiah

Married: 1860
Mary BOUCHIER /JELBERT

KING, Thomas William

Married: 1860
Eliza BERRY / BARRY

ISSUE:

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------------|--------------|------------------|
| William | b.1860 Geelong | | |
| Thomas | b.1861 River Station | d.1953 Colac | m. Elizabeth MAY |
| John Freeman | b.1864 Gerangamete | d.1940 Colac | |
| Frederick | b.1865 Gerangamete | | |
| Herbert | b.1867 | | |
| Eliza | b.1871 | d.1953 Colac | |
| Lucy | b.1874 | | |
| Albert | b.1880 | | |
| Alfred | b.1881 | d.1881 | |

LOWDNES, Edward

Born: c.1791
Died: 22.7.1887

McCANN, Thomas

Married: 1860
Eleanor Constable CHERRY

McGIE, R

Sawmill license approved at Gerangamete 26.2.1890 Winchelsea Star

MARKS, Auguste

Born: Somersetshire

Died:

Married: (1) 1873

Margery GUILD (d.o.David & Mary (SMITH) GUILD)

Born: c.1856 Adelaide

Died: 26.6.1882?

Married: (2) 1883

Alice BATCHELOR (d.o.John & Sarah (KEMP) BATCHELOR)

Born: 1863 Colac

Died: 1934

GA? 28.6.1882

The wife of August Marks suddenly dropped dead on Monday afternoon. She was in good health but low spirited occasionally, it is believed through her husband being engaged in a lawsuit with Mr G H HILLS regarding ownership of a horse.

CH 4.12.1885, 8.12.1885 & 11.12.1885

While attending the funeral of his mother in Colac, August returned home to find his house burnt to the ground.

NEWCOMBE, Frederick

Born: Nottingham

Married: 1868

Harriet JEFFERS / JEFFERIES

O'SHANNASSY, John

Born:

Died:

Married: 1863

Mary Ann GRAHAM

Born:

Died:

PRICE, William Jnr

Born: 1827 Breconshire, Wales (son of William & Ann)

Died: 3.4.1911 Gerangamete

Arr: 1849

Married: (1) 1853

Ann DAVIS

(2) Annetta ROBERTSON

Colac Herald 10.3.1885

A sample of apples have been received from William Price. The crop has been most prolific and demand of fruit is more than equal to the supply. The season's crop has been sold to Messrs J ELLER & Co, storekeepers at Birregurra for 3/- per case. The varieties grown are: Ripston Pippins, New York Pippins and Five Crown Pippens.

PRICE, William Snr

Arrived in area 1856 from Breconshire, Wales, aboard *Ocean Chief*.

b. 1803 Breconshire, Wales.

d. 21 Apr. 1872 Gerangamete. Buried at Warncoort.

Married 1827 Wales.

Ann Williams.

b. 1802 Wales.

d. 12 Dec. 1859 Birregurra. Buried Warncoort.

Children - John, William, Gwynneth, David, Elizabeth, James, Llewellyn, Isaac, Jacob, Walter and Morgan PRICE. (All children born in Wales).

PRICE, John

Advertised as a Tree Grubber, Gerangamete 1.8.1890

REVEL / REVILL, George

SILK, Edward Tiley

Born: baptised 29 Jun 1827 Calne, Wiltshire

Married: Edith Marshmond PIERCE

Silk was the second child to Sophia Silk and an innkeeper by the name of John Tiley. Sophia Silk was employed by John Tiley as a housekeeper (taken from John Tiley's will form 1830's ... he died in 1835). This couple had four children, and since John Tiley left all that he had to Sophia (provided she didn't "marry or cohabit or form an illicit intercourse with any other man".... so that she may better "maintain, educate and apprentice my several children here in after mentioned"....) I like to think that they had a happy loving relationship, and that perhaps the fact that Sophia was of servant class, that they were not allowed to marry. This may well explain why my GG grandfather, Edward Tiley Silk went through most of his life in England using the name Edward TILEY!! The character of this man leads me to believe that he would be inclined to "give it to" the Tiley family that would have refused to recognise he and his siblings as being any relation to them at all.

Edward Tiley was apprenticed as a carpenter, and married Edith Marshmond PIERCE on 7th November 1848. Just 2 months later, they embarked on a voyage from Plymouth to Point Henry aboard the *Sir George Seymour*. Also onboard were Edward's two brothers, John Tiley Silk (the eldest of the family), and his younger brother James Tiley Silk. James had married on the 4th November 1848... just 19 years of age. These three men were embarking on an the adventure of a life time! Their father died when they were young children, and their mother, Sophia had eventually married in April 1843 to a man who had several children from two previous marriages. The youngest of the family, Lydia, would later marry one of her step-brothers, Henry CLIFFORD and, like her brothers journey to Victoria in 1852.

The voyage was a rough one. There were problems with many children dying from bronchitis and other ailments after having been badly hit by sea sickness earlier in the voyage. On March 4th, James' young wife gave birth to a son, and died 5 days later.... The baby survived, named Frederick, and was possibly taken into the family of the eldest brother John, and his wife Jane.

After arriving at Point Henry in Geelong, the Silk's made their way to Colac. Perhaps they had heard of the small town growing from people at the depot, or perhaps they had met up with one of Colac's Murray family, who employed a young girl from the voyage at their homestead. What ever the reason, this is where they came. Edward Tiley Silk set up the very first black smiths shop in the developing town. According to Isaac Hebb, ET Silk was ingenious enough to carry on the trades as carpenter and wheelwright as well.

It was possibly this ability to adapt to the circumstance that led Edward Silk along with his brother, John, to open the very first sawmill in the Otways at Gerangamete in about 1850. The business flourished and many, many more sawmills followed!! Mill sites worked by ET Silk were located at Irrewillipe, Larpent and Lorne. His family home was located on land he owned at Irrewillipe.

THOMAS, Daniel

Born: Gloucestershire

Died:

Married: (1) 1854

Elizabeth HARRIS

Born: c.1837 Kent

Died: 1871

Married: (2) 1869

Laura Phillis HILLS

TURNER, William

Born: c.1826 Essex (son of James & Elizabeth)

Died: 20.1.1865 Gerangamete Station; station manager;

Married: 1851

Sarah MOONEY

Born:

Died:

Married (2) Thomas Mein AUSTIN

USHER, Edward

Born:

Died:

Married: Sarah BLUNDY

WESTWOOD, John

Married: 1856 Victoria

Mary Ann KING

John appears to have worked at River Station, the property owned by William Roadknight before moving to the Gerangamete area in 1865 where a son, Walter was born. A family of 16 was raised.

WILLIAMSON, Malcolm

Married: 1854 Victoria

Catherine FLINN

WILSON, John

John WILSON, a teacher, while riding at Gerangamete yesterday was thrown from his horse and sustained a fracture to his fore-finger of the right hand. He was attended to at the hospital.

GA 6.8.1877

WOOD, John

Married: Maria LONG

On arrival at Geelong in June 1856, Maria, along with Simeon and his family, went to stay with their sister, Mrs Ellenor Wood at Mt.Moriac.

It was at the Wood home where presumably, Maria met John Wood, Ellenor's step-son, and on 12 April 1858 Maria and John were married at St.Paul's Church of England, Geelong. John who gave his occupation as 'farmer of Inverleigh', was born at Salehurst, Sussex on 23rd December 1838, the son of James & Frances (Adams) WOOD. He had arrived at the age of 2 ½ years aboard the "Middlesex" with his parents.

John and Maria made their home at Inverleigh. Their first child died soon after birth and their next baby, Elizabeth, was a cripple. John also worked as a carrier around the district. A further three children were born at Inverleigh.

Between 1868 and 1870 John moved his family to farm land near Gerangamete and later purchased land at Forrest. This area was at the edge of the Otways and a lot of hard work would have been necessary to clear the land in readiness for cropping or grazing. Maria gave birth to a further five children. Most of their children remained in the district upon their marriages.

Maria and John eventually retired back to Geelong. Maria died at the age of 72 on 10th December 1910. Two years later on 10th September 1912, Elizabeth, their daughter died, and she was buried with her mother at the Eastern Cemetery.

John was accidentally killed when a horse and cart knocked him down while he was crossing Flinders Street to catch the train to Geelong. He had been visiting his son, Henry, and his family at Bundoora. He was unconscious when taken to the Melbourne Hospital and never recovered. He died on the 10th April 1920 and was buried in the family grave.

F&DHS DOCUMENT ARCHIVE DOC0302 Date.....

Title... GERANGAMETA.....

Subject Category... FORREST HISTORY.....

Key Words... AREA HISTORY.....
ARTICLES.....

Colac Herald references to Gerangamete

| | | | |
|------|----|----|-------------|
| 1884 | 10 | 24 | Gerangamete |
| 1884 | 11 | 28 | Gerangamete |
| 1885 | 1 | 30 | Gerangamete |
| 1886 | 5 | 28 | Gerangamete |
| 1887 | 6 | 14 | Gerangamete |
| 1888 | 1 | 20 | Gerangamete |
| 1894 | 10 | 19 | Gerangamete |
| 1897 | 2 | 19 | Gerangamete |
| 1903 | 12 | 7 | Gerangamete |
| 1903 | 12 | 23 | Gerangamete |
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| 1904 | 5 | 18 | Gerangamete |
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| 1906 | 9 | 12 | Gerangamete |
| 1906 | 12 | 19 | Gerangamete |
| 1908 | 1 | 10 | Gerangamete |
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| 1911 | 6 | 21 | Gerangamete |
| 1919 | 8 | 27 | Gerangamete |
| 1924 | 3 | 19 | Gerangamete |
| 1924 | 4 | 25 | Gerangamete |
| 1926 | 3 | 24 | Gerangamete |
| 1931 | 1 | 5 | Gerangamete |
| 1932 | 7 | 8 | Gerangamete |
| 1936 | 11 | 2 | Gerangamete |
| 1936 | 12 | 7 | Gerangamete |
| 1938 | 1 | 17 | Gerangamete |
| 1938 | 3 | 30 | Gerangamete |
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| Farmers turning to pastoral as cannot get produce away. So less cereals and potatoes. Carriers charge L1 per ton to cart to Birre or Clc stations. |
| Gerangamete swamp land sale. Good prices. Will drain. Hop growers are getting ready to plant and pole |
| Tenders for draining the Swamp (after recent land sales) |
| Swamp drain underway. Covers 800 acres. |
| Snow fell Mon 6/7. Three inches deep. |
| Once in the heart of the Otway forest. The marshes adjoining the watercourses have been drained. Potatoes grown by all but just for home consumption. Lot of hay, oats and peas and wheat and barley. Listed |
| VR formed road approaching the railway station |
| VR removes platform bldg and replaces with a shelter |
| T. Fletcher advert for 4 ft wattle and 2 ft messmate and gum |
| ref to public hall |
| Concert in Victoria Hall at Colac to raise funds for the public hall |
| There is now a daily mail |
| A new Sunday School building opens, on Davis's corner. It is a Dnominational SS and also for church purposes. Hope to get a Methodist, Presbyterian or Anglican clergyman to hold services there |
| ref to its Draughts Club |
| Four lots for sale in Township of Gerangamete |
| Held annual picnic on New years day. Events included a bike race and games. In the vevening 30 couples attended a ball in the hall. Music by Tom Fogarty, F. Callahan and J. King |
| A Young Mens Club to be formed. Ref to vandals tipping over the WC at the Hall |
| Ref to playing football against Barwon Downs |
| Obit for Thomas Fletcher |
| Horace Bell of Barwon Downs carting wood to Gerangamete station |
| Gerangamete's first school teacher now departing. Named Franter and now a farmer. He ran the Post Office and his daughter played the organ for all denominations at the undenominational Sunday School built on a corner of his land. |
| Hold Hall Bazaar and Concert. Drags run from Colac and Birregurra |
| Trunk telephone opened Birregurra to Forrest and new Post offices opened at Pennyroyal and Gerangamete plus phone lines connected to existing post offices at Murroon and Barwon Downs, which previously only had telegraph |
| Tennis club opens new court |
| Picnic Race meeting, Sat 26/4 |
| Picnic races on Sat 26/4. Notice advises those coming from Colac who desire to go across country to travel over Murrays Hill and follow the telephone line until they come to the first finger post which will direct them to the course. |
| Picnic races next Sat |
| The torturous course of the Barwon is here spanned by 7 small bridges. |
| About to establish a Calf Club. |
| October rail loading. In = 212 gravel (Moriac). Out = 12 cns cream. |
| November rail loading. 7 cans cream. |
| December railed out 15 cns cream to South Glg. |
| March rail loading = 4 tons of super. |
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Franter?

F&DHS DOCUMENT ARCHIVE
Subject Category. *Gerangamete Rifle Club*
Key Words. *CORANGAMITE*.....
CHALLENGE SHIELD.....
DOC.0290.....Date.1934.....:Dig.Copy?



Foyls, Photo

**CORANGAMITE CHALLENGE SHIELD
GERANGAMETE RIFLE CLUB
WINNERS 1934**

Back Row—P. C. Hammond, T. E. Balcombe, A. J. Muir (Captain), C. A. Crabbe, A. I. Maxwell, J. K. Campbell.
Front Row—A. E. Hammond, A. T. Muir.

*from Albert
Halliday*

F&DHS DOCUMENT ARCHIVE DOC0301 Date.....

Title...GRANDE METE...HISTORY

Subject Category...TOWN MILLS

Key Words..SAWMILLING IN AREA

F&DHS DOCUMENT ARCHIVE

Title.....

Subject Category.....

Key Words.....

.....
DOC.....Date.....:Dig.Copy?

From Norma Haddock
march 09

GERANGAMETE RAILWAY STATION- 159.6 km; 142.9 metres

This station opened with the line and was named after the locality. Facilities comprised a 46 metre length passenger platform and shelter, goods loop of 170 metres and a ramped platform.

Traffic was light most of the time but periodic bursts for sawn timber and firewood occurred in 1910-1911, 1920-1921, and 1925-1930. Fletcher's sawmill was sited in the station yard early in the twentieth century. The passenger platform was reduced in length to 17 metres in 1938. The station was closed in 1952.

