

WESTLAKE & WESTRIDGE 1943

WESTLAKE 1943

(The area of Westlake where the cottages stood are in Stirling Park, Yarralumla and the embassy area bounded by Perth Avenue, Forster Crescent and Darwin Avenue in *The Gap*. 51 cottages were constructed in 1924 – with an additional 10 added in 1926. The sites of 51 cottages, the hall, tennis courts and children’s playground (and one of three septic tanks) is in Stirling Park Sections 22 and Block 4, Section 128 Yarralumla).

Westlake nick-names by Kevin Sykes:

Stan Austin	<i>Shakes</i>
Len Austin	<i>Dadda</i> [possibly because he was Father Christmas at the P&C Party in the old hall every year]
George Blewitt	<i>Red Steer</i>
Laurie Blewitt	<i>Rooky</i>
Roy Blewitt	<i>Snooks</i>
Allan Bellchambers	<i>Bull</i>
Gordon Callen	<i>Shot Gun</i>
Laurie Callen	<i>Stallion</i>
Brian Carn	<i>Bonner</i>
Bourke (father)	<i>Tozer</i>
Bill Brooks	<i>Battling Billy</i> [<i>Battling Billy</i> Briscoe the jockey going around at this time. His claim to fame was that he rode Bernborough at Melbourne...Bill Brooks could stand in his spring cart and drive it home from the pub without falling out. When he got out he could hardly walk. He lived at No 7.]
Alby Day	<i>Sunny</i> [he lived at Briar Farm – he was always smiling]
George Day	<i>Bomber</i> [lived at 47 Westlake – no relation to Alby]
Rex Day	<i>Young Bomber</i> [as above & champion golfer]
Philip Dixon	<i>Flip</i>
Keith Hawke	<i>Sparrow</i>
Kevin Haines	<i>Moab</i>
Allan Haines	<i>Bello</i>
Cedric Haines	<i>Peg</i> [he could fight]
Lionel Haines	<i>Pineapple</i> [mad on cars & motor bikes]
Norm Maxwell	<i>Crow</i> [had a horse & dray & was a son of PT Maxwell, auctioneer of Queanbeyan]
David O’Rourke	<i>Gravy</i> [he said his first job at the Hotel Canberra was making gravy]

Ron O’Rourke	<i>Cocky</i> [Cockatoo for Harrisons – Sp bookies]
Don Boyd	<i>Dollie</i>
Jack Harrington	<i>Lofty</i>
Fred Byrnes	<i>Fairway</i>
Jim O’Brien	<i>Bugs</i>
Max O’Reilly	<i>Devon</i>
Terry O’Reilly	<i>Young Dev</i>
Gordon Owens	<i>Speedie</i>
Pat Padrotta	<i>The Emu</i> [he married Ruby Hawke]
Bill Patterson	<i>Blinky</i>
Spencer McDonald’s son	who was killed on the Queanbeyan Road was called <i>Streaker</i> - it was said he was very fast between wickets at cricket and could throw a ball 100 yards.
McGlynn (father)	<i>Nipper</i>
Harold Reynolds	<i>The Con</i> [champion golfer]
Doug Reynolds	<i>Doug there</i> [he ended every sentence with <i>there</i>].
One of Rhodes boys	<i>Dusty</i>
Larry Rawson	<i>The Bat</i>
George Sykes	<i>Nimmatabel</i>
Kevin Sykes	<i>Young Nim</i>
Jim Summerfield	<i>Lizzard</i>
John Walters	<i>Cobs</i> [everyone was his cobbler]
Reg West Sn	<i>Long Loping</i>
Andy Hawke	<i>Bike pump Andy</i> [he carried the pump into the hotel with him when he called to have a drink. Bill, his son, was filling in a form to join the army and asked Andy the name of the street he was born in at Araluen. His reply was <i>Put – ACROSS THE STREET</i>]

62 ATKINS, Ida & Arthur hd & labourer
 Atkins Family – *I Beryl Nobel (nee Atkins) was born at the old Canberra Hospital since demolished [1997]. I lived at 62 Westlake for ten years and am the second eldest of seven children. My parents were Arthur Atkins (1917-1967) and Ida Jean White (1917 Gundaroo – 1996). Father lived at the Cotter Reserve and was the bus driver. In 1948 he and my mother married and lived for awhile at Queanbeyan before moving to 62 Westlake. My brothers and sisters are – Ian (deceased), Ronnie, Charlie, Carol, Lenore and Diana. The last two girls were born after the family moved to 14 Solander Place, Westridge in 1952. The cottage was next to the Forestry School Dormitory. The students slept there and had their meals in another part of the complex. Later the family moved to a*

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larger house in 27 Schomburgh Street Westridge and it was here that I stayed until I married my husband John Knobel of Melbourne. Arthur Atkins was buried at Woden Cemetery on 5th October 1967.

