



# Things Past

Newsletter 129

May 2023

Wurundjeri Country

PO Box 289 Mt Evelyn Vic 3796

Incorporation Number A0051327F

## Dates for Your Diary

**Meeting**, Sunday 21 May, 1.30pm. Visit to Proctor Family House on corner of Silvan-Monbulk Road and Mont De Lancey. Details by separate email.

**General Business Meeting**, Monday 19 June, 7.30 pm, at Hardy House, 49 Birmingham Road, Mt Evelyn.

**Meeting**, Saturday 15 July, 1.30pm, at Hardy House. Display of found objects. Details to be confirmed.

**AGM and General Business Meeting**, Monday 20 August, 7.30pm, at Hardy House.

*Meetings are 3rd Mondays of even months, 7:30 pm at Hardy House for General Business Meetings, and speaker and activity times are on alternate months at times by arrangement - please check your email inbox.*

## Mystery Photo behind Kitchen Cupboard

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## It was Morris Morris's Fault!

In *Things Past* #120 I asked 'Whose fault was it?' – who named the Evelyn Fault, and when, and where exactly is it? All can now be told.

In 1914 a paper by one Morris Morris M.Sc. appeared in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria* under the title, 'On the Geology and Petrology of the District between Lilydale and Mount Dandenong'.<sup>1</sup>

St Arnaud-born Morris Morris (1881-1961) was a former Research Fellow at the Department of Geology, University of Melbourne. He did not use the style 'Reverend' for his scientific writing, but he was Pastor at the Baptist Church in Kew 1912-1915, and later served with the Baptist Church in New Zealand. He was the author of a pamphlet, 'The fact of evolution: its evidence, also its vindication in scripture' (1913) and two books: *New light on Genesis: or, Creation during descent in the Scriptures* (1924) and *Man Created During Descent* (1926).<sup>2</sup>

Morris declined a lectureship in Science in order to devote himself to the Ministry. Though he extended his field work further south in the Dandenongs, he does not appear to have published his findings. He died in 1961, aged 80.

Morris describes the Evelyn Fault as passing about half a mile to the east of Evelyn (Mt Evelyn) township and continuing south to Olinda Creek. There it is displaced about 250 yards to the east, but resumes its original alignment further south.<sup>3</sup> The fault then follows a deep and narrow gully, crosses a low watershed, and follows a broader valley that faces towards the upper part of the Olinda Creek catchment. Morris calls these valleys, combined, the Evelyn Fault Valley.<sup>4</sup> Silvan is the southern limit of Morris's study area, but he

notes that the Evelyn Fault appears to continue beyond Monbulk.

Another fault running through the Montrose hills, almost parallel to the Evelyn Fault, also extends southwards. This Montrose Fault may be continuous with the Selwyn Fault, which runs all the way to the Mornington Peninsula. Morris argues that the block between the Montrose and Evelyn Faults has tilted, rising at the Mornington Peninsula end and sinking in the northern Dandenongs.<sup>5</sup> He posits yet another fault, which he calls the Olinda Fault, intersecting with the Evelyn Fault and causing the eastwards displacement of the latter where the two faults meet at Olinda Creek.

Morris considers three possible explanations for the features he calls the Evelyn and Montrose Faults: natural boundaries, fold junctions, or fault junctions. He concludes they are best explained as fault junctions, given their uniform direction over a long distance and the almost vertical displacement of the rock faces in one section.<sup>6</sup> He notes however that the Evelyn fault separates different rock types, which sounds more like a 'natural boundary'. There seems no reason for a fault to coincide with the edges of the rock types. Writing in 1956, A.B. Edwards agrees with Morris about the faulting and subsidence, though he calls the Montrose and Monbulk features 'monoclines' rather than 'faults'. He describes the course of the Evelyn Fault as follows.

