

# OAKLANDS ESTATE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**1952 – 2002**

**Memories of the Early Years**



MARION STATION OPENS 26th MAY 1954

**Record of discussion with Thelma Sweeney (nee Murray) on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2003**  
regarding her early years living at Oaklands Estate.

The Murray family arrived in January 1923 and rented a house at St Leonards (now Glenelg) owned by an uncle. After a while they thought it was time to buy a home of their own. They located land for sale at Oaklands Estate they bought a block for 100 pounds on which to build their home (2 Minchinbury Terrace). Their block was in a nice area and having been used to living in the country they liked the countrified aspect. The home took quite a long time to build and every Saturday afternoon Robert, his wife Sarah, and their daughters Thelma and Alice would catch a bus from St Leonards to the Hove Railway Station, then the train to Ascot Park Station from where they would walk to check on building progress.

The foundation had to be left for 3 months before the rest of the building could be started. When the house was finished the family moved in on a Friday. Robert Murray went to work as usual and his wife had to manage three young children (a son Robert was born after they arrived in Australia) and all of the move of furniture and personal effects from St. Leonards to the new house. At the time of the move to Minchinbury Terrace there were only 3 other homes on the Estate.

Furniture was purchased from Malcolm Reid in the city. Lino and curtains were taken when you moved home in these early years.

From the kitchen window a billboard was visible showing a map of blocks of land for sale on The Estate (copy held).

Friend Edwards home was on the corner of Oaklands Road and Beauford Avenue. In the book "Marion on the Sturt" Thelma showed me the photograph on page 2 showing the Estate and in the centre of the photograph can be seen Friend Edwards home totally surrounded by trees vacant land. The Pethicks erected a post and wire fence from the Edwards house to the Railway line and grazed their cattle on the blocks, which were for sale. (Thelma also pointed out on page 36 the photograph was taken in the 1930's not 1900 as stated.)

After school Thelma would walk to the shop/post office agency on Marion Road at Sixth Avenue to collect the mail. The mail from overseas would only come in once a month and was not delivered if the family did not call to collect it. They did not really have an address and any mail was delivered as Oaklands Estate, care of the post office at Ascot Park. A.H. Francis owned the shop/agency. The family bought food from this shop.

Electricity was not connected to the new home at first (but the wiring had been put in during building). They needed 3 poles for connection to be effected – the electricity company allowed one pole, and as an electric stove was to be connected in the house another pole was given by the Council, and the family had to pay seven pounds 15 pence for the third pole. Electricity was only used for lighting and the stove.

Prior to electricity being connected kerosene lamps were used for lighting as well as a petrol lamp in the kitchen. A hurricane lamp was lit at night and put in the corner of the kitchen - this was taken if anyone wanted to go to another room.

The family had a wood stove in the kitchen and during the evenings the family would sit in the kitchen around the stove, mainly reading books. In the winter this provided warmth. The lounge was only used on Sundays.

Perishable food was kept in an ice chest. If the ice-man saw a white cloth hanging on the fence he knew to stop and deliver ice.

When the family first moved into the home Mr Murray had to scrape a path from the house to Oaklands Road for his daughters to be able to walk to the Ascot Park school. During the winter Thelma and Alice would wear their old shoes to the corner of Oaklands Road and Marion Road, then wrap them in newspaper and put on their clean shoes to complete their walk to school.

Mr Murray erected fences around his new home – using a post hole digger he would dig some dirt out each night and then during the day his wife would fill the holes with water so that he could dig more. Before the fence was built a wormwood hedge had been planted to keep the wind out. Neighbours moved in during 1952.

Thelma recalled one Sunday morning the blind in the kitchen was raised and revealed that during the night sparks from the steam train had set alight a grass fire in the surrounding blocks – and the family had slept on unaware.

The Housing Trust had a number of blocks on the Estate on which they built homes. Strong winds one night blew water tanks from these homes into the Murray's back yard.

Friend Edwards' father owned vineyards in Parkholme (Marion Road to Duncan Avenue) called the Zante Grove Vineyard. (refer page 153 in "Marion on the Sturt"). Later (about 1984) his son Robert became curator of Anthropology at the South Australian Museum.

The next homes to be built on the Estate were in Abbeville Terrace – the Taylors and the Burnetts – and the Smerdons in Melanto Terrace.

Thelma remembers the steam trains travelled once a day from Willunga in the morning into the city and one returned at night. During the day the train only travelled from Adelaide to Marino and back several times.

After leaving primary school at Ascot Park Thelma and Alice attended Unley High School. They would catch the train to Goodwood and change to the Hills train to complete their journey.

Robert Murray (Senior) died in 1958 and Sarah stayed on in the house until 1973 when at the age of 86 she went to live in the Murray Mudge Home at Glenelg after 46 years in

this home. Thelma left in 1942 to live with her husband in Quorn however returned every January to holiday with her mother.

The Oaklands Estate was known by those who lived there as “the paddock”. During the War Thelma remembers some of the Army transport trucks being lined up inside the paddock along the fence. The Army also conducted bayonet training in the paddock during the war years.

Thelma recalls donkeys being in “the paddock” however cannot recall how they came to be there. Also young lads looked after cows in “the paddock” which made a mess in the winter.

About 1954 the Murray home was damaged by an earthquake – above the kitchen door and in the lounge room. There was a septic tank. Mrs Murray had a wood copper and a double trough on the back verandah where she did the family’s washing.

The roads and footpaths were built in the late 1940’s. There was no station at Marion and they had to walk to Ascot Park station. The bus route ended at Plympton. Four blocks of land had been set aside for shops on the original sub-division plan where the Marion Station was supposed to be built.

If a member of the family was ill and needed to see the Doctor an appointment was made by phoning from the Rechabite Hall opposite Sixth Avenue. In order to attend the appointment the ill person would catch the train from Ascot Park Station to Goodwood, walk to Forrestville and catch the tram to Glenelg, and walk down Moseley Street to see Dr A F Stokes. Dr Stokes had a car and would make house calls if the patient was too ill to travel to his surgery.

Mr Murray would catch the 6.20 a.m. train into Adelaide and the same train then travelled to Woodville where he worked for Holdens. He would return home about 6 pm in the evenings and sometimes worked on a Saturday.

Mr Langdon who owned a butcher shop on the corner of Dunrobin Road delivered meat by horse and cart, calling every second day. Tom Cross who had a bakery on Diagonal Road delivered by horse and cart also.

The Murray sisters played tennis and basketball at the Methodist Church at Ascot Park. On the corner of Murray Terrace and Morphett Road there was an Institute Hall where dances were held. Dances and concerts were also held at the Rechabite Hall on Marion Road. They attended Sunday School every Sunday.

Thelma recalls two creeks ran down Marion Road – one from Daws Road straight to Marion Road where it turned towards Plympton. On the other side of Daws Road a little creek went south and down Marion Road, turned left and went under Marion Road and under Oaklands Road. It was from this creek that water was pumped to irrigate the vines.