27 AUSTIN, Violet & Leonard hd & mechanic (no relation to Stan Austin) Violet Ann Austin (nee Yeo) was born at Dunedoo NSW (former Bolaro Run) 15th March 1907 and died in Canberra 7th June 1989. Leonard Austin was born in Melbourne 20th August 1896 and the couple married in Gulgong in 1933. Their first child, Inez Edith was born 25th October 1933 and died 26th November 1934. Ann Robina was born 20th June 1937 and married 20.12.1958 to Florian Gugler.

10 AUSTIN, Stanley carpenter
no relation to Leonard & Violet Austin

BELLCHAMBERS, Annie & Claude hd & labourer
Eva Robinson, nee Bellchambers, who now lives in Melbourne wrote the following about her family: *The Bellchambers Family lived at 50 Westlake. The family members were:*
Parents: Claude Leslie 6.7.1889 Bombala – 15.4.1960 Canberra aged 68 and Annie Fullerton (nee Allan) 17.10.1895 Newcastle – 20.6.1965 Canberra aged 69
Children: Agnes Myra 4.2.1920 Bombala – 28.3.1962 Canberra aged 42; Lucy 4.10.1923 Bombala – 7.7.1955 Sydney aged 32; Leslie Claude 19.9.1925 Bombala - ? [believed to be deceased]; Allan Amos 27.2.1928 Canberra or Queanbeyan; Roy Geoffrey 15.8.1929 - 31.10.1975 aged 46. He was born and died in the Canberra district; Eva 30.7.1935 Canberra and now lives in Melbourne; Robert Arthur 22.1.1937 Canberra – 21.11.1984 Melbourne aged 47.

Mum's mother died when she was four years of age and her father took the family to Scotland. Dad was in the 5th Pioneers in World War One and served in France and apparently also in Scotland where Mum and Dad married on 13th February 1919 at Cambuslang. They returned to Australia and lived in Bombala for some years. Mum left behind a sister and brother in Scotland.

Dad worked on construction. They moved to Queanbeyan and then to Westlake. They relocated to Acton at the commencement of Lake Burley Griffin, then to O'Connor after Dad's death. Dad worked for many years at Weston Creek Sewerage Plant, construction work and then as a gardener at the Prime Minister's Lodge for some years before his retirement. He was presented with a Beer Stein by Mr Menzies... Bob excelled at school both academically and in sport and continued to do so thereafter. He was selected to play in the Prime Minister's team against the English test team (early 1950s)...



Above is Mrs Bellchambers with son Bobby and daughter Eva in the front yard of 50 Westlake. The photograph loaned by Eva Robertson (nee Bellchambers) was taken around 1938/39. In the background are cottages 43, 44 and 45. The view we have is of their backyards. Below these cottages is the storm water drain that leads to the Creek. Eva is the only surviving member of the family. On the right is similar view taken in the mid 1990s. The concrete culvert was put built in the early 1990s. Westlake children, including Duncy Campbell, Hazel Haines and one of the Brayshaw boys put their names into the wet concrete. Hazel also made the imprint of a penny in the raw concrete.

BLEWITT, Frances & Joseph hd & labourer
Three generations of Smith and Blewitt families lived at Westlake. Frances Elizabeth Blewitt and Joseph were the eldest of the Blewitt family living at Westlake. A notice of their wedding

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appeared in the *Queanbeyan Age* 24.11.1911: *On Tuesday November 21 at Christ Church Queanbeyan, Joseph, eldest son of Mr and Mrs W Blewitt of Burra was married to Frances Elizabeth eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Alec Bradley of Molonglo. Mr Harry Blewitt was best man and the bridesmaid was Miss Blewitt.* [Lyall Gillespie's cards].