*The Evelyn Fault of Morris (1914) can be traced from about half a mile north of the Evelyn State School, southwards across the Olinda Creek and the north-eastern spur of the Dandenong Ranges, to where it again intersects with the Olinda Creek.*<sup>7</sup>

cont p 10

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<sup>1</sup> Morris Morris 1914, 'On the Geology and Petrology of the District between Lilydale and Mount Dandenong', *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria* 26 (N.S.) Pt 2II, ART XXII, p.331,

<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/page/8511398#page/410/mode/1up>

<sup>2</sup> *The Swan Express* 24/4/1932,

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/206644321>

<sup>3</sup> Morris 1914, p.358; map Plate XXXI.

<sup>4</sup> Morris 1914, p.350, p.358.

<sup>5</sup> Morris 1914, pp.359-360.

<sup>6</sup> Morris 1914, pp.357-358.

<sup>7</sup> A.B. Edwards 1956, 'The Rhyolite-Dacite-Granodiorite Association of the Dandenong Ranges', *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria*, New Series, Vol 68, p.142.

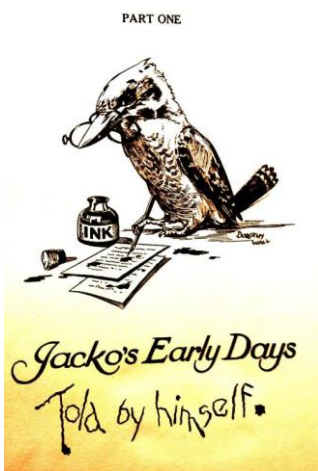
<https://archive.org/details/proceedingsroya68roya/page/n145/mode/2up>

## Edward Dunham Brooke Nicholls (1877-1937): the Doctor who made Dreams become True

Continuing the article in *Things Past* #127 and #128

### A Woodlander and some little-known images

Most people would be aware of the delightful illustrations by Dorothy Wall in her books about 'Blinky Bill'. Not many, however, will know that Blinky Bill, the character, was introduced in E Brooke Nicholls' children's book, *Jacko: the Broadcasting Kookaburra*, which was illustrated by Dorothy Wall.<sup>8</sup>



Nicholls was one of three young men who called themselves 'The Woodlanders' between 1903 and 1907. In this period they regularly visited Walden Hut on the Olinda Creek in order to observe and write about nature. (See *Things Past* #67, #122,

#125) The story book, which Nicholls wrote only four years before he died, was a true story about a fledgling kookaburra, removed from a nest in Gippsland in 1923, and raised by a young Thelma Starling in Healesville. Thelma protected Jacko the kookaburra from threats, found him a friend, took him fishing and taught him to laugh.



Threats included the 'Little Girl Next Door', who chopped Jacko's tail feathers with a tomahawk.



Jacko was also threatened by a brown hawk.



He was taken fishing at Toolangi, and was a 'natural' at eating his first fish.

Nicholls and his wife Barbara were close friends

with Thelma's family. They

resided at times in Healesville where

Brooke had worked as a

dentist. They

filmed and recorded Jacko

and presented him for live Melbourne

audiences. For some shows he

was joined by a koala called Blinky

Bill, who climbed a sapling on stage for

his audiences.



First published image of Blinky Bill by Dorothy Wall.

<sup>8</sup> Brooke Nicholls & Dorothy Wall, 1933, *Jacko: the Broadcasting Kookaburra, His Life and Adventures*, 1933,

Angus and Robertson, Sydney, SLV Rarebooks JKP A 823.2 N515J (1933/1).

Nine years after Jacko's rescue in 1932, a married Thelma Jury joined Brooke Nicholls, his wife Barbara and a driver on a long caravan journey promoting Jacko throughout the eastern coast of Australia.



Jacko would laugh on command for country audiences. Radio broadcasts along the way encouraged children to



meet up with the caravan and provide Jacko with food.

Jacko's laugh went on to be the opening motif for Radio Australia and Movietone News.