GERANGAMETE SAWMILLS

The area between Gerangamete and Barongarook contains foothill forest that has over the years supported firewood cutters, charcoal burners and several sawmillers. Firewood was the main output of this area and enormous quantities were cut for factory boilers, households, farmers and the Victorian Railways.

SILK

One of the pioneer millers in the Otways was Edward Silk who established a mill in the Gerangamete area in 1860.ⁱ The plant was on the headwaters of Boundary Creek in relatively gentle terrain and logs were sourced from the immediate vicinity. A reasonable size settlement was attached to this mill. Silk worked here for about four years and then moved the plant to Benwerrin.

FLETCHER

C. Fletcher held timber-covered farming land near the Gerangamete railway station and from about 1900 to 1915 worked a mill in the station yard to cut this timber.ⁱⁱ The plant was a modest one, cutting smaller length scantlings and posts. Fletcher also sourced supply from other areas and occasionally dealt in poles. Messrs Muir and Arnott managed the mill in later years.

WESTWOOD

Stan Westwood commenced in the timber trade at Colac in the 1930s dealing in firewood and split timbers. He later expanded into a timber yard in Murray Street East and here also installed a small sawmill. In 1946 he opened a bush mill on the Colac Road at Gerangamete at the junction with Westwood Road. The mill was a small show initially powered by a Cletrac crawler tractor driving a belt to a spot bench without a breaking down saw. Later on a McDonald diesel engine ran the mill. Output was about 1200 cubic metres per year of messmate, peppermint and swamp gum timbers. Logs were secured by motor truck from the forests to the west along Westwood Road almost to Barongarook.ⁱⁱⁱ Logs were snigged by the Cletrac at one time and then with a KSS International. The proprietor was killed in a tree falling accident in April 1951 and his executors decided to sell the mill. Casper, Towers & Co bought the mill plant and logging rights, removed the plant to Yaugher in 1951 and cut out the timber sites by 1953.

HANCOCK

In 1948 local farmers Reg and Max Hancock entered the sawmilling trade when they established a paling mill on Seven Bridges Road. The mill was sited on private property 500 metres east of the public hall. The plant was small and primitive but achieved the required output. Logs were sourced from the farm property. The plant was small and primitive but achieved the required output. logs were sourced from the farm property. After a year or so the mill was moved 1.3 km south-west to another farm and worked for a year until the site was cut out.

The brothers then moved to Barramunga where they acquired the small milling business of Cole, Lidgerwood and Sanderson. This mill worked until 1958 when forced to close by the construction of the West Barwon Reservoir project. They returned to Gerangamete and purchased the mill known as the Gerangamete Sawmilling Co.

GERANGAMETE SAWMILLING CO.

This mill had originally been installed by Frank St John in 1952 on Meadowell Road^{iv} and drew state forest logs from Westwood's former area.^v In the following year Fred Pearse from Forrest bought the mill in partnership with Allan Marriner and Bill Day and traded as the Gerangamete Sawmilling Co. Log supplies came from Smythe Creek and Gerangamete and were carted by two *Blitz* wagons. The mill was initially driven by a Cadillac motor car engine running on power kerosene until replaced by a Perkins diesel motor. The mill worked until 1955 when it was forced to close because of difficulties in securing logs from the rough terrain due to the company's lack of a crawler tractor. In 1955 Reg and Max Hancock bought the mill and worked it until 1963 when it was sold to the Cooper Sawmilling Co for its log allocation.

J Hayton had a mill.

- 7 cable guys - did her

No crane at Smp.

-
- ⁱ Information from Eric Murnane.
 - ⁱⁱ Information from Bernie Seebeck.
 - ⁱⁱⁱ FCV Files, Westwood 51/1333, Bennett 66/993; Colac Herald 27.9.1933; 23.3.1936; 11.4.1951; 28.9.1951.
 - ^{iv} Information from Reg Hancock.
 - ^v FCV File, Bennett/Cooper 66/985.

Chapter Eight

F&DHS DOCUMENT ARCHIVE .

Title..GERAGAMETE...HISTORY.....

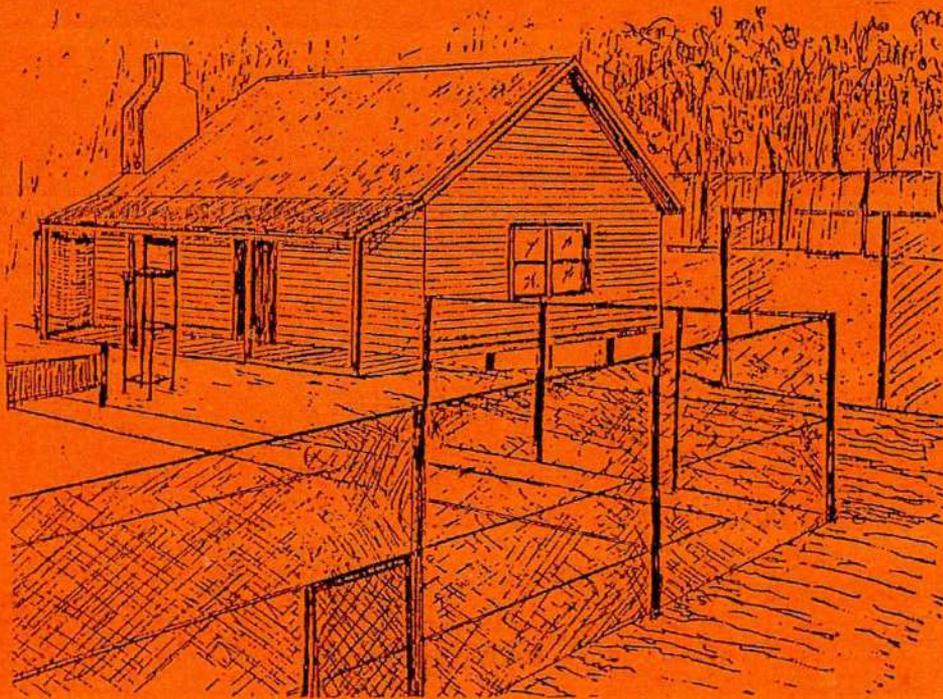
Subject Category..SPORT.....

Key Words.GERANGAMETE TENNIS

.....CLUB..FIRST 40 YEARS.....

DOC0299.....Date.1952-.....Dig.Copy?

GERANGAMETE TENNIS CLUB



The First
40 Years

A SHORT HISTORY
OF THE FIRST 40 YEARS
OF THE GERANGAMETE TENNIS CLUB
1946 -1986

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS :-

People who contributed stories of their
memories - Mr. J. M. Balcombe
Mr. W. Balcombe
Mr. J. Seebeck

People who provided the photos -
Joyce and Allan Reid
Marj Crabbe
John Balcombe
Ruth and Graham Crabbe

The Balcombe family and Mr. Paul Balcombe
who sketched their impressions of the
old and new pavilions.

REFERENCES:

Education Department's "Vision and Realization"
Minutes of the Gerangamete Tennis Club 1950 - 1986
Minutes of the Committee of Managment 1985
Minutes of the Polwarth & District Tennis Association
1971 - 1986
The various Premiership Cups of the Polwarth Association.
The records of the Regional Office, Australia Post.
The roll books of the Gerangamete Primary School.

Compiled by: Delwyn Seebeck,
November 1986.

THE GERANGAMETE TENNIS CLUB

At the Annual Meeting of the Gerangamete Social Club, held 23rd September, 1952, Mr. W. Whelan moved a motion that there be a tennis club formed next year. Seconded by Mrs. Noseda. This particular meeting was chaired by Mr. J. Balcombe, those present were Mrs. Reid, Mrs. Tyrell, Mrs. Whelan, Miss J. Reid, Mrs. Noseda, Miss Noseda, Miss Balcombe, Mr. Swan, Mr. Stewart, W. Oakley, W. Whelan, W. Reid, M. Reid, N. Tyrell, J. Balcombe and A. Reid.

At an Ordinary Meeting held on the same date, Mr. Oakley moved "that we carry on with the same Office-bearers as a tennis club." Seconded by Mrs. Whelan. Carried.

Therefore on the 23rd of September, 1952, the Gerangamete Tennis Club was officially formed. According to the minutes, the Social Club and the Tennis Club worked together for the next couple of years, with the same office-bearers holding office in each club. From about 1954 onwards it appears that the Social Club no longer operated and all activities were conducted under the title of the Tennis Club.

At a General Meeting of the Social Club held on 24th October 1950, Mr. J. Wilson moved "that we hold our usual sports on Boxing Day on Mr. Reid's paddock". Seconded by P. Harrington. The Officials for that year were to be - Secretary, A. Reid; Organiser, Mr. J. Balcombe assisted by P. Harrington, R. Angus, M. Reid and P. Olds. Such Sports Days were an Annual Event and very popular. Some of the events held were footrunning, Bike Racing, Catch the Rooster, Throwing the Rolling Pin, Billycan Race and Hurdles. This particular year was apparently the last of such events to be held.

From this point of time on, an Opening Tennis Tournament/Day was held, to which neighbouring Clubs, such as Forrest, Yeodene, Barongarook, were invited to participate. Social Matches were frequently arranged between neighbouring Clubs as well, some of them being Irrewarra, Gellibrand and Kawarren.

The original Pavilion was built in 1950, with the verandah being added in 1954.

The Gerangamete Tennis Club affiliated with the Polwarth & District Tennis Association in 1950, and entered one B Grade Team. This team was no doubt very pleased to win the Premiership. At the Annual Meeting held on 12th September 1950 - "The President (Mr. J. Balcombe) made a brief report on the amount of money been raised in the two years and also the success of the Gerangamete Tennis Team winning the Polwarth B Grade Premiership".

Likewise at the General Tennis Meeting held on 3rd October 1955 - "The meeting recorded a vote of thanks to the Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer for their sterling efforts over the past year in the interests of the local tennis. In every respect, the mover pointed out, the past season had been a success. Not only was the club in a strong position financially, but sound leadership has helped put the team in the position to win its second Premiership. The vote of thanks was carried with great acclamation." Those present at that particular meeting were Mesdames E. Crabbe, S. Kennett, I. Neild, Misses L. Robbins, W. Balcombe, Messrs R. & W. Balcombe, N. Tyrell, D. Swan, A. Crabbe, L. Crabbe, R. Kennett and J. Balcombe (in Chair).

The pavilion was used for other activities as well, Card Evenings, Social/games evenings, C.W.A. meetings, the Basketball Club used the court until such time as they had their own constructed. It is very apparent that the Tennis Club, courts, and pavilion were very much the centre of Social Activity in the Gerangamete District.

The first Gerangamete Court on the present site was constructed by hand-mixed concrete in 1947. The gravel was carted from a pit on Westwoods Track. The pavilion was built at about the same time, being completed about 1950 with the verandah added on 1954. Work began on the levelling of the area for the second court in 1955, but the court was not completed until 1965. The second court was officially opened on 19th December 1965 by Mr. Clarrie Schram, the President of the Polwarth & District Tennis Association at the time.

At a meeting dated 14th September 1977 the Secretary was asked to enquire as to whether the Shire could take over the running of the courts.

SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ten years down the track and peoples ideas become a reality.

After many discussions within the Club in the mid 1970's about how to improve the top court and fence there was a meeting with the Trustees. The Trustees were John Balcombe and Mark Robbins. The third Trustee, Bill Reid, has passed away on 3rd September 1972. The Reid family had very kindly given the piece of land to the Public of Gerangamete for the purpose of constructing tennis courts and pavilion. This Certificate of Title, in the names of the three Trustees was issued on 19th April, 1948.

After lengthy discussions the Trustees decided to give the land over to the Crown. I was asked on behalf of the Club to look into the legalities of it, and so began the painfully slow red-tape caper of the 'handing over'.

I first started with the Geelong Office of Crown Land, but they kept putting it in the too hard basket, so then I started to push through the Shire Secretary, which I thought would save the Club money, but it too proved to be a dead end. Then the frustrations set in. After what seemed to be dozens of phone calls to Geelong, Melbourne, Colac, the only way to go was through a Solicitor.

After further discussions with the Trustees, Mr. St. John Clarke, of Colac, was asked to take charge of our affairs.

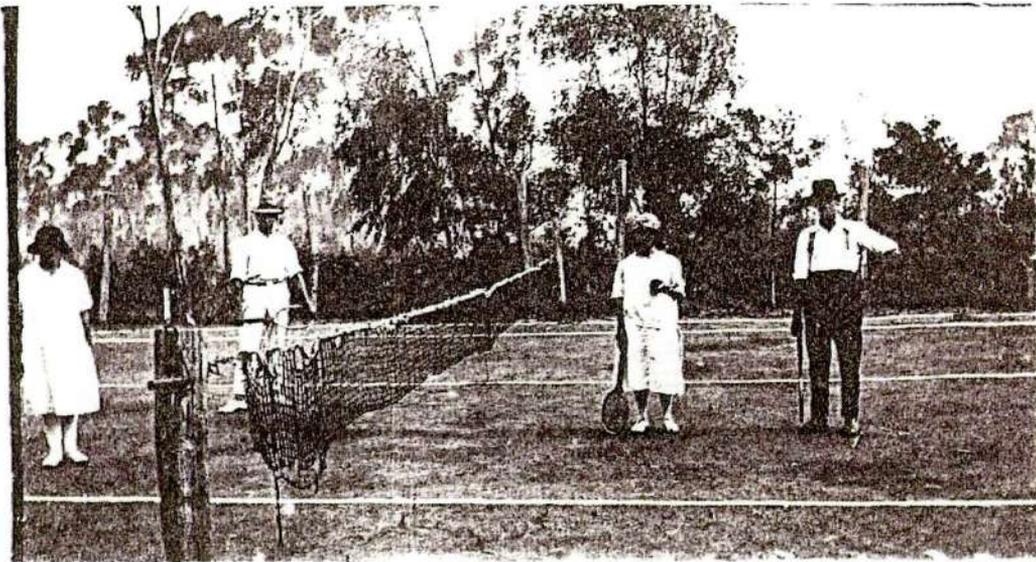
What seemed to be long periods of time would elapse without hearing a thing, so, on the phone again to prod their memories. First Colac with the answer, 'we haven't heard anything', then the Titles Office in Melbourne and get the answer like 'yours is not a high priority, so it may take a while'. This also took months to years. One contributing factor to the long delays was that the original Certificate of Title had been lost and an application for a new Title had to be made. This process began in February 1982. Then one day I spoke to a very friendly fellow in the Titles Office who said he was working on electoral boundary changes and when he finished he would make ours No. 1. I was tickled pink to get him. Finally after

official 'searches', Statutory Declarations, appropriate 'Public Notices', and going through the red-tape process of issuing the Titles in the names of the living Trustees, the surrender of the land was authorised by the Attorney General on 30th June 1983. The land was now Crown Land and the Shire of Colac called a Public Meeting to form a Committee of Management.