Frances died at Tyson Street in Ainslie on 6th March 1976 and is buried in Woden Cemetery in the same grave with her son, George Henry Blewitt who was buried on 30th September 1965. In the next grave is Joseph Blewitt who was buried 27th November 1951. In the same grave is Frances and Joseph's son, Lawrence Blewitt who was buried on Christmas Eve 1962. Colin Smith, grandson of Joseph and Francis mentioned that the couple lived initially at Carwoola where their Doris (Colin's mother) was born. From there they moved to the Cotter to a site near the Scouts' Hall then to a site near Yarralumla woolshed followed by a move to Weston Creek, Russell Hill, Molonglo and Westlake. The couple had a large family – Lena 1913; Alice born towards the end of 1913; Roy [Snooks] 1917; Doris 1920; Stella 1922, George 1924; Laurence [Rouckie] 1934. There were three other children who were either still born or lived for only a short time.

Doris wrote a family story for *True Tales*. An excerpt follows: *My family moved to Westlake around 1929-1930. There was my Mum and Dad, my brothers, Roy, George and younger sister, Stella. My youngest brother, Laurence (Rookie) came about 1943. Old Dr Mollison came and delivered him.*

Roy, Stella and myself, went to Telopea Park School. We used to walk to and from school and catch the bus if it was raining and we had the penny bus fare. When we got home in the afternoon we had to take off our shoes and socks off to save wear and put up with cold feet.

There was a bad depression at that time – there was no work and there was no money. My father grew a good vegetable garden. My mother cooked well. She was always stocked up with home made jams, pickles and tomato sauce

(green tomatoes used for pickles and ripe for sauce). It was nothing for us to come home from school to have homemade bread and tomatoe sauce or pickles on the bread....

The people of Westlake were very friendly. They would do anything for you. I grew up and married a Westlake boy. We had six of our children there. Like my Tom and I they went to Telopea Park School. Then it was time for us to spread our wings – we moved to Ainslie and we had four more children there...



Above Tom Smith, husband of Doris nee Blewitt, with his parents and below left Doris with her brother, George Blewitt and right Tom Smith and below Doris with her brother, George Blewitt and right Tom Smith.



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13 BLEWITT, Roy labourer

7 BLOOMFIELD, Elsie hd

1 BOURKE, Bessie & Esmond hd & labourer
Rhona Bourke wrote the following: *Edmund John (Tozer) Bourke [father] was born at Adaminaby in 1905. His parents were Charlie and Maude Bourke. The Bourke family came to work and live at the Cotter River Power House Station when Tozer was a young boy. Afterwards the family moved to Oaks Estate where he met my mother, Bessie Lavinia Butler. She was born at Strahan Tasmania in 1907 and her parents were William and Blanche Butler who came to live at Oaks Estate when she and her brothers and sisters were young children. Her father worked for the NSW Railways as a fettler and was away from his family for long periods of time.*

My parents met and later married in Queanbeyan on 11th June 1926. They lived at a settlement in Canberra called Molonglo which has about a hundred or so houses there. They stayed in that area up to about 1936 and then my father took up a job with afforestation at Uriarra- past the Cotter River on the way up to Mount Franklin. My older brothers went to school at the small school [in the settlement]. There were only about seven houses in this small settlement.. We came back to Canberra [to Westlake] around 1941... We left Westlake about 1955.

25 BOX, Ernest labourer

The Box Family, by Gladys Box

Linda and Ernest Box originated in Victoria and came to the territory around 1924. With them came their two children, Gladys and William (born 1919. Exactly when the family moved to 25 Westlake is uncertain. The 1928 electoral roll lists Ernest's occupation as leadinghand. He worked first at the Power Station and then the weigh bridge and later as a night watchman. In 1939 Linda Box died.

Shortly after the end of World War II Gladys Box married her Victorian pen friend, Ron Bailey in Werrimul. Through Ron Bailey Ron Box met his future wife, Beryl Lorraine Bailey...Beryl was born in 1921...in 1946 the young couple returned to Canberra to live with Ron's father at 25 Westlake. Two children were born to Beryl and Ron during their years at Westlake – Graeme William (1948) and Sandra Lorraine (1950). Their third child was born in 1951 just after the family moved to a war service government house in Narrabundah...On one side of the Box family in number 24 lived the Ghiradellos – Ermina and Tony. They had two sons, Guido and Walter. Italy was the land of their birth...The Ghiradello family arrived in Canberra around 1920-1921 and lived for a time with the Capello family at Pialligo...When a house became available at Molonglo around 1923 the Ghiradellos moved and later when 24 Westlake became vacant ... Tony Ghiradello was a carpenter by trade and had worked from 1923 on the construction of the Provisional Parliament House. He was one of three Italians chosen to put together the Speaker's Chair which came in pieces. Someone complained with the result that the job was given to other men that included Robert Law of Westlake.