Dorothy Wall's illustrations in *Jacko, the Broadcasting Kookaburra* add an element of fantasy to Nicholls' story, which for the main part aims to reflect accurate detail about a kookaburra's life as well as the true adventures experienced. As *Jacko* is now a rare book, few people get to enjoy Wall's illustrations, both accurate and whimsical.<sup>9</sup>

### Janice Newton



**Fred Tarr, back row, second from the left in hat, during his presidency (1957). *Mud, Sweat and Survival* p. 56**

## Fred Tarr of Silvan

Ray Tarr contacted the History group with some stories about the extensive Tarr family. His branch originated with his grandfather, Frederick John Tarr (17/3/1899 – 22/11/1990), who was a foreman or leading hand on the Silvan Dam, and prominent in his community during his lifetime. He is remembered as a 'cluey' man, who won the Herald-Sun Wealth Words competition more than once.

Fred played for the Silvan Football Club in 1939, and later served as President from 1946 to 1952, and as President and Club Coach from 1954 to 1957. He was a Life Member of the Club, and was instrumental in arranging for Ron Barassi to visit it. He was a Justice of the Peace for Wandin, Mt Evelyn, Silvan and the surrounding areas.

His family believes he was on the Silvan Hall Committee at one time, and he is remembered in the Silvan Hall Centenary book as Emceeding dances at the Hall for the Football Club. He also drove buses to take Silvan people to dances at the Do Drop Inn, and to the Footy Club. His family remembers him as a member of the Silvan Fire Brigade.

He was unsuccessful in his application to build a hotel on his land on the corner of the Main (Silvan-Monbulk) Road and Queen's Road. The Silvan Football Club remembers Fred in calling the new clubroom servery 'the inheritor of the traditions of 'Tarr's Bar'.<sup>10</sup>

Fred and his wife Elizabeth had eight children, and many of them had large families, establishing what Ray describes as the 'Footy' Tarrs, playing in men's and women's football teams at Silvan. Another branch of the family, beginning with Allan Tarr, had the Mimosa Tea Gardens in Mt Evelyn.

<sup>9</sup> The book can be read online at: <https://archive.org/details/b1111769/page/n5/mode/2up>

<sup>10</sup> Kerford, B & Nieman, J. *Mud, Blood and Survival: a History of the Silvan Football Club 1920 – 2001*, 2002. p 73.

## Mystery Photo Behind Kitchen Cupboard

Elaine Craig sent the following request for information.

'Our neighbour over the road at number 19 Irvine Street is having her kitchen renovated, and when the cupboards were removed, this photograph of a man was located. The photo has been put somewhere 'safe' in the house, but cannot currently be located! So this is the only photograph available.' (see p 1)



**Close-up of the Mystery Man.**

Her neighbour is wondering if the man was a former resident of the house. She has lived there for 33 years, and believes that it was owned at some time by Mr Ervine (some time ago she was visited by Dorothy Ervine). See 'Vale Dot Ervine', *Things Past* #117.

Elaine found from the Electoral Rolls that Bill and Dot Ervine had lived at 19 Irvine from 1954 to 1980. Their daughter Deanne did not however recognise the man in the photo; he was not her father, Bill Ervine.

The photo looks posed, not like a random snapshot. The man's clothes, with the wide cuffed trousers, seem to date from the late 1940s. The building behind him has a strip of corrugated iron along the base of the wall, even tucking under the



**19 Irvine Street Mt Evelyn, where the photo was found.**

wall – perhaps an example of Mt Evelyn DIY home-building?

Janice Newton grew up next door on the corner of Irvine and Louisa Streets, and recalled, 'the Ervine house extended down the hill with different floor levels'. The house still has several internal steps. A row of cypress trees separated the two properties. Janice thought that the previous owners of their house, the Lebers, might also have owned number 19.

The Rate Books for 1945 show that Frederick Walter Leber and Rose Esther Leber owned just over six acres of Lot 79, Parish of Wandin Yallock. Lot 79 was the Clegg selection on Clegg Road. Their residential address is given only as Mt Evelyn.

Frederick had been in the Navy (Gunlayer and Able Seaman) from 1912 to 1919, and had taken part in actions in German New Guinea during World War I. He joined the Post Office and, after several promotions, became Line Foreman in 1957. He died the following year, and was buried in Box Hill Cemetery.

His enlistment record gives his height as 5'7½", hair dark brown, eyes brown, complexion sallow. From his colouring he could be the man in the photo, but his age is against it if the date is the late 1940s. Frederick was then in his fifties, and the man looks younger than that.