## **Record of discussion with Jean Pollitt on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2003**

Jean and Bill Pollitt migrated to Australia with their 2-year-old daughter Avis, leaving England on 8<sup>th</sup> May on the “Otranto” and arriving at Port Adelaide on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 1953. Bill had visited Australia whilst serving in the Navy and the family was sponsored by friends he had met in Sydney.

They lived at Tusmore while Jean searched for a suitable house to purchase. Bill had commenced work at Chrysler and he asked Jean to find “a red brick house on a reasonable road, not too far from the sea”. The purchase of the Housing Trust house at 279 Oaklands Road was finalised the family moved in on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 1953. At this time the land was valued at 200 pounds and the home was purchased for 3,029 pounds.

The home originally had an iron roof however was later replaced with slate. Jean recalls there were only a few blocks of land in the Estate, which had not been built on. Oaklands Road was a small strip of bitumen with gravel either side.

The outlook from the front of the house was across vineyards with the Ascot Park School visible slightly to the right, and Morphett Road visible to the left.

Jean remembers the grocer shop being opposite the Ascot Park School – he took orders on Tuesdays and delivered on Thursday. The greengrocer came around in his truck on Tuesdays and Fridays.

When she became pregnant with her second child Jean would catch the train from the Marion station in to the city, then catch a bus to the Queen Victoria Hospital. Their daughter Gail was born in August 1954. The steam train travelled on a single line at that time.

Within a few days of moving in Mrs Rene Mile and her husband Jack from three doors down had called to introduce themselves and to invite the family to supper with other neighbours.

Bill bought a motorbike with a sidecar and this was the family’s only means of transport. On weekends they would visit friends or travel to the beach.

During the floods Jean recalls Ross Gibson coming to tell her and neighbours that the water was rising from the creek. Despite the warning there was no way to stop water coming into the laundry at the back of the Pollitt home and some way into the hallway. Carpet had to be taken up, cleaned, dried and put back.

Bill had a leg injury as a result of an accident on his bike and was unable to work for several weeks. Jean worked from home with her trade – hairdressing – to help during this time. Marion Council had given her permission to have a hair salon at the back of the home and it had its own water and electricity meters.

Jean also recalls the earthquake on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1954. She also recalls the local RSL arranged for Father Christmas to come every Christmas Eve – he talked to the children, gave them lollies and they in turn followed him down the road like a Pied Pier until the parents called them back home.

## **Record of discussion with Rita Thornley, 18 Melanto Terrace on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2003**

Rita and her late husband Walter came to Australia from England for their honeymoon in 1951 with the intention of travelling around for a couple of years – in those days they were allowed two years residency. They liked Australia so much they decided to stay permanently. Rita had packed all of her personal possessions in two trunks before she left England, as she intended moving house on their return to the UK. So instead she arranged for them to be sent out to Australia.

They had done some travel when Walter, a mechanical and electrical engineer was offered a job with the Electricity Trust in Adelaide – an offer too good to refuse. Rita, a trained social worker, obtained employment with CIG and they lodged at Torrensville. They purchased their home in Melanto Terrace early in 1953. They had a choice of two homes and chose No. 18 as it had the morning sun at the front and afternoon sun at the back. There was a shortage of housing available at that time and Rita believes she and her husband were able to get a home sooner than others as they had a large deposit for the house and this allowed the builders to be in a financial position to erect more houses.

There were wooden fences around back gardens and not many other houses nearby at this time. Melanto Terrace ended at Pethick Terrace. Rita remembers buying a length of pale yellow cotton which she cut up for curtains – her husband hung them up with hooks and strings whilst she was in hospital giving birth to her son Allan.

Rita recalls when work commenced on concreting the Sturt Creek that all the snakes came and headed for what is now the Ben Pethick Reserve. Snakes were often seen crossing Melanto Terrace. Residents on a Sunday cleared smaller saplings from the Reserve and eventually the snakes left the area. Rita says the “creek was a lovely little thing” which used to wind in and around and she feels it was totally spoilt by the cementing.

A number of residents including Rita lobbied hard to get a telephone box installed in Pethick Terrace – Rita needed this facility to be able to contact her Doctor – her first baby was due three weeks after moving in to her new home and she had toxemia. Her son Allan was born and daughter Brenda two years later.

Mr Bennet the grocer was according to Rita a “godsend”. He took orders for groceries, fruit and vegetables, meat and even chemist items on a Tuesday and delivered everything on a Thursday. (The butcher shop was next door to his shop and this was an added service).

Rita remembers the early days of Westminster School – she and her husband hoped their son would attend this school and were “Friends of Westminster” making monthly financial contributions to buy the land for Westminster to be built. (Ultimately he went to Marion High School to be with his friends).

Two buses a day travelled from the Warradale Army Camp to Sixth Avenue - civilians were not supposed to travel on these buses but Rita and other residents often flagged it down and were able to travel on it. They would walk home.

Where the shops are now situated on Marion Road there used to be a cottage – the block went all the way back to Coolah Terrace - and the person who lived here had a pony and donkeys.

Rita would put her son Allan in his pusher and with her neighbour Mrs Wilson would walk to the railway line, cross over the line, under the wire on the fence and select fruit from the various trees there for their dessert with their evening meals. They only took what they needed. They also were known to take a bunch of grapes from the vines when walking past.

She would walk miles with Allan in the pusher – up to the Forbes shops, down to Glenelg along Adelaide Road, over to the Ascot Park Station for a journey to the city. Later when the Marion Station was built they could leave home, catch the train to Brighton and be on the sand at the beach in 15 minutes, and often made this journey with other mothers (Leah Edlington and Betty Millington) and many young children. They were always back home when the husbands arrived from work.

For the first few years after moving in to their home Rita and Walter would work in their garden each weekend. Whatever they planted in the garden would grow prolifically in the first years as the soil was very fertile. The Housing Trust had put up paling fences. Rita recalls a fire on the block at the back of her home where wild oats were higher than the fence – residents (mainly women as the men were at work) put out the fire.

A need for a kindergarten was identified and a number of residents held a meeting and worked towards raising funds to make it a reality. Rita was one of the contributors.

Rita recalls that Jean Pollitt was a “godsend” when she set up her hairdressing salon and how much she valued the service offered by Jean. A Mrs Roberts had done hairdressing from her home in Coolah Terrace, opposite the Reserve, before Jean.

## **Recollections of Ros McDonald, 15 Pethick Terrace - 30<sup>th</sup> January 2003**

When Ross and his wife Ros moved to the Oaklands Estate in 1952 there were very few homes, somewhere around 12. There was just open space with gum trees and boxthorn.

Pethick Terrace was called Dwyer Avenue and later changed to Pethick Terrace as there was already Dwyer Road, Marion. The P.M.G. (Post Master General's department) found it too confusing with Dwyer Road, Oaklands Park and Dwyer Avenue, Oaklands Estate. Pethick Terrace was named after Les Pethick, who lived on the corner of The Parade and Pethick Terrace. The Pethicks owned an orchard and grew grapes where the Oaklands Estate Reserve is now sited.