BOYD, Donald labourer

Don Boyd married Marjie Day of Briar Farm. He was a Westridge boy who lived with his parents in one of the ex-Molonglo cottages erected in the vicinity of the Forestry School in Banks St. He died on 6th July 1974.

48 BRAYSHAW, Margaret & Harry hd & labourer

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Mrs Brayshaw is remembered by many Westlake children who were scared of a tongue lashing by the lady if they were seen doing *the wrong thing*.

39 Perth Ave BURNS, Frederick nil

BYRNE, Elizabeth & Patrick hd & labourer Elizabeth Cawthorn of Braidwood married in Goulburn to Patrick Byrne. He was an Irishman from County Cork and following their marriage the young couple moved to Ballibah property near Braidwood where Patrick worked as a roustabout. Their next move was to Booroomba and later to Tuggeranong where Patrick worked for Bean (around 1919). Their first child, William was born there and was followed by Jack, Isobel, Allan and Frederick. Their next move was to Kambah and later to 41 Westlake. Fred married a lady who lived at 48 Westlake and this couple moved to 21st Street in Narrabundah. Patrick Byrne died at Westlake. He served in the Light Horse in World War I. Jack – son – enlisted in the RAAF and was killed over Japan towards the end of the war.

Below: Fred Byrne at Tuggeranong.



59 CALLAN, Beatrice & Gordon hd & shearer Adrie O'Neill of Westlake married Laurie Callan and wrote the following: *Gordon and Beatrice Callan and their children, Byrl and Laurie moved to No59 Westlake from Queanbeyan in 1937. Gordon was one of the younger sons of a well-known family in the Braidwood/Major's Creek District and Beatrice was the eldest daughter of the Hadley family who lived in Oaks Estate..*

Adrie was born at Westlake and wrote her story part of which follows: *My father Joe o'Neill and his brother, Leo, who were experienced miners, came to Canberra in 1913 to work on the Cotter Dam and Tunnel. Nearly seventy five years later Work Supervisor, Eric Lowes who had been involved in the inspection of the tunnel told me that he had seen their names on the tunnel wall. My Dad next worked on the Main Outfall tunnel and lost the sight of his left eye in an accident in the vent at Western Creek... My father who was later employed as a bridge carpenter, a labourer at the Power House and also as a ganger on the roads.. My uncle Leo was the first Union organizer in the FCT... Dad was Canberra's first book maker. He was registered with the Southern Districts Racing Association and was licensed to operate at all it's racecourses... My father was very aware of the hardships many families experienced in the harsh Depression days. He was one of the foundation members of the St Vincent DePaul Society in Canberra...I remember that we always had early dinner on Hospital-visit nights and on weekends he often left early in his truck with a friend to get a load of firewood – we never knew where the wood went...*

The O'Neill brothers were well known in the Canberra scene. Neil Joseph is mentioned in *The Hallowed High Adventure* by Father and later Monsignor McGilvray. In Chapter 9 entitled *A picnic at the Power House* the following was written - *The Power House Camp in 1914 was in the vicinity of Kingston's present Giles Street and thirty or forty labourers lived there in tents in fairly primitive conditions. About a third of the men were Catholics; and today a few of them remain to tell of the hardship and struggles in those days. Mr Joseph O'Neill, now of Yarralumla, survives and is brimful of memories and anecdotes and despite his age, he can regale a listener for hours in a most entertaining and witty manner... As "Joe" O'Neill puts it, "There was precious little about those days by way of buildings and the like." It appears the Power House was a mighty structure alone and out-of-place in a vast empty area..."Some Sundays we had Mass in the Recreation Hall at Duntroon in those days," Joe O'Neill reveals, "and it was a tidy walk across the flat. I remember the two altar boys, the*

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Chapman lads, fine boys both of them, and a credit to their father, Austin Chapman, the Federal Member for Eden-Monaro. Talking about Austin Chapman - he became Sir Austin later on, you know - well my uncle Patrick O'Neill was a kind of secretary and went all over the electorate with Austin on political meetings and the like. At a large meeting somewhere...my uncle made a speech of introduction and finished up with "And now I call upon Mr Chapman to address you..." They were his last words as poor uncle dropped dead with heart seizure." Mr O'Neill worked for a time in building the wood and fibro barracks at Duntroon Military College...