**Can anyone identify the mystery man?**

## Memories of Irvine and Louisa Streets

My brother believes our house, on the Irvine/Louisa Street corner, was built before World War I. It was basically four 15' x 15' rooms with verandah all around modified into kitchens/bathrooms etc. One quarter of the house was used as a flat for rent. We rented to a Dutch migrant family for a while, then to Charlie and Val Dean and their new daughter Karen, before my grandmother moved in about 1959.

The family who lived in our house before Dad and Mum got it as a war service home in 1950 were the Lebers. They may also have owned 19 Irvine Street, where the photo of the mystery man was found. F.W. Leber advertised a car (Roadster Gardner) and a bike in the *Lilydale Express*, 9 July 1948. Laurie Leber was a Patrol Leader in the Mt Evelyn Scouts and performed well in Lilydale High athletics in 1949. Laurie may have been a relative of F.W. Leber but was not his son. The Lebers had a daughter, Aileen.



**Newtons and Ervines c.1955-6 on the broken down Ford in Louisa Street, unmade section, with Irvine Street going towards Alice in background.**

**From left: Mark Newton, Janice Newton, Jeanette Ervine, Deanne Ervine, Susanne Ervine and Gail Newton.**

I am not sure if this was the same 'wild' family of previous residents who jumped from the back verandah into the tank and shot at rats inside with a rifle, leaving bullet holes in the skirting boards!

I have just been checking contemporary maps of our house and have realised that our block has now been renumbered and addressed as 17 Irvine

Street. After we sold in 1971 it was subdivided and the back yard became part of the extension of Louisa Street beyond Irvine Street. There were very few houses facing Louisa Street and our houses were not numbered in 1950-1970.

The house opposite ours on the west of Louisa Street was owned by a dentist who practised and advertised during 1950. His widow Mrs Brockie remained there in the 1950s and 1960s. Another person citing a Louisa Street address in 1946 was a bootmaker/ saddler called Welter.

There was another reference in 1948 to a girl who offered a reward for a fountain pen, lost between Louisa Street and Lilydale High. Her name was Pamela Treseder, phone Mt Evelyn 22.

I think there were only four houses that used the Louisa Street address. Ours, now number 17 Irvine and 3 Louisa Street, Dr Brockie's now 5 Louisa and 16 and 16a Irvine, Mr Legge's, then Harding's at 4 Louisa and 15 and 13 Irvine, and Mrs Binding, widow, at 14 Irvine.

The original block at 19 Irvine has been subdivided lengthwise, into 19 and 19A.

**Janice Newton**

### Who was the Bridesmaid?

Mary Golds is seeking identification for the people in this photo. Mary's mother made the wedding dress and bridesmaid's dress in the early 1960s.

The bride is Pat Farrelly.

The groom is Alistair McDonald. Pat's mother, Mrs Farrelly, lived in Mt Evelyn.



**Does anyone recognise the bridesmaid or the best man?**

## A Picnic Held to Support the YES Vote for the Voice Referendum

On 25 March Jack Wheeler of the Evelyn branch of the ALP organised a picnic at Lillydale Lake with speakers Jill Gallagher, Greta Bird and Garry Detez, supported by a band made up of Tim Herlihy, Steve Tucker and Dave Johnstone. Jack published abridged versions of the presentations in *Evelyn News* (April 2023). Since *Evelyn News* has a limited audience and the upcoming referendum at the end of the year is of such importance, we reproduce firstly the Note provided by Greta Bird.