Roads and footpaths were non-existent. The nearest transport system was the Railway Station at Ascot Park until the Marion Station was built some years later. Ross and Ros had neither a car nor telephone, and in 1953 a phone box was erected in Pethick Terrace.

In the 1960's the River Sturt broke its bank and the Estate was flooded. The roads became fast flowing rivers and the residents near the intersection of Melanto and Coolah were flooded with water covering floorboards. The Sturt River was subsequently lined in the late 1960's.

## **Memories of Lloyd Isaksson – 8<sup>th</sup> February 2003**

“Mary and I moved into 6 Abbeville Terrace in 1953. It was so cold that Christmas that we had a fire in the lounge.

When inspecting the Housing Trust house in Abbeville Terrace we were told to leave our car down by the shops on Oaklands Road. We were picked up by the Inspector, who indicated that we would be taken back to our car in due course.

He opened up the house and then went off to another appointment. It was then that the sales people moved in offering to sell us insurance, carpets, blinds and curtains. The Inspector was obviously on the take.

Before Marion Railway Station was in place we all used to troop across to the Ascot Park Station to get to the city.

We used to shop at Ascot Park – chemist, butcher, greengrocer, groceries (Mr Bennett used to call and take and deliver grocery orders).

When the trees were planted on the railway side of Minchinbury Terrace, Mr Bert Owen (Tony’s father) an engineer with ETSA and I used to water the trees in their early stages. We would carry buckets of water from the properties along Minchinbury Terrace.

The area was originally called Oaklands Estate. Ultimately it was named Marion.

When the Parkholme Shopping Centre was erected, Craven and Company Ltd operated a clothing shop where Coles are today.

A Mr Arnold built a number of homes in this area. Apart from the Housing Trust homes I think that there were one or two War Service Homes built in the area.

Our house cost 3,000 pounds (\$6,000). We had to come up with 400 pounds deposit and were granted a Savings Bank of SA mortgage, and a second mortgage (1,000 pounds) was granted by the Housing Trust.

Mary and I were both involved with the Parents and Friends Group at the Ascot Park, Marion High and Mitchell Park High Schools.

Most children at that time went to Ascot Park Infant and Primary Schools. Our two daughters went on to Marion High School. Our son went to Mitchell Park High School and then on to Westminster School.

Fund raising was conducted locally to fund the building of the Oaklands Estate Kindergarten. At least one meeting was held at the home of Mr and Mrs H Weepers at 7-9 Abbeville Terrace. The Weepers had a tennis court on the block adjacent their home.

A fund raising gala day for the kindergarten was held on the vacant paddock where the RDNS centre is today.

I served on the Oaklands Estate Residents' Association for a couple of years, at least one as Vice-President.

Mr Jack Allen was a very active member of the Residents' Association. He followed the activities of the Marion Council with great interest.

We had several meetings of the Association in our home. We ousted one Councillor who was not concerned about our R1 area.

We worked to support Mr. Henderson as our Council representative and also Dr Colin Jacobson.

We argued strongly to prevent the Council moving from Marion Road to Sturt Road without success.”

## **Recollections of Tom Chambers, resident of Minchinbury Terrace – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2003**

In conjunction with Marion Council the Residents' Association had a Flood Control Plan. Tom's back porch was equipped with a loud hailer supplied by Council. The then City Engineer, Dave Susman, lived at Blackwood near the Sturt River. He had survey pegs in the bank of the River and his wife would telephone him at the Council Chambers when the water reached a certain height. He in turn would ring someone from the Association who would then use the loud hailer to alert residents of the impending floodwaters.

When the River flooded near Mr Susman's home it would take about 1½ hours for the flood waters to reach the Oaklands Estate. The homes susceptible to flooding from the culvert under the railway line were in Coolah Terrace. A supply of sandbags was kept near the culvert and these were put across driveways once the alert was raised. This system worked for many years, and eventually the creek was straightened and cemented.

When they were going to cement the creek the new alignment was started from the Morphettville end and the work undertaken by Highways Department contractors. They in turn hired a private contractor to clear gums trees between Morphett Road and Oaklands Road. This contractor cut a swathe through the area destroying many trees, which distressed the residents of Oaklands Estate. At this time the Minister for Transport was Geoff Virgo, and co-incidentally he was the local member for the Estate. Before the tree-felling contractor came to the Estate, Mr Virgo was asked to come and look at the area. Tom recalls it was a very wet winter's day when the Minister walked with a number of residents from Oaklands Road to Marion Road. Residents expressed their concern and showed him that a lot of trees would be lost. Mr Virgo made a decision on the spot and contacted Highways Commissioner Mr Johnkin. He indicated to him that he wanted a white cross put on every tree that the contractor would be removing before the following Sunday, when he would again walk the route with residents. It was finally mutually agreed that ten trees would be felled – and the residents at the end of the day had saved many trees from being removed.

The MATS Plan (Metropolitan Area Transport Study) was a plan for a freeway to be constructed. This plan was subject to much public scrutiny and was eventually not proceeded with following much opposition from members of the Estate. If it had gone ahead all of the houses in the Parade and houses on the Glenelg side of Melanto Terrace would have been removed.

Members of the Residents' Association in conjunction with Marion Council planted many trees on the Estate. The choice of trees was determined by Dr Millington who lived in the area and worked at Waite Research. He drew up a plan of what to plant in each street. The tree seedlings were purchased from the Woods and Forests Nursery at Belair and paid for by Marion Council. Residents would nurture the trees in their own gardens before planting them around the Estate and the arrangement with Council was that residents would water them. (At that time Marion Council did not have a Parks and Gardens department).

Over the years residents of the Estate were subject to several changes of boundaries and were at various times in the Glenelg, Edwardstown and Ascot Park electorates.