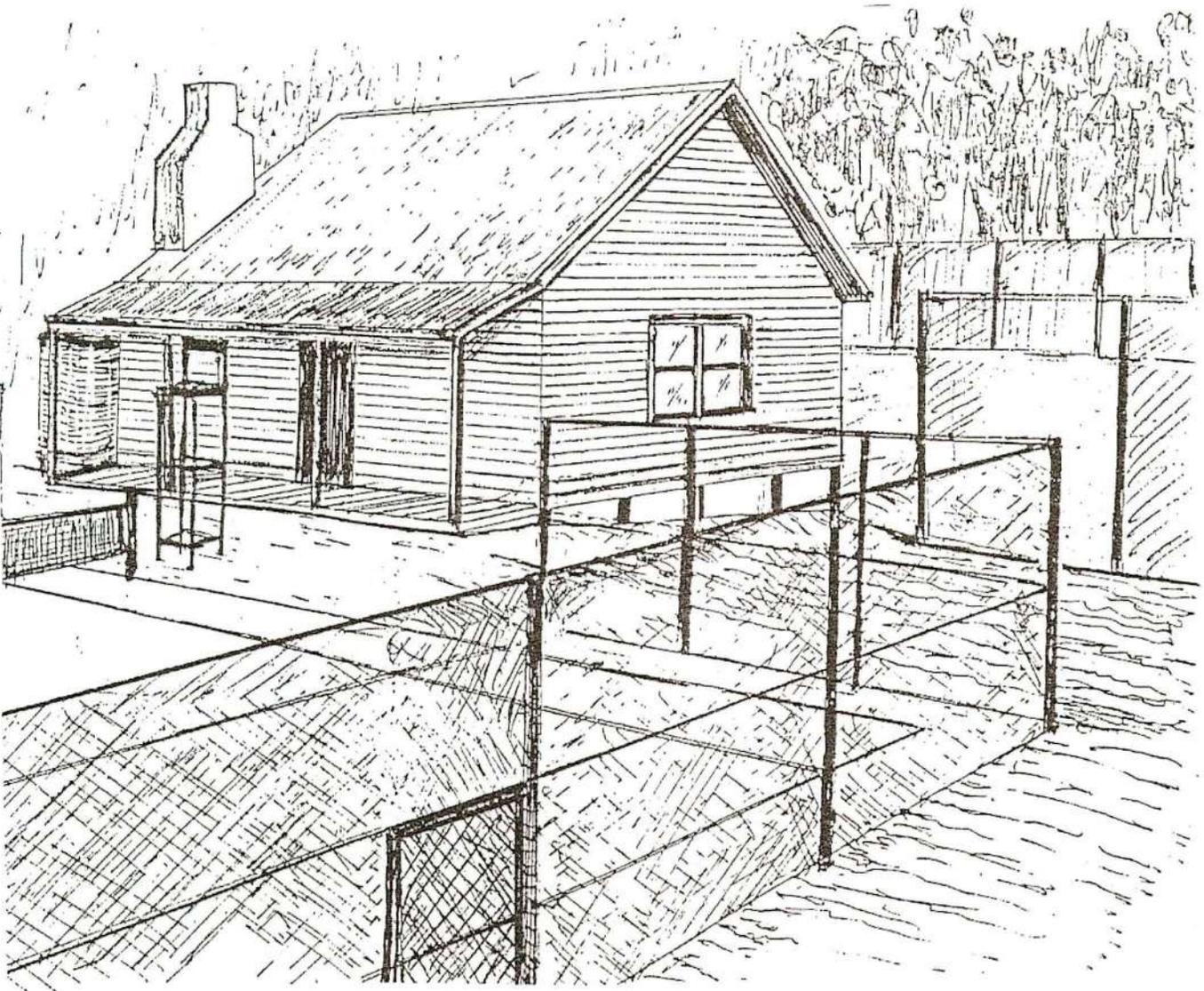
This Public Meeting was held on 29th May 1985. Mr. John Connell was elected Chairman, and Mrs. Marjorie Crabbe, Secretary.

The way was now open to make formal application to the Shire of Colac by the Committee of Management on behalf of the Gerangamete Tennis Club for a Grant to help with the reconstruction of our tennis court complex. The results are what you see now and the people involved are grateful to the Shire of Colac for their assistance and support and are proud of their achievements. Many donations have been made by many people to make this project the success it has been. Over 500 man hours of volunteer labour went into the construction of the two courts and fence. Similarly many hours of volunteer labour have gone into the construction of the Clubhouse. At one working-bee alone, over 35 men worked solidly for 3-4 hours to pour 16½ metres of concrete into the slab floor of the Clubhouse. Finally with the blocks up and the roof on the dream has become a reality.

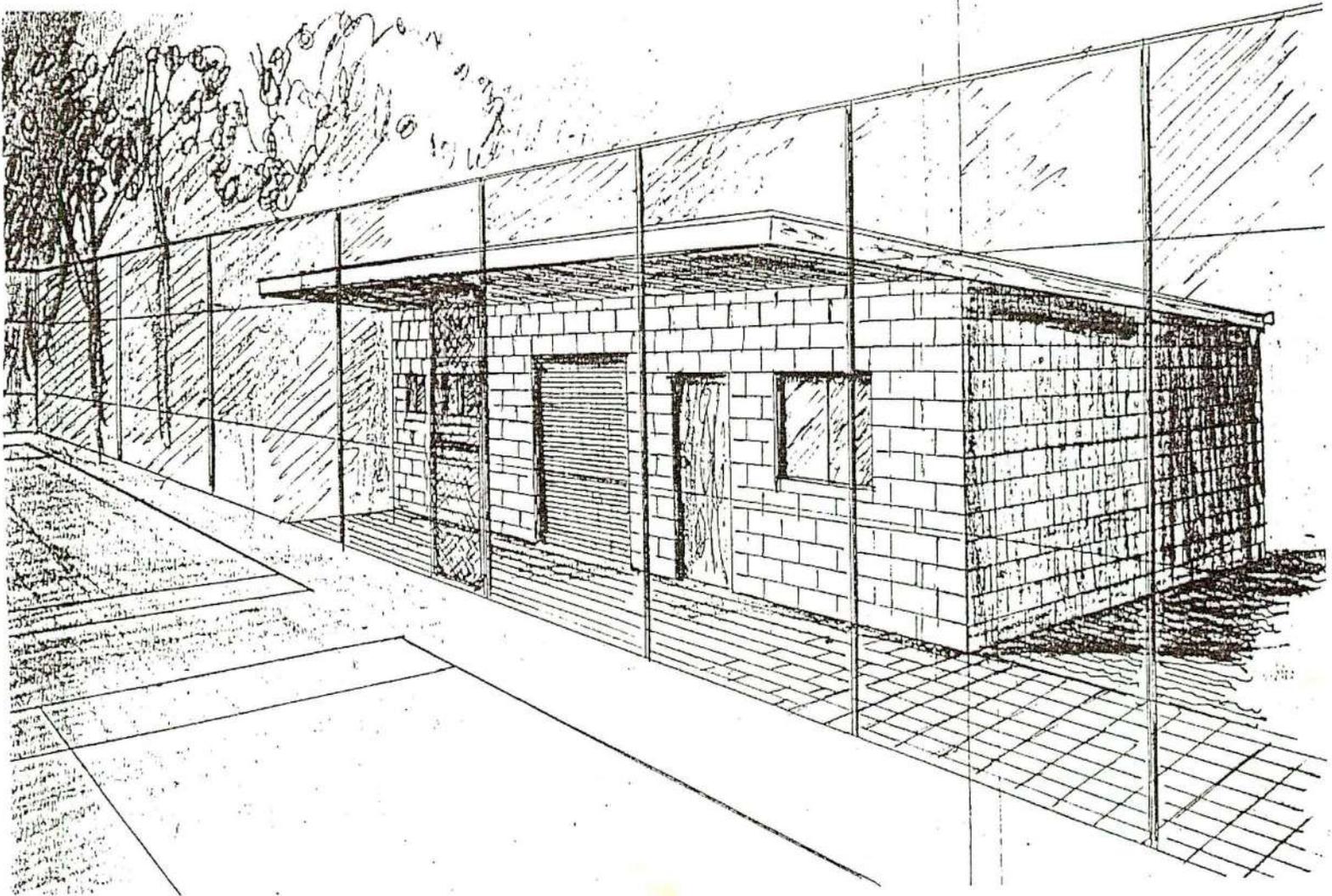
By John Seebeck.



Pictured at Yeodene Tennis Court - Stan Westwood & Megg Walton,
Middleton & Pearl Westwood.



Impression of the Old Gerangamete Tennis Club pavilion sketched by
the Balcombe family.



Impression of the New Gerangamete Tennis Club pavilion
sketched by Mr. Paul Balcombe.

GERANGAMETE 1920-1986, by JOHN BALCOMBE

"Tennis was first introduced into the district by a man named Sergeant Les Wedd during the First World War. He came from Mt. Gambier. We found out later he was a recruiting officer for the Army between 1914 - 1918. He married my eldest sister, Floss. (I've got a medal he won playing football for Gerangamete in 1917. The football ground was where McPadden's hayshed is, as was the old hall there too. The big Ball was held there after the Gerangamete Races.)

Les Wedd built an earth tennis court where I live now. I was lucky being coached by my brother-in-law, Les. The first public court was built about 1922 next to the Gerangamete Post Office. This was off Seven Bridges/Barwon Downs road where John Seebeck's hayshed is now (about).



I played second man for Gerangamete in 1922 (was I proud), in the Polwarth & District Tennis Association. The court was earth levelled off. The net was wire netting with a white piece of teflon sewn on top. Another court of note was built this side of Boundary Creek where Mr. & Mrs. Angus Robb and family lived. Mrs. W. Reid - (young Daisy) was a daughter. I won my first trophy there. A little silver looking ashtray. Was I proud winning the Mens Championship at the ripe old age of 14. Things changed about 1924. A public asphalt court was built behind the Yeodene Hall. All the players from Gerangamete went to play on this better court. This court was built east and west. I remember Mr. Tom Westwood could toss the ball up high and made you look into the sun (you weren't much good for quite a while). I have to own up, we all learnt to toss when we were playing strangers in the Polwarth comp.

The next move came when the Gerangamete school was shifted to where it is now, about 1940. The 'breeders' were good this side of the river about then, with between 30 and 40 kids going to school. Old Steve Harrington helped us. I think he had about a dozen or so (joke Steve). Anyhow we had a school committed at first. Had dances in the school and the floor started to bounce up and down. Bill Reid crawled under and found the builder had just sat the internal blocks on top of the ground. Bill said the full committee would have to inspect the blocks to report same. So one night under we all crawled. I remember Charlie Crabbe had hob-nailed boots on and every time he turned around someone copped it. The builder had to come and put the blocks down to the clay hence no more bounce by the floor only the teacher Ha! Ha!

We then formed a Social Club about 1945. This Club was very active. Badminton was started over in the old hall. We used to play Colac in the old supper room down at the Colac Showgrounds. We got up to 28 players a side. In fact this was the start of the Colac & District Badminton Association. I remember Mrs. Olds (for Gerangamete) took her shoes off so that she could run faster on the concrete floor. She wore the sole of her stockings and they jumped up her legs. Looked funny, like long pants, but she was a real tryer.

* Copy of Gerangamete Picnic Race Club
Members Ticket provided by Mr. Merv. Brady.

The next move by the Social Club was to build a tennis court. Mr. & Mrs. Bill Reid offered to give a piece of land next to the school. Mr. Reid, Mr. Mark Robbins and I were made Trustees. It was a funny title. We were actually made owners of the land and the last one living could have sold the lot etc. After Mr. Reid passed on I used to notice Mr. Robbins looking at me - in fact he looked a bit wonky himself a couple of times. It got too much for us - (ha! ha!) so we made the land over to the Crown. The Queen will let the public of Gerangamete always control it.

I have to get back to building the first tennis court. When we levelled off the ground for the first court we found the water soaked out of the hill. So we decided to build a concrete court to beat the soak. Bill Reid and I opened up the gravel pit on Westwood Track. This was used to make the concrete blocks, plus cement and sand. We had to have money to buy the cement etc. so that started the sports meetings we used to hold on Mr. Reids property opposite the school. We had wood-chopping, footraces, pole vaulting and lots of novelties like catching the rooster that Mrs. Olds gave. Big mug me suggested having a sheep-dog trial - right they said you supply the sheep. I did. Well, thats when the trouble started. A young fellow from over Murroon way brought a pack of dogs that had belonged to an old chap they called Ned Kelly. He used to run cattle and sheep out in the Otway Ranges. These took to my sheep. We belted them off as best as we could, but I was a full week finding them on different farms. In fact, found the last two in the bush out near Barongarook. Back to the trial with the sheep we had left. Out comes Tassie Whelan with his big cattle dog. He used it to get his cows in with. He, Tassie, had this big stick as long as a vaulting pole. I thought he would keep the dog under control which he did. It just followed him along. Now they had to put three sheep through a race and then through a gate into a yard. Tassie got second prize. Could he steal those sheep with his long stick. In fact it was as good as a fence at times - good on you Tass. Now for the first prize winner who was Mr. Pat. Daffy from down at Gellibrand. In fact he told me just the other day he still has the big engraved cup or whatever. He gets great satisfaction showing it to his visitors. Now, about his dog - he was a beauty, brought the sheep up to Pat and could Pat control him. Pat would say 'Sit' and the dog would Sit wherever Pat would chase the sheep through. Very clever, we the judges thought. They tell me now that the man is not allowed to move from one spot. Well done Pat, you won.