*I begin by acknowledging, as a lawyer, the continuing sovereignty of the First Nations people on this land.*

*I assert that the constitution is a 'white' document and needs updating.*

*As a non-Indigenous lecturer in constitutional law I am of the opinion that the Voice, if embedded in the constitution, would be a positive step towards justice for the nation.*

*The constitution is saturated in race. It was drafted to enable racism to operate in the new nation Australia. Soon after the first federal parliament was elected it passed the Immigration Restriction Act and the 'White Australia Policy' was firmly entrenched.*

*Those 'experts' who argue that the Voice will bring race into the constitution ought to read the document and reflect on section 51(26), the 'race power.' Unfortunately, this power has been held by the High Court to enable laws detrimental to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to be passed by the Federal Parliament.*

*As Paul Keating said in his Redfern speech: 'We did the dispossessing. And we took the traditional lands.*

*[Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders] have shaped our identity.*



*'powerlessness' with the proposed change to the constitution. Other colonised countries, such as Canada, New Zealand and the United States have treaties. Australia is an 'outlier' stuck in the mindset of last century.*

*There is a move among conservatives to resist change. This is not a time for negativity. In reality the Voice will lift our hearts and bring unity. It will bring contemporary values of fairness to the constitution.*

**Adjunct Professor Greta Bird**

*And if we have a sense of justice, as well as common sense, we will forge a new partnership.'*

*A generous offer has been made to us in the Uluru Statement. We can drop our coloniser's attitude and listen to the Voice of the custodians of the country. We can replace First Nations*

## Bailey Road in the 1950s

In 1950 my family settled in a California bungalow near the bottom of the Bailey Road hill, and this is the scene of my earliest memories.



**Pauline Koolmees at Bailey Road home, Jill in background, c 1954**

First, Bailey Road was unsealed. A big old remnant gum tree stood at our gate. Out back was a stand of regrowth bush and a small creek that flowed down to a dam. I remember a dog and a cat, chickens and ducks, a weeping willow tree and a big liquidambar that turned red in autumn,

and a lawn with a raised bank, perfect for small children to roll down.

A squad of children roamed the street and in and out of each other's blocks: the MacDonalds, Johnny Buchan who swore at age five he would marry me, Joan Fraser who was my friend, and Lorraine Rogers, whose father owned a petrol station up at today's roundabout where every kid in town, and quite a few adults, gathered each evening to watch the 1956 Olympic Games on the town's first television.



**Jill and Helen (Darvell) Koolmees by the driveway off Bailey Road.**

Across the road from our house lived Mr and Mrs Arrowsmith. Once, to my mother's horror, I asked Mrs Arrowsmith why she looked like an old witch. She explained that she was very old. Mr Arrowsmith was an expert on chickens and, if hearsay is to be believed, once trained a squad of leghorns to march in formation. He generously advised my mother on the finer points of chicken farming.

Well past our house, down on the flat, lived the O'Shaunessy family, who owned a cow. Apparently this cow once caught me and threw me, though I have no memory of it. I do remember the clotted cream Mrs O'Shaunessy brought to our house on a saucer of green glass. And I remember old Mr O'Shaunessy who walked every day up the hill to the top of the road and back down again dressed in a dark suit and carrying a cane. He suffered from shortness of breath and made slow progress with frequent stops.

Two houses up from our place was the weekend of Mr Sheblik (the spelling is an attempt to reproduce his name). Mr Sheblik was a violinist with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. When he and his partner visited Mt Evelyn, they liked to throw musical parties. My mother, who played the piano well, loved these parties. We children loved Mr Sheblik's car, a big old black monster with a crank and running boards. At the front of

the running board on each side was an open-topped cage designed to hold a suitcase, but sometimes, on short trips, they held a thrilled child.

On Billy Goat Hill, at the back of our property, on a steep slope in a tiny cottage, lived Harry Haines. Memory says he was a hat-maker, but memory can be wrong. Harry was a little man, not much taller than a child. He

commuted to the city for work every weekday, and often called in to visit on his way home. One night he arrived with a German Shepherd puppy, which he had been assured would grow into a small dog. My parents took one look at the pup's huge feet and warned Harry that he was destined to be a very big dog. The dog did indeed grow big. When Harry came home from work, the dog would be waiting. Harry would toil up the hill and open his gate. The dog would put his front feet on Harry's shoulders and lick his face, pushing him back down the hill.