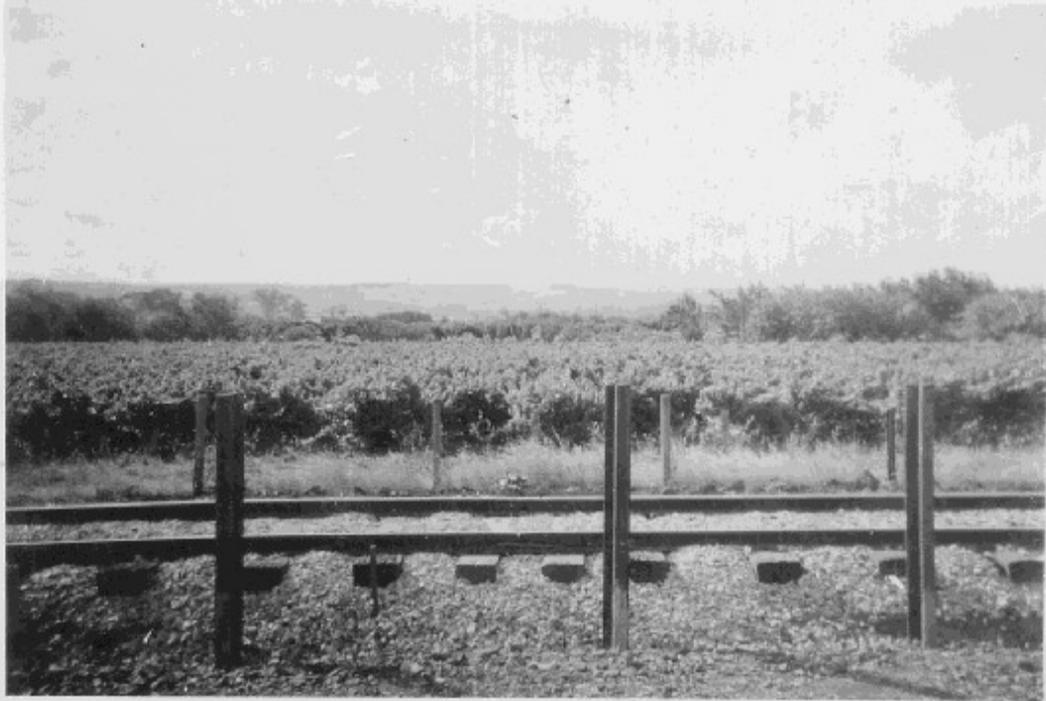
Before the railway overpass was built over Marion Road, Oaklands Road went straight to Marion Road and it was necessary to turn left and then right to access Daws Road. After the work was completed Oaklands Road was re-aligned and flowed straight into Daws Road, which left the dead end road on the southern side of the Parkholme Shopping Centre. Tom remembers being contacted by Mr McClure the Town Clerk of the City of Marion and the City Engineer, Mr Susman, seeking his consent to naming this “new” road as Chambers Street. Tom thought they were joking at first, but we of course know that it came to fruition.

Building of the Marion Station platform actually commenced further along Minchinbury Terrace towards the Park. The steel uprights were put down for the platform but later pulled up and the platform constructed where it is today.

On weekdays there was a daily train passing along the line from the quarry at Angaston to the Brighton Cement works at Marino. The length of the train varied from 4 to 10 carriages.

The Marion Railway station opened on 17<sup>th</sup> May, 1954 and a Mrs. Owens was the first ticket clerk, working at the platform from 6 am till 1 p.m.

On the day that Tom and his wife Maureen moved from their flat at Glenelg into their new home in Minchinbury Terrace it rained heavily all day. The removalist had to take their furniture from the first floor to their truck, and when they arrived at the Estate it was found the sewer main in Minchinbury Terrace had sunk and it was not possible to get the truck to the front of the house. So Tom, riding his motorcycle, guided the truck through vacant lots to the side fence of the new home and the removalists had to lift all of the furniture over the fence.



COMMENCEMENT OF MARION STATION 1953  
Westons muscatel vineyards opposite



No. 703 ON WORKTRAIN 1954  
(Down train travelling on Up track)

Photographs courtesy of Tom Chambers

*Photographs courtesy of Tom Chambers*



Willunga passenger train crossing Sturt River



'750' class on freight, 'Norton' on footpath

## **Recollections of Audrey Rodger – Fiscom Street on 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2003**

Audrey recalls she and her mother moved into their home in January, 1953. Their neighbours Eileen and Ken Klaebe moved in during September 1953 and to this day they are still neighbours. Audrey's home was the only one finished in her block at the time of moving in, and several others had commenced building.

A regular train traveller to the city Audrey had to walk to the Ascot Park Station until the Marion Station opened. She worked in the Taxation Office and later in the then PMG Department as a telephonist. In those days Audrey volunteered to work in the kiosk at the Royal Adelaide Hospital once a fortnight, and 50 years later still travels to the city once a week to do her voluntary work. One feels that she would have to be the only person still living on the Estate with a history of such regular travel into Adelaide.

Audrey and her mother were amongst the first persons on the Estate to have a television set. George and Una Sayer who lived at the back would often come to watch the Rodgers' TV.

There were no train services on Saturdays or Sundays in those early years, and Audrey recalled that she and her mother rode their push bikes to Church on Goodwood Road every Sunday for 12 years. Mrs Rodger also rode her pushbike to West Terrace in the city to her place of employment.

Audrey recalls the ice-man calling, and Mr Bennett who delivered the groceries. They rode their bikes to Ascot Park to get meat from the butcher there.

## **Recollections of Hylton Pike, former resident of The Parade – 10<sup>th</sup> February 2003**

“Other than the Pethick home ours was the first to be occupied in The Parade in 1952. There was only electricity and gas was not laid until roughly 1963-64. No bitumen roads or footpaths were laid in The Parade until well after 1972.

Where the driving school is now cited there was a large market garden and the tractors would still be working as late as 11 p.m.

The old Tait Homestead was still standing. Horrie Pethick, who at the time lived in that homestead, would take us over there for a drink of hock and lemon that was kept in the big cellar under the house. Les Pethick took us under his wing and showed us how and where to plant our fruit trees in our backyards.

The flooding of the old Sturt Creek was a big problem and council trucks would drop off sand bags needed to block vents to stop the water getting under the house. Some were not so lucky and would get the water inside their homes.

The old creek was a tadpole catching playground for Gregory and his pal Wayne Greenhill. Gregory told of a time when Wayne pulled him out of a deep hole in the creek, which could have had bad consequences (of course no-one was aware that the boys even went near the creek).

Hylton used to help pick grapes for the market when the Pethicks were extra busy. When one of the Pethicks had an accident on his bike Hylton repaired the bike and was given a cauliflower for his trouble.

At the end of The Parade on Oaklands Road there was a grocer shop where the fish shop is, the deli was next door (not as big as now) and a butcher shop on the other side of the deli.

Hylton is a foundation member of the Ascot Park Bowling Club, which opened in 1960 and he was the third President of the Club. Other people who lived in Oaklands Estate who were also involved in some way with the Club were Ted Guiney and John Lane. We ran three Holden car raffles to raise money to build a brick fence around the Club, which lasted until a few years ago and has now been replaced. Another way to raise funds was to imprint names in the cement at a cost of 2 pounds per name. Maureen Pike and Rhonda Sutherland etched those names in the cement as it was being laid. Sylvia Woodforde, grandmother of Mark Woodforde, lived in Oaklands Estate and was Ladies Club Treasurer at one time.

Our children were at Ascot Park School when it was decided to build a canteen and a swimming pool. Families were invited to pay 10 pounds to have the family names engraved into the tiles at the bottom of the pool as a way of raising funds to build it. (The Pike name is there).

We saw Westminster College built; we saw the Drive-In built; we saw the Parkholme Shopping Centre built, we saw the ugly bridge over the railway line built, we saw the “new” Council Chambers on Marion Road at Parkholme built (and were invited to the opening by the then Mayor, Ron Keen), we saw the driving school and the park behind it come to fruition, we saw the swimming centre built, we saw Glengowrie High School build (and our children attended high school there).

We have seen many changes – Oaklands Estate had been our home for 50 odd years and it was a great place to raise a family. We will always remember and we are sure our children will remember the happy times we had there.”