You should have seen the crowd that turned up to the next sports meeting we had. Lots of them said when is the sheep dog trial. "Got no Sheep" said us. We did take their money just the same. We got the first court built with a lot of hard working-bees. Used to get one or two blocks (6' x 4' by 4" thick) done between milkings. All had to be done by hand. No concrete mixers in those days, just muscle. I remember carting the big poles out of the bush to build the netting fence around the court. I think it was about 1947 we started to play. Whacko, we had to get a team to play in the Polwarth Comp. and what a team we had when we won our first premiership in 1949-50. The ladies were (in grand-final team), Mrs. Bill Reid (nee Daisy Robb). She learnt to play at Yeodene, she had to be good. Mrs. Jack Swayn from Deans Marsh. She and Jack were living in Gerangamete at the time and was she loyal to Gerangamete - when we played the Marsh who Jack played for. When we beat them I can still see the grin she gave Jack - a beaut couple. Next Teeny Callahan an athletic little sheila could jump the fences (like tennis net etc.) a good little player for Gerangamete. Now for Reserves. They were Mrs. J. Balcombe and Marg Whelan. The blokes - local school teacher Charlie Lincoln was our

captain - he used to wear shorts in those days - fancy showing your bare legs in front of the Ladies - not right! Peter and I wouldn't have it. Could Charlie toss a ball as high as it could be hit and land it right near the back line - by this time we could both get up to the net and had the drop on the opposition. Our next man was Peter Harrington. I think he was about 7'2". They, the opposition had a job to beat Peter at the net. Next came the old bloke himself. I found the outside fence was fairly close to the court so it you put a bend in your serve the opposition hit the fence before the ball. I remember Frank Shanahan said I used to put a squivel on the ball. Reserves - K. Harrington and W. Reid.

The tennis club reached the finals several times during the 1950's. The local teacher was made President of the Club. A concert was organised to raise money for the Club. I think it was held in the V.R.I. in Colac. It was about this time I transferred back to my old Yeodene Club.

My kids still played for Gerangamete. I see where Warwick was President for a few years. While we are on about officials, Allan Reid gave years and years of service as Secretary - the main one in any Club - Well done Allan. I would like to mention a lot of good old loyal members of our Club (Gerangamete). If I started I would be sure to miss out on some so I hope to meet them ALL at the opening of the new courts. One of the hardest things I've ever had to do was watch them (bbb's) break up the old concrete court. Then to make it worse they (the bbb's) pushed the old Pavilion over with the front-loader - they call it progress! I've got a different word.

Well, the two new courts are built with the big flash fence around them. I console myself by thinking they, the new courts will stop lots of young kids from going on drugs etc. so goodluck to the courts and Committee. They, the Committee tell me they are going to build a new pavilion. It won't be a patch on the old one.



All the best
J. Balcombe."

From left - C. Lincoln,
P. Harrington, J. Balcombe.
1949/50.

Photo provided by J. Balcombe.

MEMORIES OF WARWICK BALCOMBE,
written 25.7.1986.

"As far as I can remember the Club was formed about 1947-48, but understand they first played over at the old School site. The first court was built in 1947-48, and I can remember going up after school and helping in a small way mixing the concrete with local sand and putting in block by block, it was a big job.

The Pavilion being built about the same time, also with voluntary labour. The Club has always been great at working bee's. I think the timber was cut on Reid's spot mill for the fence around the court. The other court wasn't built till later, it was levelled off and left for a time. Funds had to be raised by the Social Club with Dances, Sports, etc., and everyone concerned, the Colac Shire helping also, supplying the collace, sprayer, etc.

The Reid family showed great foresight in making the land available, and to be what it is today. I started playing at the Club from 1946 to 1976. There was only one B Grade in the Polwarth competition in the late 1940's and 1950's, being of a very high standard.

I think I played in about 5 Grandfinals, winning one in B Grade in 1955, and runner-up in four A Grade finals. Ross and myself won the B Grade Doubles in 1956, beating Bluey and Don Nichols (Birregurra) on the Grass-courts Championships in Colac, and from the Club my biggest achievement was winning 2 A Grade Singles in 1971 and 1972, beating Don Nichols in both finals.

I can't speak too highly of the Gerangamete Tennis Club, and its great to see you all carrying it on, we as Juniors were always helped and encouraged in every way. We also had to practise hard to get in the team.

The strength of the Club I think, has always been at working bee's, and the women making the afternoon-teas and everyone always willing to help, and for years with only one Court you had to wait some time for a game at Practice, the veranda being full of players waiting to get on.

In the early years the Club brought in a ladder system, where all players were graded and if you wanted to go up the ladder, you had to challenge the player above you, and things got pretty serious at times."

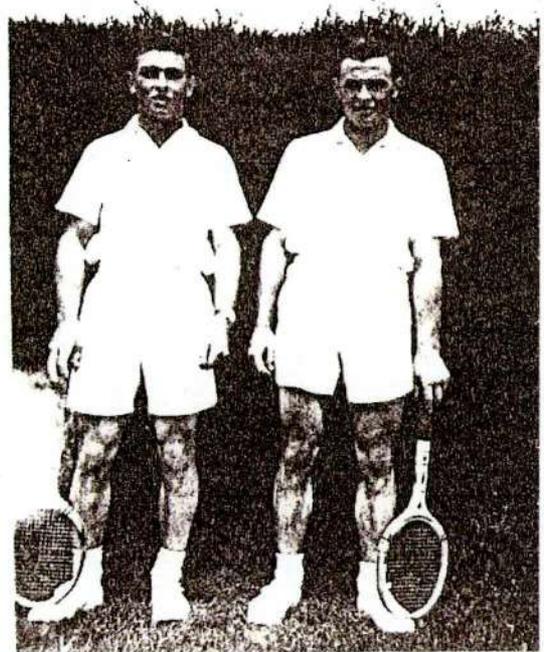


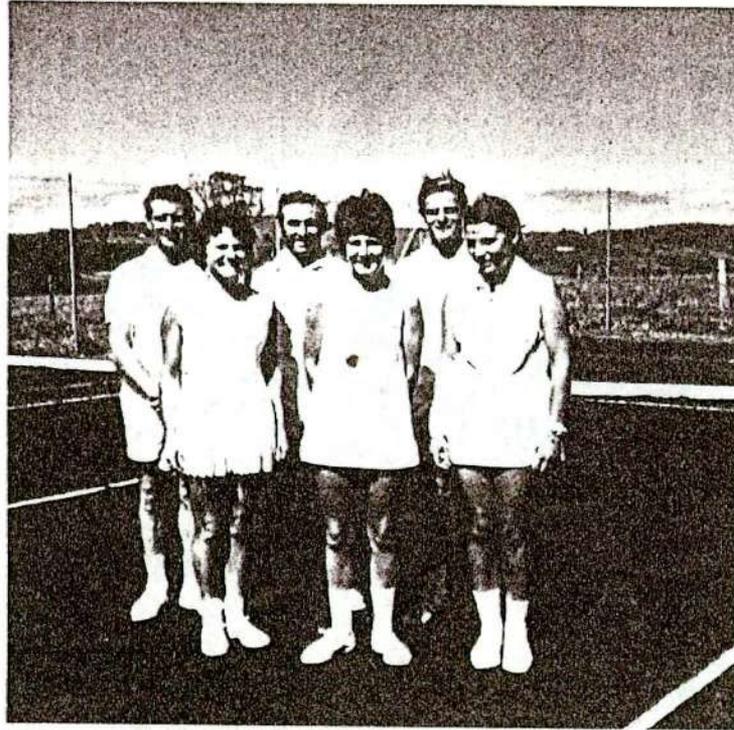
Left: Wendy Rozworski
(nee Balcombe)

Photo provided by the
Balcombe family.

Right: "Doubles Partnership
of the Decade - Lew Hoad and
Ken Rosewall" - alias Max
and Allan Reid.

Photo provided by Allan and
Joyce Reid, Ballarat.



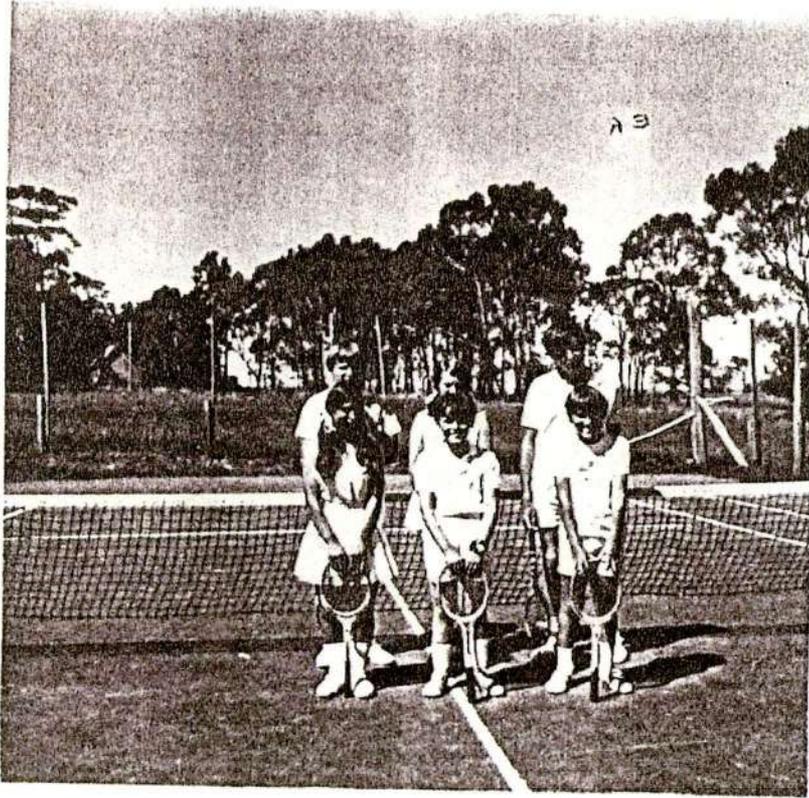


Above: Gerangamete Grand-Final Tennis team, March 27th, 1971.
Don Whitehead, Allan Reid, Patrick Whelan,
Joyce Reid, Pauline Smith, Jane Mercer.
Photo provided by Allan and Joyce Reid, Ballarat.

Below: Barry and Jenny Whitehead, Lois and Judith Crabbe,
Scott Mercer, Leanne Rowe.
Photo provided by Marj Crabbe.

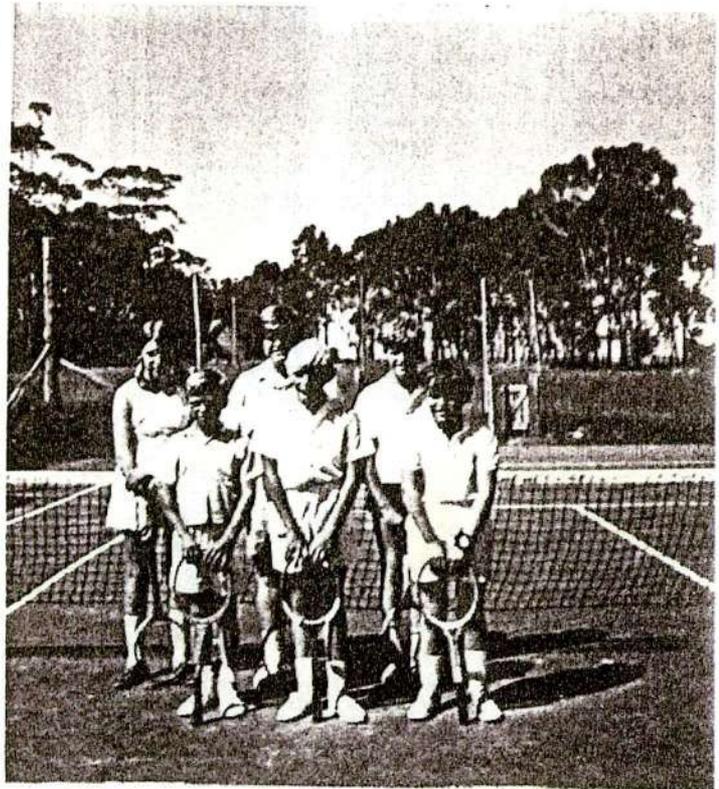


Gerangamete Junior Teams February 1972.
Photos provided by Joyce and Allan Reid, Ballarat.



Left: Bruce Taylor,
Rosemary Whitehead,
Graham Taylor, Evelyn
Costello, Peter Whelan,
Colin Reid.

Right: Pat Taylor, Rosemary
Crabbe, Harold Crabbe,
Campbell Mercer, Ken Taylor,
Peter Whelan.





Above: Gerangamete Tennis Club Party at M. Whelan's,
April 5th, 1970.
Photo provided by Joyce and Allan Reid, Ballarat.

Below: Tassie Whelan, Jane Mercer, Noel Hyndman, Alan Neale
Lisa Crabbe and Ruth Crabbe. 1976-77.



THE TEAMS OF THE GERANGAMETE TENNIS CLUB

The following list of teams entered in the Polwarth & District Tennis Association competition has been compiled as accurately as possible from the minute books of the Gerangamete Tennis Club and the draws and minute books of the Polwarth & District Tennis Association.

As you will see the Gerangamete Tennis Club has enjoyed mixed success in the competition. The number of teams fielded has ranged from one senior team in the early 1950's to five senior teams and one junior team in season 1977/78.