The Franklins, a brother and two sisters, lived below our house in a dark green shed. My sister and I visited them only once. The trio seemed to have a theatrical background, and had trunks full of costumes, feathered headdresses and fans, and sequined 1920s flapper-style dresses. Curtains of glittering glass beads divided the inside of the shed into rooms. We were enchanted, but our mother declared the place off-limits. We shouldn't go bothering these people, she told us, but perhaps they were too Bohemian for her taste.

These days when we have all been moulded by our shared mass culture, our eccentricities reined in, our individuality channelled, the Bailey Road community of the early 1950s seems a magical place with a cast full of larger-than-life characters.

***Jill Koolmees***



## John Koolmees 1919 - 2010

John Koolmees came to live in Mt Evelyn late in 1950, aged 31 and fresh off a migrant boat. In fact, this was his second migration to Australia. He had first arrived as a lone 17-year-old in 1937.



John was born in a small village near Rotterdam, the Netherlands, in 1919, the eldest son of eight children. His father was a cattle dealer, and John remembered getting up before school to help drive the cattle to market. When the

depression hit, John was forced to leave school and went to work in agriculture.

As the depression wore on, and as the threat of war loomed in Europe, John's family decided to migrate to Australia, where his father's brother already lived. John was sent as the trailblazer. The family's migration plans were thwarted by the outbreak of war. They stayed in the Netherlands.

Upon arrival in Australia, John went to work on his uncle's dairy farm in Maleny, Queensland. Later he worked on sugar cane farms up and down the coast. He met his wife, Pauline, while working on her cousin's peanut farm in Kingaroy.

When WWII broke out John, a Dutch national, enlisted in the Dutch East Indies Airforce. The Airforce was based in Darwin following the fall of the East Indies (now Indonesia) to the Japanese. He saw little action, although he was a witness to the bombing of Darwin. Instead, he was given a desk job. This work saw him posted to Canberra and Melbourne.

After the war, the Netherlands were keen to repossess the East Indies in the face of local demands for independence. Lieutenant Koolmees was posted to the USA, charged with purchasing aircraft and aviation equipment for the air force. He lived in New York for several years, joined by Pauline and his infant daughter, Helen. When the

USA chose to back the Indonesian independence movement, John's position was made redundant. John and Pauline decided to return to Australia via the Netherlands and a visit to his family.

In July, John's second daughter, Jill, was born in Rotterdam. Six weeks later, the family boarded the SS Empire Brent for the journey to Australia. On arrival, Pauline and the children headed to Queensland to visit her family, while John stayed in Victoria to find a home.

John chose a property in Bailey Road, Mt Evelyn: a run-down California bungalow on a generous block of land. When Pauline arrived, she was shocked by the state of the house, but the family settled in. Over time, John transformed it into a comfortable home.

Friendships formed on the Empire Brent were maintained, with frequent visitors to Bailey Road. Pauline, who had learned to speak fluent Dutch, was often called upon to translate for new arrivals from the Netherlands. John's brothers, Max and Jake, who had migrated post-war and were working on the Eildon dam, visited on weekends. His Uncle John and his sister Lenny made the trip from Queensland, as did members of Pauline's family.

From 1950 to 1956, drawing on his American contacts and experience, John worked as an import/export agent. He was based in the Melbourne CBD and at Essendon airport, making the daily commute by bus or rail to Lilydale and then into the city by train. Meanwhile Pauline looked after the children and ran the couple's poultry business, doing a lively trade in eggs and dressed chickens. On weekends, John helped with the chicken farm and worked in his orchard and garden.

Like many of his generation, John was community minded. He joined the Mt Evelyn Progress Association. At the Masonic Lodge in Lilydale he met lifelong friends including Jock Marshall, Jack Feeney, Ces Gear and Fred McDonough. He was an active member of the local branch of the Liberal Party and an enthusiastic supporter of Bob Menzies. He became treasurer of the Mt Evelyn Presbyterian Church although, when he made one

of his rare appearances in the congregation at Christmastime or Easter, the Reverend Scott liked to joke that the roof was in danger of falling in.