## **Record of discussion with Ken and Eileen Klaebe on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2003**

Ken and Eileen came to live in Fiscom Street on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1953. They purchased their home for 3,010 pounds.

Eileen remembers the heap of boxthorn bushes in the front of the house and the then Dwyer Avenue was also surrounded with boxthorn bushes which they had to drive around. Some years later the footpath was all done by hand, with a man using the hand roller. It was quite hard work.

The nearest train was at Ascot Park, which was quite a walk from Fiscom Street. The crossing at Daws Road and Marion Road with no traffic lights was indeed a cat and mouse game.

The now Parkholme shopping centre was mostly potholes, bushes of Salvation Jane and marshmallow weed. Eileen recalls being very happy when a grocery shop operated by the Duance family opened on Oaklands Road. She thinks it was called Four Square. They would also do deliveries. Dean Grimes' father built these shops.

From their home Ken and Eileen could see the train going by. In those days it was the steam train. There were vines planted where the Driving Centre is currently located and also adjoining the back of this area.

There is a large gum tree in their rear yard, which is estimated to be 300 years old, and the possums like to use it as a home.

The baker came every day with his horse driven cart. He charged 10 pence for a loaf of bread. He would assist those in need of help, and in particular Eileen recalls he helped one resident with his kerosene lamp. The postman did all of his deliveries by pushbike and chatted to residents as he blew his whistle to let everyone know he had called. The milkman also came every morning and he too had a horse and cart.

The ice-man called regularly and charged 2/6- for a block. Residents were supposed to leave their back doors unlocked so that he could get in. Eileen recalls they soon purchased a fridge from Sven Kallins. The butcher was Mr Baird and the hardware store was run by Mr Barge.

Eileen recalls one day walking home and Joan Taylor (nearby neighbour) came along riding her bicycle, which was loaded up with shopping. Joan hit a pot hole and the bike went over – and that's how they first met when Eileen went to her rescue.

Eileen and Ken's son reached the age of four and attended the kindergarten (Miss Gross was the first teacher), before going to Ascot Park School and then on to Mitchell Park High School.

In the two storey home on the corner of Fiscom and Pethick opposite the kindergarten the first resident was a Mr Chambers who was proprietor of Silks in Rundle Street. Mr. Hunkin lived next door.

Clem McNamara is thought to have cut down an old red gum and found Aboriginal spears in the middle. No-one recalls what happened to the spears.

Eileen would go to the telephone box in Pethick Terrace before 8 am to telephone her sister who lived at Payneham (her sister worked for a hairdresser and was allowed to take personal calls before 8 am). On the way home Eileen would stop to talk to Ella Foster or Mrs Thiele and often it would be late before she got home to do her dishes. Phone calls cost 3 pence.

Ken was a mechanic with Dalgetys and owned a Ford Prefect car. Mick Chenoweth and George Ruxton persuaded Ken to pick them up and take them to work (George was always running late!!). Ken changed his employment and worked for Jansens on the corner of Daws and South Roads in a motor business.

On weekends friends and family would come to visit, others came to see Ken for free motor advice. They went to the "flicks" every Saturday night. As they had a car they could go to Brighton (the Windsor), Goodwood Road or Anzac Highway near South Road (the Roxy Theatre).

**Alice Brenton (nee Murray), former resident of Minchinbury Terrace 17<sup>th</sup>  
February 2003**

In the late 1930's Alice recalls being amongst a group of about a dozen teenagers who would catch the bus from the corner of "The Paddock" and travel to Brighton where they would go to the Windsor Theatre. The bus driver would stay and watch the movies with them before transporting them home again.

She also remembers the deep drainage work, which was undertaken along Oaklands Road.

**Recollections of Reg Elborough, resident of The Parade 17<sup>th</sup> February 2003**

Reg and his wife moved to the Estate in 1973. For a number of years he and others who lived in The Parade endured horrendous dust from the road into the Oaklands Estate Reserve and from the car park. Young people would drive their cars along the unsealed road kicking up dust which infiltrated the homes, and they would do figure 8's in the car park. Reg recalls the road was sealed in the late 70's / early 80's and this was very much appreciated

The construction of the railway overpass on Marion Road and the subsequent re-alignment of Oaklands Road to Daws Road made a huge difference to traffic flow on the perimeter of the Estate and was welcomed by residents.

Reg recalled he travelled to work in the city 99% of the time using public transport, and mainly the train. He recalls a great positive of this transportation was meeting up with a regular "crew" of local residents in the mornings, including Jack Allan and Ross McDonald. A comraderie existed and formed part of a shared community spirit.

As a general observation, Reg feels that over the years some residents' pride in the upkeep of their homes and gardens has taken a step back as the pressures, and pleasures, of modern life have come to the forefront.

## **Record of discussion with Nan and John Fahey of Abbeville Terrace – 18<sup>th</sup> February 2003**

Nan Fahey remembers she and her husband moved into their home in 1952 and actually received the keys on the same day their second child, a son, was born. She recalls there were no roads, gum trees everywhere and when it rained it was a quagmire. Their home is situated at the highest point of Abbeville Terrace. The Faheys paid 2,486 pounds for their home, borrowing 1,600 pounds from the Bank. Mr Fahey's wage at that time was 5 pounds a week (or 250 pounds a year).

Mr Fahey worked for the Electricity Trust from age 18 years and retired from there 42½ years later. He was first interviewed for the job by Mr Stobie (after whom the poles are named). He attended the School of Mines and later University and was 30 years old when he obtained his degree. He originally set out to be a tailor.

Their early recollection is of living in the country – there were cattle and sheep grazing on the blocks of land, children roamed the Estate playing on the other side of the railway line.

In the back yard of their new home Mr and Mrs Fahey had two enormous gum trees and they felt their removal would be appropriate, so they obtained a quote for removal from a professional tree cutter. The cost was 60 pounds per tree and Mrs Fahey sat down and cried on learning this, as they could not afford this much money. So they decided to burn the tree down – it took six months. They and others threw old tyres on the tree to help fuel the fire. The milkman's horse would shy away when passing, as he did not like the flames. Mrs Fahey remembers the Fire Brigade coming to see the tree burning.

On weekends they spent time in their garden establishing it and had to remove a good deal of building rubble – there were fences around their Housing Trust home when they first moved in.

In the late 1950's Mr Weeper next door decided to cut down a massive tree in his yard as it "drove him mad" with the mess it made. Elizabeth Fahey can remember watching from Mrs Harper's home across the street as the tree was felled. It came down across the power lines and cut the electricity supply to the Estate – even though the Trust gang came soon afterwards it was the next day before power was restored and Mr Weepers was charged by the Electricity Trust for the cost of repairs.