In season 1969/70, our Junior team was in the final four and Denise Whelan, Lauren Stephens and Ian Crabbe, members of that team, were selected to play in a tournament in Geelong.

| | | | | |
|---|---------|----------------------------|---|--|
| Season | 1949/50 | - One B Grade Team | - | Premiership won. |
| | 1950/51 | - One B Grade Team | | |
| | 1951/52 | - One B Grade Team | | |
| | 1952/53 | - One B Grade Team | | |
| | 1953/54 | - One Senior Team | | |
| | 1954/55 | - One B Grade Team | - | Premiership won. |
| | 1955/56 | - Two Senior Teams | | |
| | 1956/57 | - One Senior Team | | |
| | 1957/58 | - One B Grade Team | | |
| | 1958/59 | - One B Grade Team | | |
| | 1959/60 | - No Team | | |
| | 1960/61 | - No Team | | |
| | 1961/62 | - Club in Recess | | |
| | 1962/63 | - Club in Recess | | |
| | 1963/64 | - Club in Recess | | |
| | 1964/65 | - One B Grade Team | | |
| | | One Junior Team | - | Premiership won. |
| | 1965/66 | - One A Reserve Grade team | - | Premiership won. |
| | | One C Grade Team | | |
| | | One Junior team | - | Premiership won. |
| At this time the ladies of the District entered a team in the Colac Ladies' Winter Pennant Competition. | | | | |
| | 1966/67 | - One A Grade Team | | |
| | | Possibly One B Grade Team | | |
| | | One Junior Team | | |
| | 1967/68 | - One A Grade Team | | |
| | | Possible one C Grade Team | | |
| | | One Junior Team | | |
| | 1968/69 | - One B Grade Team | - | Premiership won. |
| | | One Junior Team | | |
| | 1969/70 | - One Senior Team | - | A Reserve Premiership won. |
| | | One Junior team | - | In final four. |
| | 1970/71 | - Three Senior Teams | - | Runners-up A Grade Grand-final. |
| | | Two Junior Teams | | |
| | 1971/72 | - Three Senior teams | - | Gerangamete Bronze in final four. |
| | | Two Junior teams | | |
| | 1972/73 | - Three Senior Teams | - | Competition divided into two grades after first round, A and B Grades. |
| | | A Grade | - | Gerangamete Bronze in final four. |
| | | B Grade | - | Gerangamete Silver in final four. |
| | | Two Junior teams | - | Gerangamete Bronze in final four. |

- 1973/74 - One A Grade Team
Two B Grade Teams
Two Junior Teams
- 1974/75 - One A Grade Team
Three B Grade Teams - Gerangamete Silver in
final four.
- 1975/76 - One A Grade Team
Three B Grade Teams - Competition must have been
divided as Gerangamete Bronze and Gerangamete Gold
were in the finals and Gerangamete Bronze is marked
on the A Reserve Grade Cup as premiers for this
season.
One Junior Team - Finished season on top of
Ladder.
- 1976/77 - One A Grade Team - Gerangamete third on ladder.
Three B Grade Teams - Competition divided into A Reserve
Grade and B Grade after completion of first round.
Gerangamete Gold and Gerangamete Bronze both in A
Reserve and finished 2nd and 3rd respectively on
ladder.
One Junior team in Division 1 - second on ladder.
Premiership won.
- 1977/78 - Two A Grade Teams - Gerangamete Red in final
four.
One A Reserve Grade Team - Third on ladder.
Two B Grade Teams - Gerangamete Gold third on
ladder.
One Junior team.
- 1978/79 - One A Grade Team - second on ladder.
Premiership Won.
One A reserve Grade Team - Third on ladder.
Two B Grade Teams - Gerangamete Gold second on
ladder - Premiership Won.
One Junior Team, Division 2 - Third on ladder.
- 1979/80 - Two A Grade Teams - Gerangamete Gold second on
ladder.
Two B Grade Teams.
One Junior Team, Division 1.
- 1980/81 - One A Grade Team
Two A Reserve Grade Teams - Gerangamete Gold Premiers.
One B Grade Team
One Junior Team, Division 2.
- 1981/82 - One B Grade Team
One Junior Team
- 1982/83 - One B Grade Team
One Junior Team
- 1983/84 - One B Grade Team
Two Junior Teams, Division 2.
- 1984/85 - One B Grade Team
Two Junior teams, one in Division 1 and one in
Division 2.
- 1985/86 - One A Reserve Grade Team
One Junior Team, Division 1.
- 1986/87 - Three A Reserve Grade Teams - (new format of 2 men/
2 women per team, trialling for one season)
One Junior Team, Division 1.

GERANGAMETE SOCIAL CLUB/TENNIS CLUB OFFICE-BEARERS

1950 - 1986

- 1950 - President - Mr. J. Balcombe
Vice-Presidents - Alf Wilson, W. Reid, Mrs. Reid
Treasurer - H. Swan
Secretary - A. Reid.
- 1951 - President - Mr. J. Balcombe
Vice-Presidents - W. Reid, Mrs. W. Reid, F. McGrath
Treasurer - H. Swan
Secretary - A. Reid
- 1952 - President - Mr. J. Balcombe
Vice-Presidents - W. Reid, W. Whelan
Treasurer - H. Swan
Secretary - A. Reid
- TENNIS CLUB FORMED ON MOTION OF MR. OAKLEY, SECONDED BY MRS. WHELAN
ON 23/9/1952, with office-bearers of both Clubs being the same persons.
- 1953 - President - Mr. J. Balcombe
Vice-Presidents - Mr. W. Whelan and Mr. Ron Daffy
Treasurer - Mr. H. Swan
Secretary - Mrs. S. Carter - Mrs. Carter resigned on 5/6/54.
Miss W. Balcombe took over position.
- 1954 - President - Mr. J. Balcombe
Vice-Presidents - L. Crabbe and Mrs. B. Callahan
Secretary/Treasurer - Miss W. Balcombe
- 1955 - President - Mr. J. Balcombe
Vice-Presidents - Mr. L. Crabbe and Mr. R. Kennett
Secretary - Miss W. Balcombe
Treasurer - Miss L. Robbins
- WORK BEGAN ON SECOND COURT DURING THIS SEASON.
- 1956 - President - Mr. L. Crabbe
Vice-Presidents - Mr. H. Westbury , Mr. Allan Crabbe
Secretary - Mrs. I. Neild - Mrs. Neild resigned during
season and M. Andersen elected.
Treasurer - Mr. P. Mercer.
- 1957 - President - Mr. Ron Kennett
Vice-Presidents - H. Westbury and L. Crabbe
Secretary - A. Reid
Treasurer - L. Crabbe
- 1958 - President - R. Kennett - resigned during season.
Vice-Presidents - A. Crabbe and M. Robbins
Secretary - A. Reid
Treasurer - L. Crabbe
- 1959 - President - A. Crabbe
Vice-President - M. Robbins
Secretary - A. Reid
Treasurer - L. Crabbe
- 1960 - President - A. Crabbe
Vice-President - M. Robbins
Secretary - A. Reid
Treasurer - L. Crabbe
- 1961 - No recorded minutes - Club in recess
1962 - No recorded minutes - Club in recess
1963 - No recorded minutes - Club in recess
1964 - President - Daryl Leggett
Vice-President - M. Robbins
Secretary - A. Reid
Assistant Secretary - Amy Crabbe
Treasurer - A. Crabbe

- 1965 - President - Warwick Balcombe
Vice-President - M. Robbins
Secretary - A. Reid
Assistant Secretary - Maree Robbins
Treasurer - A. Crabbe
- NEW COURT OPENED 19TH DECEMBER, 1965, Mr. Schram (Clarrie) the President of Polwarth & District Tennis Association invited to open same.
- 1966 - President - Colin Thompson
Vice-President - Warwick Balcombe
Secretary - A. Reid
Treasurer - A. Crabbe
- 1967 - President - C. Thompson
Vice-President - Mrs. G. Crabbe
Secretary - A. Reid
Assistant Secretary - Miss I. Robbins
Treasurer - A. Crabbe
- 1968 - President - C. Thompson
Vice-President - Mrs. G. Crabbe
Secretary - A. Reid
Assistant Secretary - Miss I. Robbins
Treasurer - A. Crabbe
- 1969 - President - C. Thompson
Vice-President - Mrs. G. Crabbe
Secretary - A. Reid
Assistant Secretary - Miss I. Robbins
Treasurer - A. Crabbe
- 1970 - President - Ian Crabbe
Vice-President - Kevin Crabbe
Secretary - Vicki Whelan
Treasurer - Alan Crabbe
- 1971 - President - Patrick Whelan
Vice-President - Alan Reid
Secretary - Vicki Whelan
Treasurer - Kevin Whitehead
- 1972 - President - Alan Whelan
Vice-President - John Taylor
Secretary - Vicki Whelan
Treasurer - Bev. Whitehead
- 1973 - President - A. Whelan
Vice-President - J. Seebeck
Secretary - J. Whitehead
Treasurer - B. Whitehead
- 1974 - President - J. Seebeck
Vice-President - A. Whelan
Secretary - J. Whitehead
Treasurer - B. Whitehead
- 1975 - President - A. Whelan
Vice-President - J. Seebeck
Secretary - D. Seebeck
Treasurer - M. Crabbe
- 1976 - President - A. Whelan
Vice-President - Campbell Mercer
Secretary - D. Seebeck
Treasurer - M. Crabbe
- 1977 - President - Ian Crabbe
Vice-President - J. Seebeck
Secretary - Rosie Crabbe
Treasurer - Marj Crabbe

- 1978 - President - Eddie Williamson
Vice-President - Harold Crabbe
Secretary - Rosie Crabbe
Treasurer - Marj Crabbe
- 1979 - President - John Seebeck
Vice-President - Harold Crabbe
Secretary - Rosie Crabbe
Treasurer - Marj Crabbe
- 1980 - President - John Seebeck
Vice-President - A. Whelan
Secretary - Rosie Crabbe
Treasurer - Lois Crabbe
- 1981 - President - John Seebeck
Vice-President - Ian Crabbe
Secretary - Rosie Crabbe
Treasurer - Lois Crabbe
- 1982 - President - Ian Crabbe
Vice-President - Murray Taylor
Secretary - Rosie Crabbe
Treasurer - Marj Crabbe
- 1983 - President - Murray Taylor
Vice-President - Ivy Begg
Secretary - Noela Crabbe
Treasurer - Marj Crabbe
- 1984 - President - Murray Taylor
Vice-President - Ivy Begg
Secretary - Ian Crabbe
Treasurer - Marj Crabbe
- 1985 - President - Murray Taylor
Vice-President - Ivy Begg
Secretary - Judith Crabbe
Treasurer - Marj Crabbe
- 1986 - President - Peter Scott
Vice-President - Ivy Begg
Secretary - Maree Lamanna
Treasurer - Marj Crabbe

Note: For the past two years Mrs. Wendy Garraway has been coaching our Junior Players and prospective Junior players in the fundamentals of playing tennis. The Committee of the Club are very appreciative of Wendy's work with the children and we look forward to a good future for the Gerangamete Tennis Club.

Prior to Wendy working with the children, Lisa Crabbe was 'coach', and before Lisa, Marj Crabbe used to take the children's practise sessions. Thank you all.

AN ITEM OF DISTRICT MEMORABILIA.

This copy of the Forrest Football Club Member's ticket was provided by Merv Brady.



A SHORT HISTORY OF THE GERANGAMETE POST OFFICE

The Gerangamete Post Office was opened on 14th October 1879. It was situated on property on the Seven Bridges Road owned by W. A. Tranter. The property is now owned by John and Delwyn Seebeck.

The Postmasters over the years were :-

| | |
|---|---|
| 1879 - 1885 | W. A. Tranter |
| January 1886 - December 1903 | S. Tranter |
| January 1904 - October 1909 | E. Tranter |
| October 1909 - 30 Sept. 1923 | Mrs. L. M. Andrews Mr. E. R. Andrews (Assistant) |
| Note - 118 articles received, registered, during 12 months ending 31.12.1914. 192 articles posted, registered, during 12 months ending 31.12.1914. | |
| 1st Oct. 1923 - 1st Dec. 1925 | Mrs. Elsie May Stevens |
| 1st Dec. 1925 - 30th June 1933 | Mrs. E. G. Costello |
| 1st July 1933 - 30th Nov. 1943 | Mrs. L. M. Andrews |
| 1st Dec. 1943 - 31st March 1951 | Mrs. Mary-Ann Callahan |
| 1st April 1951 - 30th July 1954 | Mrs. Eileen Rachel Carter |
| 1st August 1954 - 31st March 1969 | Mrs. Gladys Amelia Doreen Callahan |

The Gerangamete Post Office was officially closed on the 31st March 1969. Mail is now delivered by Roadside Delivery from Birregurra or Colac. The residence and Post Office are no longer standing as the building was destroyed by fire whilst unoccupied in May 1980.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE GERANGAMETE PRIMARY SCHOOL

There have been 2 Primary Schools in the Gerangamete District. SS No. 1581 (Gerangamete East or Gerangamete Estate), and SS No. 1243 (the present school). The history of both schools is closely linked.

SS1243 opened on 4th August 1874. It closed again on 24th September 1877, and the building, a timber structure designed to accommodate 40 children, was moved to Gerangamete East (the site of the pine plantation on Dewings Bridge Road). However the Department retained the 5 acre site, located on Allotment 42A, (the present site), 3½ miles from SS1581. Over the years this site became more central for the children so the closed school building from Winchelsea Plains was re-erected on the Gerangamete site at a cost of £356 14s 10d. On 8th of July 1942 Richard N. Bowman, HT at SS1581 closed that school and reopened SS1243 Gerangamete. The children from SS1581 transferred to SS1243. The Department erected a residence in 1948 and additional accommodation in 1965.