In 1957, John and Pauline purchased Major Money's World Famous Gladioli Gardens, an 11-hectare flower farm and business, on McKillop Road. John was tired of his desk job and was keen to put the agricultural knowledge he had gained in the Netherlands and Queensland into practice. Pauline was enthusiastic about the move. She had a good business head, secretarial and book-keeping skills and an entrepreneurial spirit. 'My wife was the main pusher,' John claimed later.

The family moved into a ramshackle whitewashed cottage with a leaky tin roof perched on the side of a steep hill. There was no heating other than a combustion stove, and in winter the wind came whistling up through gaps in the linoleum. Hot water had to be boiled on the stove, or chanced from a rusty, spitting kerosene heater perched over the bathtub. The floorboards at the back of the house had been eaten by white ants. John promised Pauline that he would build her a fine new house when the business could afford it.

The early years were far from easy. John and Pauline had great difficulty in securing finance. They managed to borrow some money from the bank and to get a private loan. Keen to pay these off as soon as possible, they ran into difficulties when they were hit by a series of bad years and misfortunes. First there was a plague of grubs that chomped their way through the fields. 'I was spraying day and night, but they moved faster than I could spray them,' said John. One year a catastrophic hailstorm 'nearly broke us ... it went straight through', missing the neighbours' farms but hitting 'every paddock we had' and shredding the crop. One year the heat from a nearby bushfire singed the flowers. 'The tops were burned out of the gladioli sheaths.' Hot weather and drought were a menace to the flowers, but too much water could be just as bad. 'We planted

a lot of the little bulbs ... I don't know how many: hundreds and thousands we planted out there on the flat ... and we had just finished, and it started raining. And it rained for about two or three weeks. Drowned them.'

These misfortunes kept the couple under extreme financial pressure. Needless to say, the new house was never built, but the old one was patched and mended and tweaked over the years to make it more comfortable.

### **Jill Koolmees**

Quotes sourced from Janice Newton 'Flower Farming in Mt Evelyn and District', Mt Evelyn History Group Inc. revised edition 2018.

(To be continued in a future *Things Past*)

## **It Was Morris Morris's Fault!**

from p 2

At this point in my research an event of perfect synchronicity occurred, when Jean Edwards kindly passed on a geological map of the Dandenongs. This proved to be part of the map 'Ringwood' from the Geological Survey of Victoria 1981.<sup>11</sup> The Evelyn Fault is not marked on the map, but it appears with a query as 'Mt Evelyn Fault?' between Lyrebird Creek and Silvan Reservoir in the accompanying cross-section. Whether the question mark is to query the path of the fault, or its name, or even its existence, is not specified.

Is there a (Mt) Evelyn Fault, or did Morris Morris and A.B. Edwards misinterpret the features they observed? Assuming the fault exists, you can see its ghostly path. The northern end would have followed the dry gully that runs along the rear of Mt Evelyn Primary School, intersects with Clegg Road and the Rail Trail, and continues close to the straight section of The Crescent. The creek, when it flows, is a tributary of the Little Stringybark.

### **Karen Phillips**

Faults/ Monoclines are not shown either. The accompanying notes cite both Morris and Edwards, but without mentioning the Evelyn Fault.

<sup>11</sup>

<http://earthresources.efirst.com.au/product.asp?plD=384&clD=33> The Olinda, Monbulk and Montrose

## Vale Beryl Taylor (12/11/1918 – 7/12/2022)

Beryl Peace Todd was born on Tuesday 12 November 1918, just as news of the signing of the Armistice had reached Australia, to parents David and Stella. When she was born, the doctor who delivered her, said 'this child must have the name 'Peace' or 'Pax''. Stella had no idea what 'Pax' meant so Beryl was given her middle name of 'Peace'.

The family was living in Pascoe Vale. Beryl had an older sister Alma, and the sisters were always close. Alma passed away eight years ago, at the age of 102 – both clearly had amazing longevity. Beryl always stated that she wanted to live to a greater age than her sister and certainly achieved this by living to the age of 104.

Beryl's father was a colour blender at Lincoln Mills, while her mother was a homemaker.

The sisters liked to play outside with their friends, often enjoying a game of tennis at the neighbour's place opposite. When it was time to come in for dinner, their mother Stella would pop a flower in the front window to signify the meal was ready.