Their house was No 5 – at No 1 lived Mr Leon Brown and his family, at No. 3 the Amos family and at No 7 the Weepers. At the back in Coolah Terrace there was the Jeffries family. They all had small children who used to play together. With so many small children there was a need for a kindergarten in the area and the four families banded together to raise funds to establish a kindy. There was badminton at No. 1, barbecues at No. 3, betting at No. 5 and mannequin parades at No. 7. (Mrs Fahey recalls Sheila Gordon was one of the mannequins). All of these activities were popular and

successful with significant funds raised. At the Esdales home in The Parade there were card nights where they played Housey House and Canasta.

A number of formal approaches were made to the Council and eventually persistence paid off and the land was donated for the kindergarten to be built. As it took some time for the building of the kindergarten the families who raised money to establish it in the main found their children were at school by this time and too old to attend the kindy. There was however a waiting list as there were so many young children in the area. Several of those who did the fundraising were disappointed not to be asked to be on the first committee of management. However Mrs Fahey recalls her now 25 year old grandson did attend the Kindergarten for which she worked so hard.

Mrs Fahey recalls the residents were most upset when the decision was made in about 1960 to rename Oaklands Estate as part of the suburb of Marion. Taxi drivers often refused to come to the Oaklands Estate as they felt it was a maze – once they got in they couldn't get out.

Ben Pethick knew everybody - he got things done and it was of note that Pethick Terrace always “looked beautiful” with well kept trees.

In the early days of the Estate when new people came to live in the homes, they were always welcomed by other residents and a “family atmosphere” prevailed.

Jeff Stolz who was head of the Housing Trust lived on the Estate and was another resident who helped with community activities.

Mrs Fahey remembers the bread and milk being delivered by horse and cart, and having to go to the shops at Ascot Park on Marion Road near the Institute.

In those early days Mr Fahey owned a 1927 Rugby Tourer car, which had running boards – because if you stopped the car would stop - passengers ran alongside and jumped on.

Mrs Fahey recalls in those early days they were poor in terms of cash but rich in terms of fun, enjoyment and community spirit. There were gates in the backyards between the homes and the children roamed freely between the yards.

The night of the earthquake in 1954 is a vivid memory for the Faheys. Mrs. Fahey recalls she could not get out of bed as it was moving and her first thoughts were for her 4 year old daughter Elizabeth and baby son. Everyone ran out into the street in their night attire (some even had nighties with holes). It was this night that brought a number of the residents together as friends.

Mr and Mrs Burnett lived across the road and had enormous pencil pine trees in their front yard. Eddie Amos donned a Father Christmas suit on Christmas Eve and went to all the houses in Abbeville Terrace to say good night to the children – all of the parents offered him a drink and by the time he got home he had had quite a lot of alcohol.

Abbeville Terrace was a “community” street and Mrs Fahey knew everyone who lived there. She recalls a street party in 1998 where everyone joined in. She is disappointed that the young people moving into the Estate now do not have the same feeling of community spirit.

A Mr McCauley who lived at Craddock in the north of South Australia purchased 20 blocks of land on the Estate at a cost of 5 pounds each. He later retired to Adelaide and sold the blocks of land – we assume at a good profit. Mrs Fahey’s Aunt Genevieve owned a quarter acre block in Beauford Avenue and was offered 140 pounds to sell – she decided against this and later built a home there.

Mrs Fahey used to walk around to the shopping centre with her son in the pusher and he took a kitten in its basket. The kitten used to fall out of the basket and had to be rescued from the path of vehicles. She recalls Cravens was one of the first shops when the centre was built in 1958 and the shopping centre soon became the “centre of the universe”.

The Radio Rentals store at the Parkholme shopping centre in the late 50’s/early 60’s had a television in their front window and a speaker mounted across the door. Often there would be people sitting on their chairs four deep watching the programmes (although there were a lot of advertisements also).

The Metro Drive In Theatre was built about 1959 and was very popular. The Fahey family would go to the movies and always bought chips for the children. Entry cost was per car load (rather than per person). “R” rated films were introduced early in the 1960’s and Mr and Mrs Fahey recall going to the Windsor Theatre at Brighton to see “The Scented Garden”. This film was a real eye opener and when the lights went on at the end there were a lot of people looking embarrassed.

In those early years Mrs Fahey remembers they went without the luxuries in order to provide for their children and they also wanted to pay their house off as quickly as possible. They were one of the first to have the telephone connected to their home, and this was in part because Mr Fahey was on call for the Electricity Trust where he worked. Neighbours used to treat it as a public phone!!

The large overpass at the Marion Railway Station was built in the late 1960’s following the death of an 11 year old child.

**SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT OAKLANDS ESTATE –  
Angela and Michael Doherty, Coolah Terrace – 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2003**

We bought our house in September 1965 and moved in during February 1966. We were attracted to the house and area because of price of the home and the general attractiveness of the suburb. It was shortly after we purchased the house that the suburb changed its name from Oaklands Estate to Marion.

When we moved in the street (Coolah Terrace) was full of beautiful acacia trees. Sadly for us they were almost at the end of their life and, being shallow rooted, tended to fall over in storms.

Council replaced them with prunus trees, some of which still exist today. Those outside our property have had a rough life as they have had to endure the disruption caused by the new drainage scheme going through here in 1972. We have a huge drain in our street. An early slide of ours shows our children standing beside one of the sections of the concrete drain before it was buried under the road. The drain was roughly 12 feet square, the children were aged 5 years and 3 years so are rather dwarfed by the huge pipe.

More recently Coolah Terrace was completely re-aligned and the remaining trees suffered much damage from that. We hope that they will last for a good deal longer as the Council has earmarked Coolah Terrace for bottlebrushes as replacements. Not an ideal 'tree' for our suburb as they are really only shrubs and don't have the ability to provide shade in summer – visit the railway end of Bassi Street to see this. It's particularly distressing to those of us who can remember the real street trees of earlier years.

Over the 37 years of our residency we have seen so many trees destroyed. It seems that as soon as a property changes hands the first action of the buyer is to chop down all the trees! There are now far fewer trees in our little 'suburb' than there were in the early days.

We are also saddened to see so many blocks that have had the houses demolished and the land subdivided.

As no doubt many older residents will tell you, this area was prone to flooding. In our time we can only recall one such flood. This must have been in the late 1960's. One Saturday there had been torrential rain for several hours. The gutters were well and truly awash. We had arranged to visit Jim and Bernadette Hayes who lived at 9 Pethick Terrace. Marj Bennett who lived across the road at No 11 Pethick Terrace was to be there too. Normally we would walk to the Hayes' place but that night we had to take the car because of the flooded gutters. When we arrived at Hayes we could see that the road itself was flooded. Marj was still at her place, unable to cross the street to get to Hayes' because of the water, which was pouring down Bassi Street from the far side of the railway line. Jim Hayes ended up ferrying her by car across the street.

The water flowed through a shed at No 2 Pethick Terrace. The owners, Judy and John Kelleway, had to take some of the iron off the shed to let the water through. Similarly, Ron Schaedel in No 14 Coolah Terrace had to lift palings in his back fence to let a spate of water through.

Ron has also recalled an earlier flood in 1961. He walked down the street to the park (Ben Pethick Reserve) and was walking through water, which came up over his knees. Walking was difficult as there was a strong current in the water. The next morning all the water had completely disappeared.