SS1581 Gerangamete East was opened by William A. Tranter on 7th September 1875 in a building known as Buckleys house (on Allotment 15 - now owned by Graham Crabbe on Dewings Bridge Road) for which the Department paid an annual rental of £20. In March 1878 a school building from SS1243 Gerangamete was moved on to the 4½ acre site at a cost of £45, the site of the pine plantation on Dewings Bridge Road. Gerangamete East worked part-time with Barwon Downs in 1883 and part-time with Barramunga in 1889. Temporarily the school closed until 1901 when Annie Butler as HT reopened it. The first Committee Correspondent in 1911 was Edgar Balcombe. During 1926 low enrolment caused part-time working with SS4261 Upper Gellibrand, but next year the school operated full-time. By 1933 it worked part-time with Murroon, finally closing on 8th July 1942.

This year, 1986, SS1243 Gerangamete has an enrolment of 19 students. The HT is Miss Lyn Lacey, and the second teacher is Miss Meredith Williamson. The School Council this year added a new office to help overcome the lack of space problem which has been experienced since increased enrolments necessitated the appointment of a second teacher. Next year it is expected there will be an enrolment of over 20 students.

PAST TEACHERS -

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1942 - 1945 | Richard N.T. Bowman |
| 1945 - 1946 | Patricia M. Lacey |
| 1946 - 1947 | Morris O.H. Bawden |
| 1947 - 1951 | Charles H. Lincoln |
| 1952 - 1955 | Keith D. Stewart |
| 1956 - 1959 | Ronald D. W. Kennett |
| 1959 | Dudley J. Cowell |
| 1960 - 1963 | Neil R. Gilbert |
| 1964 - 1965 | Daryl Leggett |
| 1966 - 1971 | Colin R. Thompson |
| 1971 | Brian L. Taylor |
| 1972 - 1973 | Graeme F. Elmer |
| 1974 - 1975 | Helen Fisher |
| 1976 - 1978 | Noel Hyndman |
| 1979 | Rod Otto |
| 1980 - 1983 | Graham R. Pratt |
| 1984 - | Lyn Lacey |
| 1985 | Debbie Jinks (second teacher) |
| 1986 - | Meredith Williamson (second teacher) |

THIS SECTION IS PROVIDED FOR AUTOGRAPHS AND LISTS OF PREMIERSHIP
AND RUNNER-UP TEAM MEMBERS.

| | | | |
|--|--------------------|--------|--------------------------------|
| 1950 - Men, | John Balcombe | Women, | Teeny Callahan |
| | Peter Harrington | | Mrs. Jack Swain |
| | Charles Lincoln | | Mrs. Daisy Reid |
| | Emg. K. Harrington | | Emg. Mrs. R. Balcombe |
| | W. Reid | | Marg Whelan |
| 1955 - Played against Birregurra at Mirnee - | | | |
| Men, | John Balcombe | Women, | Wendy Balcombe |
| | Warwick Balcombe | | Mrs. Carter |
| | Ross Balcombe | | Doreen Fothergill (nee Hansen) |

F&DHS DOCUMENT ARCHIVE

Title *Serangamete Remembers*

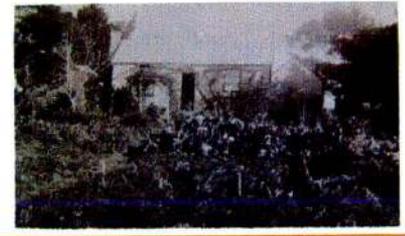
Subject Category

Key Words

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DOC. *462* Date *2009* Dig. Copy?



HISTORY DATA SHEET



Welcome to WHO REMEMBERS GERANGAMETE? 5th March 2009

Gerangamete is the last of the neighbouring townships in our district we will study but perhaps it should have been the first! It predates Barramunga and Barwon with state school number 1243! Here is what Maree Lamanna write in her 1999 book *The Life and Times of Gerangamete Primary School 1243 and Gerangamete East Primary School 1581*.

Gerangamete is a small farming area , 22 kms south east of Colac. According to those who have lived in the district many years, some all their lives, the name "Gerangamete" is an aboriginal word meaning "*home of the snake*". Other meanings of the word are documented as being "*home of the black cockatoo*" and also "*water covered with leaves*".

The swamp in the Gerangamete Flats, also called "*Bearrock*" meaning "*kangaroo rat*".

Trevor Pescott in his book, 'The Otways' states that pastoral development in the Otways began with the granting , to William Roadknight, land in Gerangamete in 1839. William Roadknight was one of the earliest Victorian settlers, arriving from Tasmania at the end of 1835. E.B.

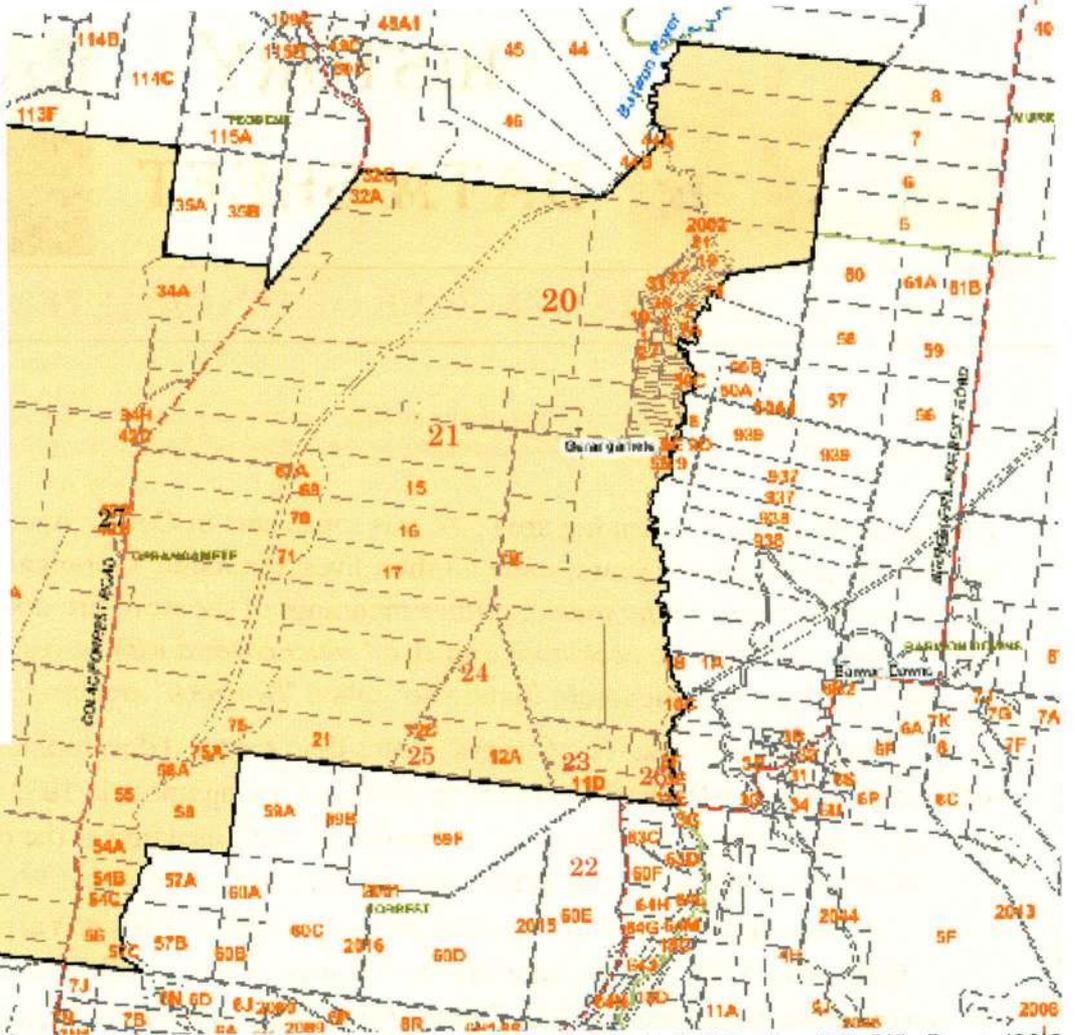
Gregory & M.L. Gregory claim in their book 'Coast to Country' that William Roadknight and his son, Thomas, attended the first public meeting called at Yarrow Yarrow (now Melbourne) on 1st June 1836. According to Isaac Hebb (History of Colac and District) Roadknight "took all the country around Gerangamete, Deans Marsh and also the Buntingdale reserve." He later had to relinquish the reserve. The description of the land - situated in the County of Grant, which was then larger than its present boundaries. Area was 21,000 acres.

Captain Frederick Dewing was another early settler of the area. Captain Dewing held a lease at Warncoort before coming to Barwon Downs, when in 1845 he took out a licence to occupy 17,000 acres. The run was known as "Paraparap Station". The East Barwon River formed the dividing line between Thomas Roadknight's property and Paraparap's western boundary. The northern boundary consisted of a log fence running from Fairholme to a point behind Deans Marsh. The coast apparently determined the rest of the boundary. Captain Dewing had two children, Henry and Ellen. Story has it, that Ellen was the first white child born in the Colac District. Dewing's first home was built near the river - on property now owned by Phillip Callahan. Henry Dewing and Philip Callahan, in partnership, subleased Paraparap from Frederick Dewing, in January 1856. They paid rates of £ 5. 12s. 6d per annum. Henry built a second homestead on "Dewing's Hill" when he married in 1858. Phillip Callahan lived in the original homestead. In 1860, on Captain Dewing's death, the lease became void and the land was surveyed for settlement. The surveyor named the three creeks in the District after the settlers living there, Dewing's, Callahan's and King's Creeks. Thomas King was the overseer for Roadknight's at that time. Dewing's Bridge Road, and Dewing's Hill are also named after the Dewing family. The road leading to Barwon Downs , at the top of Dewing's Hill, is named after the Callahan family. Phillip Callahan owned 320 acres by 1865, and later added to this by selection and purchase. A block on Dewing's Bridge Road, had payment finalised on it in 1876. This land is still owned by his great grandson, Christopher Callahan.

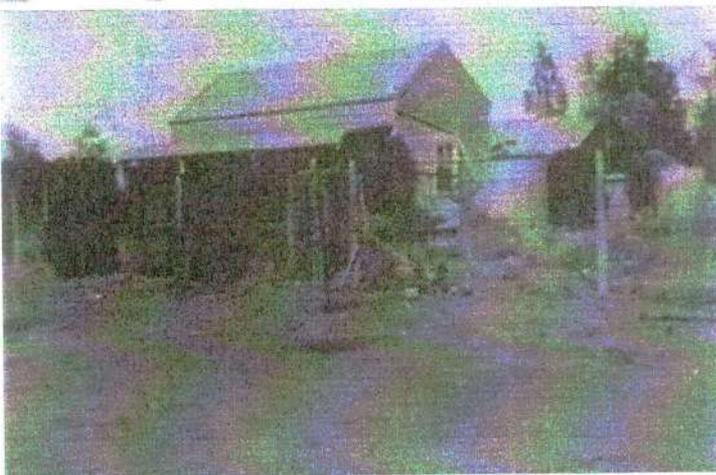
Little Town Lost

According to Ron Cunnington, Gerangamete is a place which could never ever decide where it was going to be located. Not only did the Gerangamete swamp divide the town into half with the school swapping from one side to the other twice but there was an entire town plan subdivision which can be seen on the map at 20, which never proceeded. Perhaps the site was too flood prone. Further, there was no settlement anywhere near the station so it was an inconvenient distance from the Post Office, school etc.

The first Gerangamete Hall existed on a block of land further up Dewings Bridge Road (21); Ron can remember seeing the stumps. It was later moved to beside the Sunday school (25)



Find the: West School (27), East School (24), Sunday School and Hall (25), Post Office (23), Rail Station, (26). Rifle Range (22)?



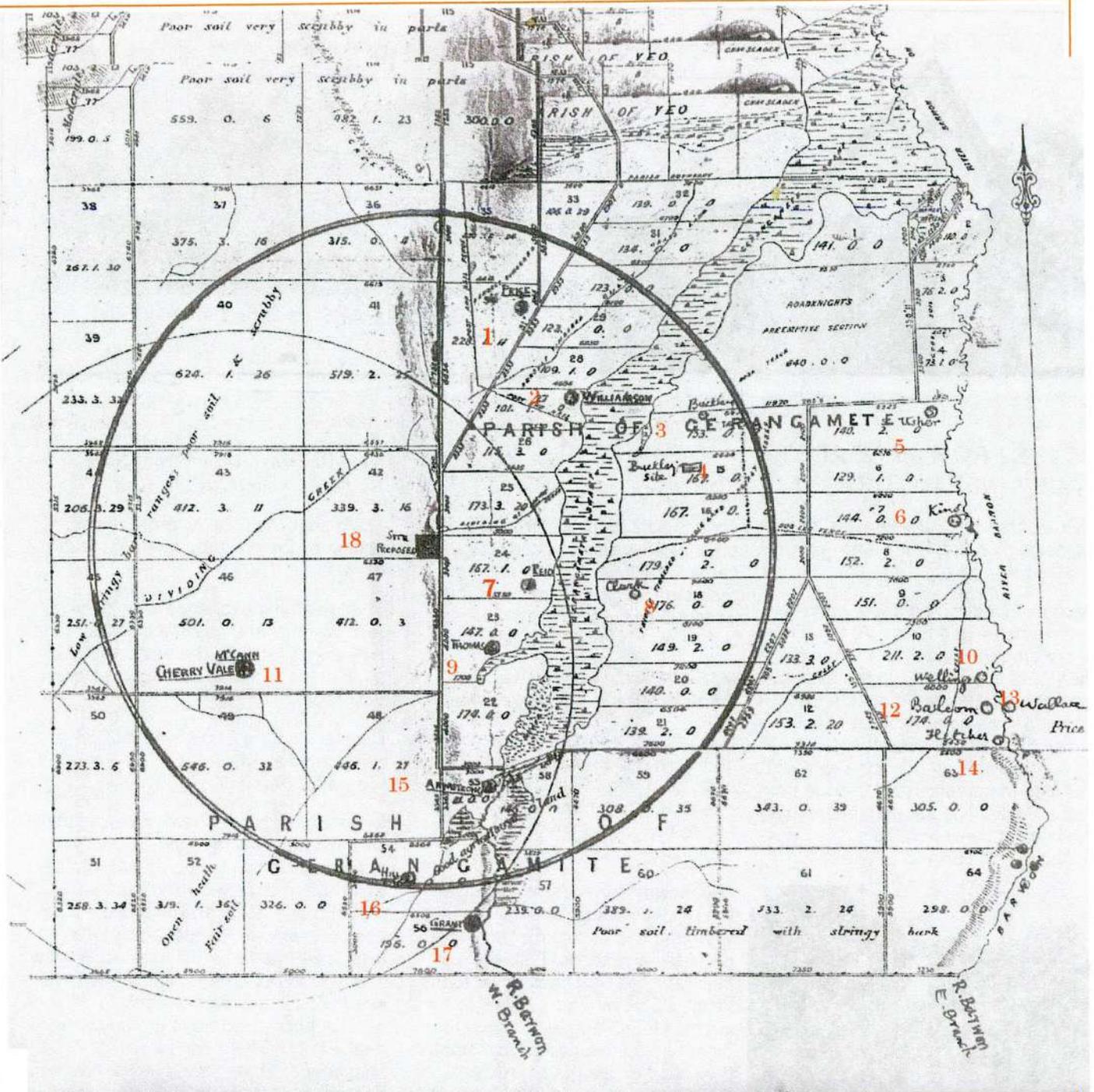
This precious picture of the Post Office(23) is from Maree Lamanna's Book. The veranda faced Seven Bridges Rd.. Margaret Facey (nee McGrath), age 11 at the time when Christine (Tinie) Callahan ran the PO, remembers the Post Office being on the right hand side with the telephone exchange in a small room at the back corner. There was a living room on the left and behind another building as living quarters which contained a piano.