As a family, the Todds would go to Flemington Racecourse to watch the horse races every Saturday. Her dad, David, was successful in betting on the horses and was ultimately able to buy them their home in Cumberland Road, Pascoe Vale.

Once Beryl had finished school, she became a seamstress and worked for a business in Flinders Lane, Melbourne. She and her lifelong friend Mildred worked there. Beryl was very capable. She was always fashionably dressed, she liked to wear colour and was always well groomed, with accessories to match.

When she wasn't working, Beryl loved to go to dances – in fact she danced almost her entire life. If you asked her what her secret was to a long and

happy life, she would be quick to tell you that dancing played a big part! It was at a dance that Beryl met her husband, John Francis Taylor, who everyone knew as 'Jack'.

Beryl and Jack married on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1941 at the Church of England in Coburg. They lived in Coburg where they raised their family. Beryl gave birth to their first son David in 1943. Tragically he died just fifteen days after his birth. David had developed an infection, and heartbreakingly the

outcome might have been different, as penicillin was within weeks of being approved for general use.

She did however go on to have two more children: Helen, and then completing the family, John.

They moved to Mount Evelyn in the early 1950s and ran the McKillop General Store and Post Office before Jack took over the Mount Evelyn Sawmill behind Renouf Crescent. In 1956, as timber became more difficult to source locally, the family moved to Marysville, living in a tent whilst Jack built them a home and established a

new sawmill.

Beryl did the wages for the sawmills – together they were a formidable team. Beryl also did a lot of community work: she helped raise funds for the local swimming pool and for the scouting movement. She would take the long journey into Melbourne where she would go to Cleggs in Flinders Lane and get materials to make aprons - and other items for fundraising purposes – she was always community minded.

It was a great shock when Jack suffered a heart attack and died in May 1963. With no time to grieve, Beryl sold up in Marysville and moved back to Mount Evelyn to be with her parents. They were a huge support to her as she then needed to go back to work to provide for her children. Beryl worked in various positions over the next couple of decades: Brown and Hawkey's supermarket in Lilydale, Chirnside Park Country Club and the Ingpens' Mount Evelyn Foodland which became IGA.



Photo of Beryl courtesy Janet Taylor.

Beryl became good friends with the Ingpens. Everywhere she worked, she established a wonderful group of friends. She was an active member of the Mt Evelyn Country Women's Association and the Elderly Citizens' Club, later the Senior Citizens' Club. She worked incredibly hard to support Helen and John and managed to build a house for them all at 28 Clegg Road.

Once Helen and John were old enough, Beryl, accompanied by her sister Alma, continued to attend many dances: Collingwood, Hawthorn town hall, or local dances.

Once again, thanks to the dance scene, Beryl, established a new ongoing friendship that lasted for thirty-three years and with this companion,

she travelled widely: to the UK, Asia and through Europe. Even as her eyesight failed, Beryl continued to live, with support from John and his family, in her own home at Mount Evelyn until well after her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. She then moved in with her daughter Helen, before moving into Arcare nursing home for a short period and passing away on 7 December, 2022.

Beryl is survived by two children, eight grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

What an amazing life Beryl has had. She has seen and lived through pandemics, wars, a depression and of course on a brighter note, many medical and technological advancements.

**Janet Taylor**

| <b>From Kev's Rain Gauge</b>   |               |               |               |            |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| Rainfall (in mm) for Mt Evelyn, McKillop, and Melbourne for the last 3 months. |               |               |               |            |
|  | <b>Feb-23</b> | <b>Mar-23</b> | <b>Apr-23</b> | <b>YTD</b> |
| Mt Evelyn  | 37.0          | 106.2         | 120.0         | 283.0      |
| McKillop   | 38.4          | 114.5         | 119.2         | 297.5      |
| Melbourne  | 20.8          | 48.8          | 108.4         | 198.2      |

McKillop readings courtesy Jean Edwards. Melbourne figures from Bureau of Meteorology:  
<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/>  
**Kevin Phillips**

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