We have only ever seen one flood since the one in the late '60's. It was in the early 1970's (I think) and as far as we know it was localised in our back yard. We came out of the house one day in March when there had been heavy rain and a storm, to find our back yard flooded up to a height of about 6 inches (15 centimetres for the metrically inclined). It took several hours for the water to subside and over a week before the traces of grass, which marked its depth on the fences disappeared. As I recall we had a week or so of storms and rain that year but the back yard didn't then, and has never flooded again, like that.

As well as flood we have had fire in our street. Many years ago the two-storey house at the corner of Coolah Terrace and the Parade was destroyed by fire. Like most interested (nosy?) neighbours we had a look at the ruins. It was interesting to see that the huge roots of the nearby Moreton Bay Fig trees extend under that house. The house was rebuilt and later sold. The newcomers, Peter and Pauline Sincock, were told by the land-who agent who sold them the house that they should watch the Moreton Bay fig trees very carefully because if anything happened to them then their house was at risk from below the floor boards.

We used to have a procession of neighbours across the street because the house, which was at No 19, was an Army owned house. Eventually the Army sold it and it was demolished. It is said that when the house was being demolished it slid right off its foundations! No wonder the Army wanted to get rid of it.

I remember being told many years ago that one of the residents (long since left the area) of the eastern end of Coolah Terrace complained for years after the drain was put under our road. He claimed that at night he could hear the compressors starting and stopping at Wylies up on South Road near Darlington as the noise echoed down the drain and kept him awake. Can't say we've ever noticed it.

When our children were growing up back in the 1970's there seemed to be children everywhere. Our two girls belonged to a 'gang', which included children from most of the houses in our section of the street. On Christmas morning there were children riding their new bikes, scooters, roller skates etc up and down the street. At Easter time there was much comparing of what goodies the Easter Bunny had brought. How times have changed.

I have mentioned some names in the above. Where are they now?

Jim and Bernadette Hayes sold their house after living for nearly 40 years in the area and they moved to Riverton some years ago.

Marj Bennett moved to a nursing home, subsequently died and her property was subdivided. Her house still stands and a new one was built in the back yard facing Bassi Street.

Judy and John Kelleway were a New Zealand couple who lived here for several years. Their two daughters attended Oaklands Estate Kindergarten. Judy and John moved back to New Zealand in 1973.

Ron Schaedel has been a widower for many years and still lives at No 14 Coolah Terrace. Peter and Pauline Sincock also sold up after some years and moved to Queensland.

**Record of discussion and recollections of Mrs. Jean Morrison, Minchinbury Terrace, 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2003**

Mrs Morrison recalls she and her husband bought their home in Minchinbury Terrace in 1959, when it was 2 years old, for 5,000 pounds. The family moved from Victoria to Adelaide so that Dudley Morrison could further his career as an engineer at the University of Adelaide. At the time of their move to Adelaide their children were attending first year high school, grade seven and grade three.

The previous owner had not established the garden in their home, and they set about planting trees and shrubs. Mrs. Morrison remembers and Mr and Mrs Hutchins lived in Abbeville Terrace and had two blocks of land. Their house occupied half of one block and the remainder was a plant nursery. Mrs. Hutchins sold plants, and bouquets of flowers.

Their home was not affected by the flooding, however their garden was under water. The rain stopped at 10.30 p.m. and by 11 p.m. there was no water on the block. The Wallace's lived two doors down and the water went right through their house. Neighbours helped to clean up the mess. Mrs Morrison recalls her sons and a friend taking their surfboards and "surfing" through the partially built headmaster's house.

Mrs Morrison recalls Coles supermarket took over the area occupied by Cravens – they pulled down the dividing wall. She worked at the Carrig Chemist for 25 years and recalls the Parkholme Shopping Centre probably opened in 1960.

"I remember the good things, before the explosion of people and condensing of the blocks of land, and the railway station before the Marion "mountain" (pedestrian overpass) was built.

The opening of the Parkholme shopping centre, where it was a pleasure to congregate and always find people who had enough time to stop and have a chat. Although, it had its down points as the butcher, baker, milkman and green grocer gradually stopped delivering and now they are missed greatly by the elderly who have no means of transport apart from tired arms, legs and bodies, and almost empty money bags to pay for taxis.

I remember what a pleasant life it was and the welcome we received from near neighbours. When we arrived as a family one wet, horrible day in May 1959, leaving all relations behind interstate, and coming to an unknown future and feeling very unsafe about it all.

It was not long before we settled in. The children attended Ascot Park Primary School and Marion High School, and their father worked at the Adelaide University. I was left to my own devices, but there was plenty to do to occupy my time. Tupperware, Bessemer, card afternoons, mothers meetings at schools, Red Cross meetings, church gatherings, Brighton Lifesavers etc., which meant that at each gathering one was

expected to supply some homemade eats such as pumpkin scones, drop scones, cream puffs and sponges, chocolate crackles, Honey Jays, White Christmas, pasties, apple slice, Vegemite sandwiches, and fairy bread. All were lovingly made and devoured with savour – no dieticians in those days to say what we could or could not eat.

The children enjoyed exploring the old haunted house on the Estate and the dirty old creek with its mosquitoes, snakes and burrs. Mr Western regularly chased them from his property of almonds and grapes.

Many a young boy was given his first lessons in the mystery of radio, from Mr Hutchins in his Abbeville Terrace radio station.

The Doctor (red haired Bluey Boyd) who lived in the two storey house in The Parade, was often seen perched precariously on the sills of his upstairs windows, trying hard to clean his panes, without collecting any pains for his trouble.

My husband, Dudley, was a fly fisherman who patiently practiced his casting in the unnamed lane. The only things he caught were the branches of the trees and plenty of cheek from the children passing by.

Who could forget “Big Ben” (Ben Pethick), the Lord of the Estate. He kept his eyes and ears on all and sundry as he made his daily trek around his holy ground. How times have changed. The Estate now is just a place to put your bags and head of a night time. The good old days have gone.

People have lost the art of communication with one another and in the main do not want to be part of their community. Is it because of education, greed, ignorance of their fellow man or a hidden fear of mixing with people which keeps them apart these modern times?”

## **Record of discussion with Dawn Skinner (nee Pethick) on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2003**

The Pethick family purchased the home known as “Oaklands” and surrounding land from Tom Tait. They subsequently owned land/homes in the Estate for over 40 years. Abraham and Ann Pethick came to Australia from Cornwall in 1839 and settled at Willunga. They had four children, and their son John had a son William. William and his wife Alice had six sons and a daughter – Stanley, Horace, Leslie, Stewart, William (Jnr), Ben and Doris. They lived in the “Oaklands” homestead. Prior to moving to “Oaklands” William managed the fruit orchards for Arthur Quick on the other side of the train line to the Oaklands Estate.