Teacher Phyllis Morgan outside the Gerangamete East School circa 1928. In 1965 it was moved to Elliminyt for use as a Scout Hall.

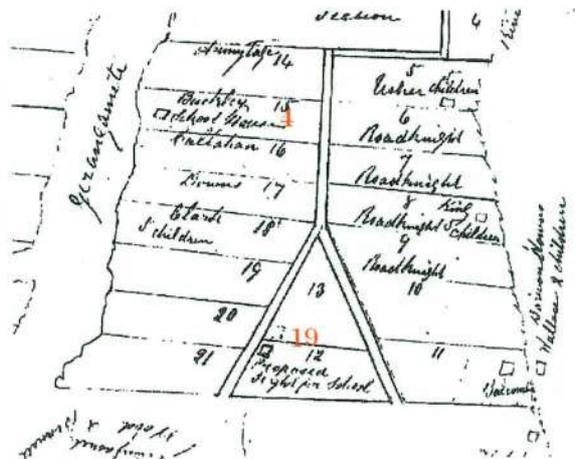
There was no store at Gerangamete. Here residents are advised that they can order supplies from Forrest for delivery on Fridays.

Reminder to Gerangamete Residents
Orders Delivered around Gerangamete
Each Friday
FROM
VOAKE'S CORNER STORE
Phone — Forrest 33
FOR GROCERIES, COOKED MEATS, CONFECTIONERY,
CAKE, CRUMPETS & FRESH FISH AND
VEGETABLES & FRESH FRUIT
DIRECT FROM NORTHERN GROWERS



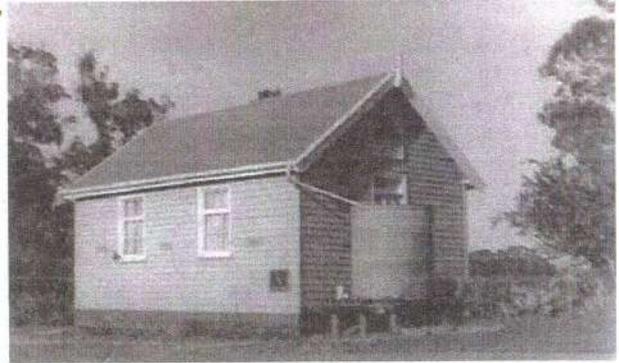
By 1873 the large pastoral leases had lapsed and the land was subdivided for sale. In this map, prepared by Maree Lamanna, we can see the homesteads of early settlers, 1. Price, 2. Williamson, 3. Buckley 4. Buckley, 5. Usher, 6 King, 7. Reid, 8. Clark, 9. Thomas, 10. Wellings, 11. Mc Cann, 12. Balcomb, 13. Wallace, 14. Fletcher. 15. Armstrong, 16. Hill, 17. Grant.

In 1873 T. Mc Cann (11) wrote to the Education Dept stating that his wife had run a school at Cherry Vale for 12 month and recommending the creation of a school. This was supported by a petition by many of the other residents mentioned above. The circle on the map is the catchment area for the proposed school (18). At that time the inspector pointed out that the Gerangamete swamp isolated a batch of potential students in the east and another school would be needed. In the mean time these students were taught at a rented house on Buckley's property (4), from 1875 as PS 1581. In fact, student numbers declined in West Gerangamete and in 1878 the school there was dismantled and re-erected on a site in Dewing Bridge Rd. (19). But circumstances changed over the years and the western school 1243 was reopened in 1942 and 1581 closed.





Beech Forest Methodist Church was acquired and became the Gerangamete Methodist Church.



Gerangamete State School around 1958



Plan of the Gerangamete Railway Station from Norman Houghton's *Sawdust and Steam*.

NOTES FROM MARGARET FACEY (NEE MC GRATH)

My parents were dairy farmers, milking cattle by hand, Frank and Alice McGrath.

Mum and Dad milked about 40 cows and we had 4 paddocks. At the back of our property was all timber and there was a spot mill in the back but I'm not sure who had that. On the corner as you come down and in between the Hall and the school was all bush and it was all bush on the opposite side of the road. We used to go to the Post Office through the bush at the back of the school on a little track and take the mail and deliver it.



I was only in grade 1 or 2. The school was Gerangamete school down the road from our house before it was shifted over to the Apollo Bay Road. Mr Beaumont was the teacher and there was about 20 – 30 children going to school. Only 1 teacher and full time. This was in about 1941.

At the corner there were two hall's one being used as Sunday school. They used to hold dances in the hall there. The two halls had a partition between them. In the main hall there was a stage but in the other hall there was the kitchen and they did all the cooking in this one. If it was cold they

used to light the fire in there. The other room was also used for playing cards like Euchre or 500 and I remember Dad and a few other members putting lighting in the hall as before we had pressure kero lights.

Mr & Mrs Anderson ran the Post Office in 1941, an elderly couple.

Dad's father was sick and we left and moved to Irrewillipe and came back for a little while. I would have been in High School by then. I had to ride my bike to the Apollo Bay Road and catch the bus.

The railway service was the Tiger. When I was about 12 or 13 I used to volunteer and collect the mail on a Saturday and school holidays and then take the mail back down to the Tiger at 5.00 at night. I used to hand the mail to the man who drove the Tiger at the crossover. Occasionally they used to use the big red one. But mostly it was the black and yellow motor car. The Big Red One we used to call the Tiger too. I remember it from the photo. I used to ride my bike down to the Station.

I remember the railway station. Before you went over the railway line you turned to the left and went up there and the station and the shed was on the other side It was just a tin shed. It was unmanned and there was no gatehouse. This shed was for storing goods that were being sent out or delivered via the Tiger. The Tiger would stop and put produce in this shed. The mail bag wasn't left there, I would give the mail bag to the driver. I would sit on

a gate post. You could hear the tiger coming by the noise on the rails, both ways.

The telephone exchange was in the back of the post office in a little room out the back. Christine, the post mistress, could play the piano and had one in the back room.

The Hall and the Sunday school were burnt down at one stage. The Post Office was still standing

General mail to my knowledge was the only thing dealt with at the Post Office. Milk and bread would come out with the CDC. Mum or Dad would ring up and order bread. It was Bilson's at the time. The butcher was Flanagan's at the time. If we wanted meat they would take it around to our cream cans at the CDC and then it would be delivered to us. For other supplies we had to go to Forrest to deal with Mr Green and he was the shopkeeper at the time. I think I remember there was a dress shop or drapery or some type of thing there. We used to go to the pictures over there to the Hall.

WHAT ELSE DID WE DISCOVER?

The Gerangamete Hall was between the school and Meadowell Rd.

Frank Whitehead remembers sports meetings held on the Forrest side of the Gerangamete tennis courts.

The tennis club rooms has the memorial plaques for WW1 and WW2.

Ron Cunnington remembers a rifle range near Murray Ferguson's place.

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The Sebeck family,

Gerangamete, near Colac, Victoria

You don't often see a hot-shot corporate lawyer in a milking shed with a poo-spattered farmer, but that's just what has happened since Mary-Ann Sebeck fell for her husband, Scott.

'The poo is good for your complexion,' jokes Scott, who has often come into the line of fire when approaching a cow's rear end. It 'keeps the skin soft'.

The pair met at a function at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. A milk supply company had put on a football day and Mary-Ann happened to know the people doing the inviting. 'We were introduced and Scott jumped on me and broke my high-heeled shoes,' recalls Mary-Ann. 'He kept on sending me flowers to apologise. Anyway, he made an impression!'

Mary-Ann, from Warrnambool, had a high-powered legal position in Melbourne. She never imagined herself on a farm. 'I was used to going to wine bars and nice restaurants,' she laughs.

But after about a year of seeing the handsome third-generation dairy farmer from Gerangamete, near Colac, Mary-Ann moved in with Scott on his 600 acre farm. The farm frightened her at first. ('It was pretty horrific,' she admits.) But she soon adapted to the different rhythms of country life. The couple married in 2004 and now have two children, Madeleine (two) and Charles (six months).

With an additional lease of 150 acres, the farm supports 600 head of Friesian cattle, producing 10,500 litres of milk a day. Before she arrived, Mary-Ann reckons Scott probably hadn't had a holiday in ten years. But now, with the help of a full-time herd manager, they get out quite a bit. Mary-Ann has introduced Scott to his first Japanese meal, and his first Indian

meal. They've also travelled to Lord Howe Island, and through Northern Europe. Says Mary-Ann: 'I think I created an awareness that there's a whole other world out there!'

In the early years, Mary-Ann helped out with milking or fed the calves, but since the children arrived, the most she does round the farm is 'hose out a yard'. But the couple share all financial decisions, Mary-Ann using her accountancy training to keep the books and her legal skills for everything from setting up farm trusts to negotiating milk prices. Even with two young children, she manages to work two days a week for the Target department store in Geelong.

'I put on my suit and work from 8:30 to 3:30,' says Mary-Ann. (She takes the kids with her and they get minded by her cousin, a family day care provider.) 'It's such a rarity to get a part-time role as a corporate lawyer. And it's a family-oriented brand that sits with my values pretty well. I don't pretend that it's easy; but I didn't want to give it up because I love it so much!'

Off farm, Scott is a member of the Lions Club and plays social tennis. Although the community has been welcoming, Mary-Ann still misses aspects of city life. Living twenty kilometres from the nearest town, she can no longer just 'pop out for a coffee', and she misses the close contact with friends. But she has made connections through the mothers' group, and has found a bunch of like-minded women through a book club. She has also learned to swim at the local fitness centre and has taken part in an ocean swim. Just recently, she did something she never thought she'd do; aged thirty-seven, she started netball training – to meet other women.

'I really enjoyed being with thirty-two other women all running around the oval!' she says, 'because it can get quite



DAVID OLIVER

Two bulls on the Sebeck property.

isolating with two little kids out on a dairy farm.'

According to Mary-Ann, the best thing about living on the farm is that both she and the children get to see a lot of Scott. 'He's there for them morning, noon and night,' she says, 'regular as clockwork.'

For example, Scott takes the kids with him in the ute when he takes the calves in. Such activities mean that the children are already developing a healthy respect for animals; they learn about life and death and they learn 'where eggs and milk come from'.

All in all, the farm is a wonderful place to bring up children. 'We create our own fun,' says Mary-Ann. 'There's plenty of concrete to ride bikes on, and apple trees and veggie gardens. They have an amazing appreciation of vehicles – diggers and trucks. Madeleine's life is just like Bob the Builder's!'

On summer days when the temperature rises above

forty degrees, Scott makes an 'executive decision' to take a day off. But in general, Mary-Ann is lost in admiration for how much effort he puts in.

'The last few weeks he's worked eighty hours a week – and he never ever complains. He's just a trooper. I'm not saying I don't work hard. But I complain – enough for two!'

This year the couple have made a commitment to more family holidays. Says Mary-Ann: 'I've just dumped a truckload of furniture in a holiday house by the beach at Port Fairy, and we've made a decision to go there once a month.'

Reflecting on the curious life path that has led her from the boardroom to the byre, Mary-Ann has no regrets.

'I love my husband, I really do. I couldn't take him away from the farm. And I've got quite fond of cows. They're beautiful animals! They have babies and produce milk; they have cycles and mood swings.

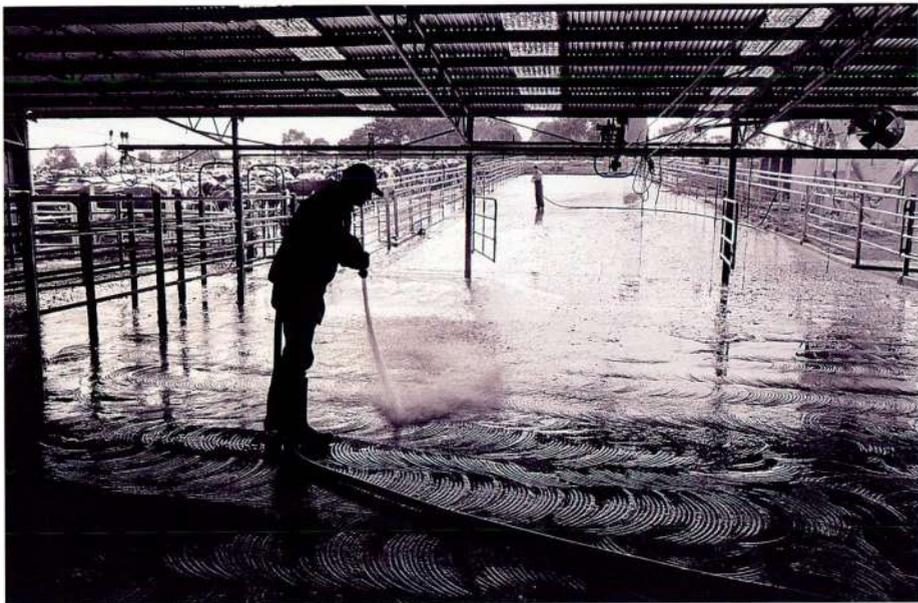
'It's a fulltime commitment to be part of that life cycle.'



Ian Henderson, the Sebecks' vet, checks the herd.



'The children develop a respect for animals, know about life and death and where eggs and milk come from.'



DAVID OLIVER



DAVID OLIVER

Top & Bottom: Scott hoses out the milking shed.

The Sebecks' six hundred cattle produce 10,500 litres a day.

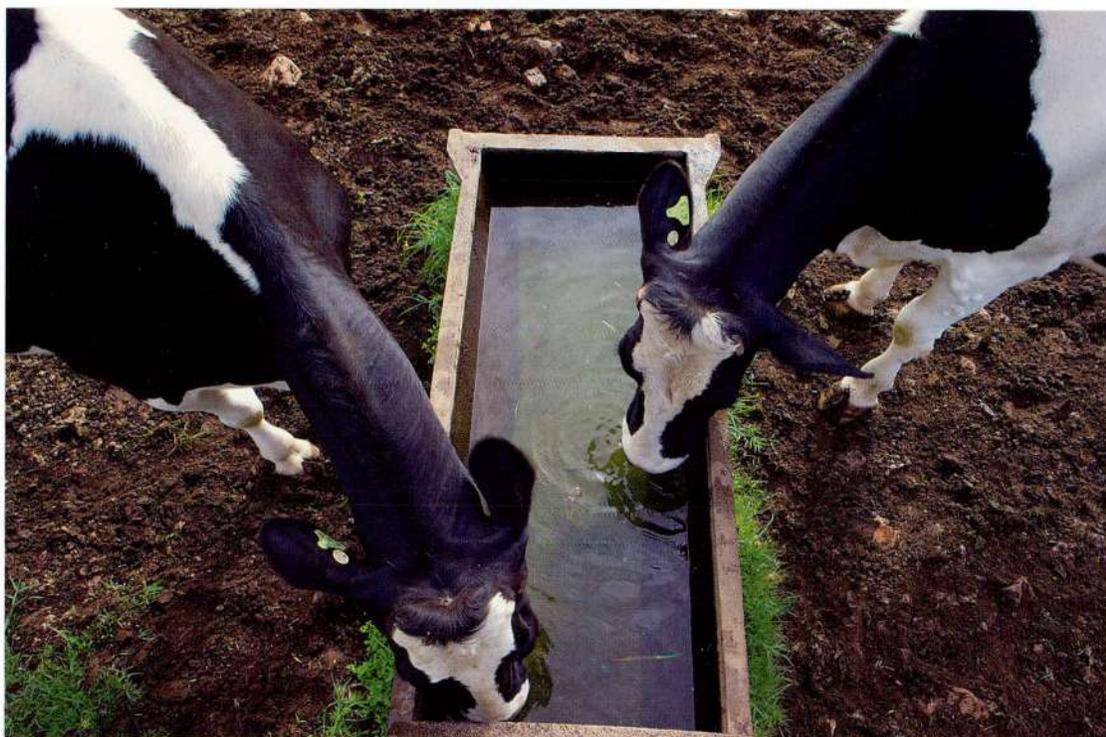


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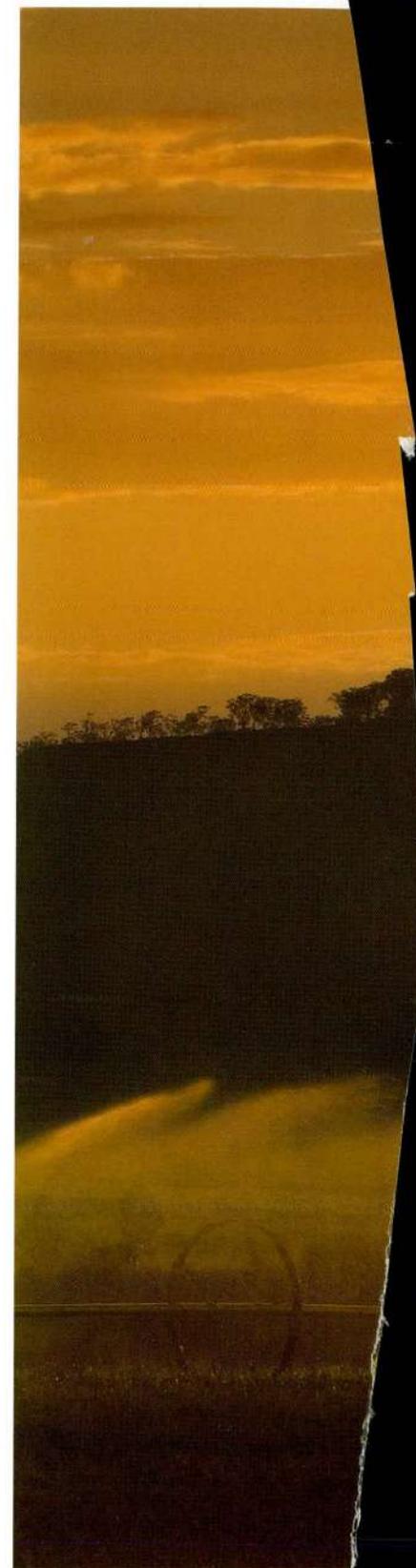
Craig, Herd Manager for the Sebecks

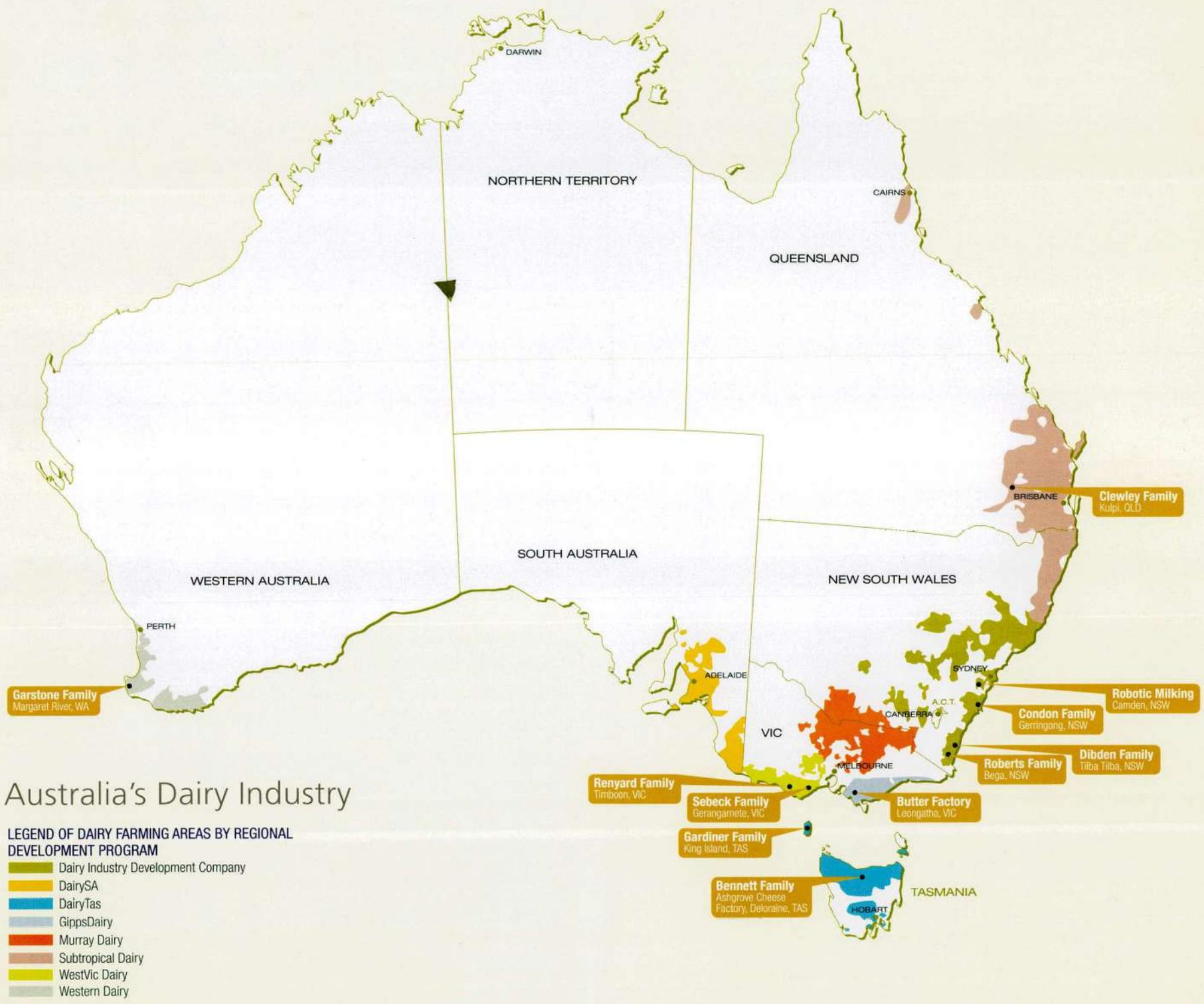


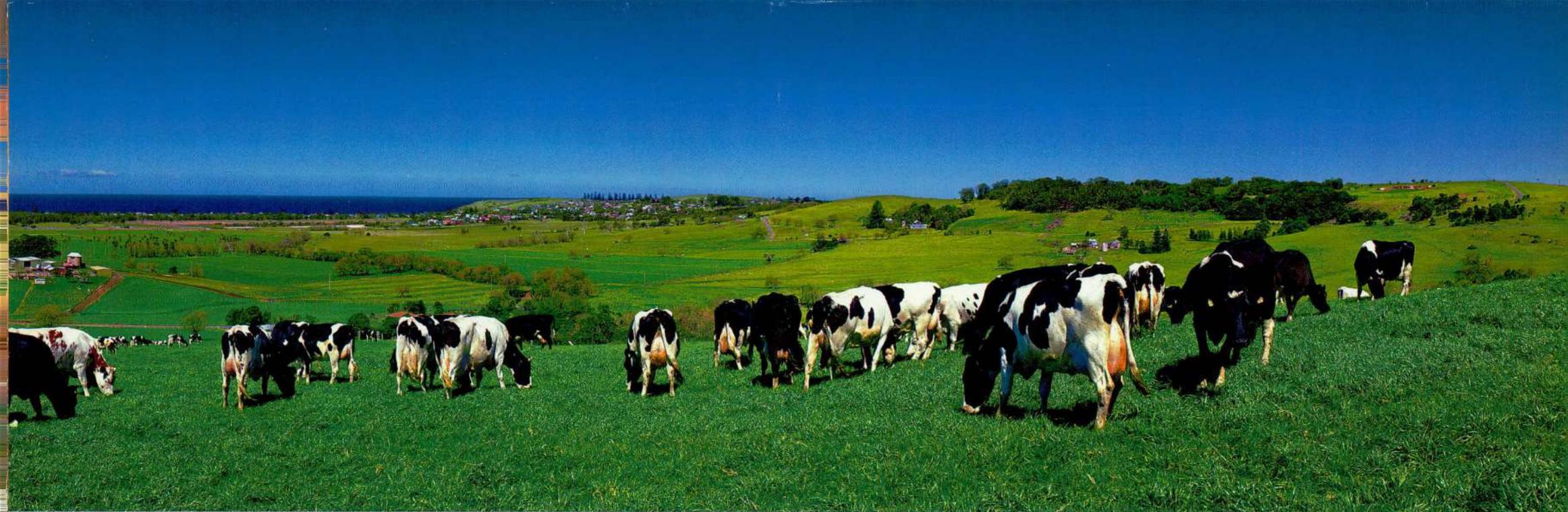
KEN DUNCAN

The dairy industry is highly conscious of minimising water use.

To avoid wasting irrigation water, dairy scientists have developed a weather-sensing device which farmers bury in the soil. If it predicts rain, it sends a signal by mobile phone to a distant reservoir to reduce the amount of water released. Here, recycled town water from Toowoomba is used to irrigate fodder crops at the Kath property at Gowrie Junction, Queensland.







Chittick family farm, Gerringong, NSW KEN DUNCAN

Research and development is a huge part of modern Australian dairying. Improved genetic stock has greatly increased production, as have technological advances including monitoring the health and wellbeing of cows. Most cows now carry a small computer chip detailing their vital statistics: productivity, diet, breeding history and health. As the cow enters the dairy, the chip programs optimum feed and milking parameters and notes any rise in temperature or other factors that might indicate mastitis, ovulation or other conditions.

Some farmers even have robotic milkers – automated milking machines that liberate the farmer from twice-daily milking. Others, like the Gardiners of King Island, have achieved the same freedom by growing their business to the point where they can delegate the milking to a resident farm manager. As newly-weds, the Gardiners owned four cows and a six-hundred dollar Falcon car; sixteen years on they run a 300-cow farm in one of the most pristine places in Australia, its name synonymous with quality gourmet produce.

Such capital growth has made dairying a pillar of the Australian economy. Farmers have faced many challenges. There are now approximately 9,000 dairy farmers supplying 60 million consumers in Australia and overseas.

For the consumer though, perhaps what matters most is that Australia continues to produce milk, cheese and other dairy products of superlative quality at a remarkably low cost. Australian cheese is internationally recognised – Jindi Brie was recently named World Champion in Soft Cheese, to the consternation of the French – and Australia's expanding range of yoghurts, flavoured milks and low-fat produce is as popular overseas as at home.

Important though the advances in business, science and technology have been, the core of the Australian dairy industry is still the individual dairy farmer. This book pays tribute to their dedication, knowledge and passion – for their stock, their land and their produce.