As his sons grew older William bought land for them to build their homes. William (Jnr) – Dawn’s father – was given four blocks of land on Marion Road near where the overpass is in place today, as a wedding present. He went to school and church with Sylvia Ryan, and together they saved the money to build their home and buy furniture before they married. They attended Sturt Primary School and the family attended the Marion Methodist Church.

Dawn and her sister Valma, together with their cousins, spent many happy hours as young children visiting their grandparents at “Oaklands”, particularly during holidays when they had to amuse themselves. She recalls the home was beautiful inside. The flagstones on the kitchen floor were of very thick slate. Servants quarters were at the back of the home and on the northern side there was a summer house of glass (much like a conservatory). There were extensive cellars where the wine was made in the early days. Dawn vividly recalls there were spider webs everywhere in the cellars. Her grandmother kept butter and other perishable foods in the cellar where it was cool. Mrs Pethick also had geese and Dawn’s parents were given one every Christmas (not plucked!!) which her mother came to dread.

There was a large fountain in front of the house and this was later removed and an orange grove planted. Dawn remembers her cousin climbing the coconut palm which is still in the car park at the Oaklands Estate Reserve along with the magnolia tree.

At one time Dawn remembers a weir was made to dam water from the Sturt Creek to water the vines and trees.

Her fondest memories are of the thoroughbred horses, which were bred on the Estate. Mr Don Smith leased the stables and yards and was a well-known trainer in Adelaide. There was one mare in particular, Dawn recalls, whose progeny won many races. There were also ponies for the young ones to ride.

Dawn recalls her father and Ben were very close and they often went to the horse races together. Ben won a number of trophies for his roses at the Adelaide Show in the 1920’s.

Amongst her photographs Dawn has one dated 1951 of a Chev truck loaded for market with table grapes in wooden half cases. She has a copy of their label stating “W. Pethick & Sons ‘The Quality Fruitgrowers’ of ‘Oaklands’ Marion Grapes A Specialty Phone x 7629”.

Mr Smerdon turned his front verandah into a shop and customers were primarily soldiers from the barracks. During the war the soldiers trained all over the Estate and it was not uncommon for the vegetable gardens to be trampled. A Mr Bray had a herd of cows who grazed on the Estate during the day and went home to Second Avenue at Ascot Park by themselves later in the day ready for milking, with the said Mr Bray straggling along behind them!!

In those days there were tracks to all of the homes and not roads. There were lots of trees and boxthorns everywhere.

Dawn was a regular train commuter to the city, firstly to attend school and later to work. In the mornings she and her friends would do their knitting, and coming home in the evening they did the crossword in the “News” paper which she brought home for her father each day.

The Council’s rates for the land around the homestead became prohibitive and the reluctant decision was made to sell to the Government in about 1950. The land purchased by the Government where the Oaklands Estate Reserve and Road Safety Centre stand today was originally earmarked for the building of a Southern Districts Hospital, however this never came to pass, most likely as a result of lack of funds. The Government procrastinated over the eventual purpose for the homestead and land and as a result it fell into disrepair and was demolished. The Pethick brothers were distraught when they learnt of the homestead’s fate, as were many others.

There were nine homes Dawn remembers clearly –

No. 2 Minchinbury Terrace, the home of Mr and Mrs Murray and their two daughters and son

No. 4 Abbeville Terrace, the home of Mr and Mrs Burnet and their son and two daughters

No. 34 Abbeville, the home of Mr and Mrs Taylor and their son and two daughters

The southern corner of Oaklands Road and Beauford Avenue, the home of Mr and Mrs Edwards and their son and daughter

The tudor home a little further down on Oaklands Road where Mr and Mrs Ben Pethick lived with their daughter Fleur

The home on the corner of Oaklands Road and Melanto Terrace of Mr and Mrs Joenberg

No. 15 The Parade, the home of Mr and Mrs Leslie Pethick and their son Dene

Corner Melanto Terrace and Pethick Terrace, the home of Mr and Mrs Smerdon and their daughter Marjorie

Corner The Parade and Oaklands Road – a house owned by “Oaklands Estate” (adjacent to the oak lined driveway) where the foreman and his wife lived (Mr and Mrs Dwyer). This house has since been demolished.

All, except the house on the corner of Oaklands Road and The Parade are still lived in today.

## **Recollections of Joan Taylor, Abbeville Terrace – 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2003**

We moved into the Estate on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 1956, and in hindsight, this was the easy part. It was an extremely wet, miserable day, and on our arrival we were confronted by two helpful neighbours (in rubber boots and rain coats) desperately trying to divert the water away from the foundations.

The two good Samaritans turned out to be Mick Chenoweth and Ray Williamson from Numbers 19 and 21 Abbeville.

This helpfulness was indicative of the attitude of the residents at that time. Arnold Brothers, builders, who had built several homes in the area, had built our home and later, as blocks became available, went on to build four others.

Les Arnold lived in Tait Avenue for several years – his brother Vern, also in the business was an excellent carpenter.

When we moved in we had nothing but the house and one side paling fence. It took us many years shoveling sand and metal, building paths and a driveway as well as establishing our garden.

A large gum tree had been growing on part of our block, and the builders had removed it before the foundations went down. Unfortunately, they were not prepared to pay for the removal of the stump, which was an absolute monster, and it took us many months to remove it ourselves.

Several blocks beside and behind us were vacant at this time and were used as thoroughfares (through high grass) to the station. Having no fences there was very little privacy for us.

Each summer Ray, George Ruxton, Mick Chenoweth and Ray Williamson would form their own little Fire Brigade and burn off the vacant blocks to reduce the fire hazard. There were no sealed roads or footpaths until some time later, and walking was difficult, especially when wet.

I can recall the pram becoming bogged on many occasions whilst trudging through mud across O'Halloran Terrace to Ascot Park School.

The paddock next to the school was home to the visiting Circus on several occasions. I also recall a service station on the eastern side of O'Halloran Terrace, before Parkholme Shopping Centre was built.

Early residents in The Parade have attested to having letter boxes nailed to the large tree, as the postman was unable to negotiate the unmade road.

Steam trains were replaced some time later by diesel-electric rail cars, but the goods trains still rumbled through, and often the washing had to be hastily brought inside to avoid the soot – especially when there was an easterly wind.

We had the milkman, paper man, postman, and baker call, and many times the baker's horse left a bonus of fresh manure for the garden, which was in the making. We were fortunate in having our groceries delivered by Mr. Durance, who operated a Four Square store on Oaklands Road – not only delivered but left on the kitchen table if we were not at home. Imagine leaving doors unlocked today!

Two Doctors lived in the Estate – Dr. Boyd in The Parade and Dr. Dineen in Pethick Terrace. Dr. Ashton had a surgery in the house near to the shops on Oaklands Road.

In the early days people were always ready to help each other and their little community.

There was much to be done as each of us established our own homes and gardens and worked hard for communal projects. It is rewarding, today, to see the results of our efforts – especially in establishing the kindergarten and beautifying the Estate.

We deeply regret the loss of our “Oaklands Estate” identity, as it was a well known address in those early years and still valued by many residents today.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to

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