Mr Joe O'Neill had the distinction of being the groom at the second wedding celebrated at the new St Christopher's Church School. In October 1928 in the presence of Father Haydon, he married Elizabeth Higgins...

46 CAMPBELL, Dorothy hd

Mrs Campbell later moved into 47 Westlake. She was a very hard working woman who because her husband was often away brought up the children by herself. In the backyard of 46 there is still a small concrete slab in which is incised 1944 A Campbell 1944. Alexander Ian Campbell died 18th December 1986 and is buried in Gungahlin Cemetery. Mrs Campbell died 23rd June 1997 and is also buried in Gungahlin Cemetery.

5 CANNELL, Alfred labourer

32 CARN, Myra & Clifford hd & butcher
The Carn daughters wrote the following about their family – *After six years of marriage and two small children No 32 Westlake was the first residence our parents could really call a home of their own.*

In 1937 Mum (Myra) and Dad (Arthur) arrived from the small country town of Henty NSW where they lived with family members. Clutching their few belongings and two small children, Glennis (2 years) and Noel (1 year) the final years of the depression saw them living in a series of temporary Canberra residences. From

1937 until 1941 they boarded with the Matthew family at Ainslie, the Long family in Acton, rented a small cramped flat above the East Row Shops in Civic before they were compelled once again to share accommodation with yet another family. Lastly they boarded with the Oldfields who were the last family to live in the [now] famous Blundell's Cottage in the open paddocks with are now sentimentally known as the heart of Canberra...Brian was born in August of the year No 32 became home. Over the next eight years the family grew from five to nine – Jan being born in 1944, Deli in 1946, Rie in 1948 and lastly, Cherie in 1950.....

We moved to upper Westlake and into No54 in either late1950 or 51. We became the envy of those left in the 30s. We were now housed in a deluxe model fitted out with a sleepout, a verandah and wide steps leading up to the verandah. Glennis was the only one in our family to be married whilst living at Westlake..

Family Members

Arthur Clifton Robert 2nd June 1911[died in early in new century]

Myra Mary Martha 18th February 1915-8th March 1988

Glennis Myra 25th November 1935-29th January 1988

Noel 13th December 1936

Rodney February 1940 – 6th August 1940

Brian Robert 4th August 1941

Janet 16th January 1944

Delma Lynette 31st March 1946

Marie 21st September 1948

Cheyryl Kathleen 20th April 1950

44 CONVINE, Alice hd

In 1943 William Convine was absent on active service in the AIF. Bill and his wife met and married in England and came to Australia shortly afterwards. Their first job in Canberra was Mess Caterers at Molonglo Tradesmen's Camp. Their small son, Jackie, fell into a tub of near boiling water put on the floor for the men to wash their dishes and died. Another small child also died during the stay at Molonglo or shortly afterwards. In 1925 they moved to White City Camp, then to Queanbeyan before their move to Westlake.

Public Place Names (Forde) Determination 2007

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(No 3)

NAME: Convine Street; ORIGIN: Alice Maude Convine nee Worster (1899-1954) and her husband, William Isaac (Bill) Convine (1895-1973); SIGNIFICANCE: Canberra Community. Alice Maud Worster was born at Keithleigh, Yorkshire, England and William Isaac (Bill) Convine was born at Rawtensall, Lancashire England. Alice and William married in 1920.

William Convine served with the West Riding Regiment in France in the First World War. Initially a drummer, later a Lewis gunner, he was in the trenches for some years until badly wounded by shrapnel. After the war, and with two children, Alice and Bill attempted to migrate to Australia but Bill was unable to pass the medical.

The family movement to Australia began in late 1923 with Bill and his brother arriving first. They had worked for several years in cotton mills and paid their way to Australia. After arrival they tramped from Horsham, Victoria to Junee seeking work before turning to the ACT.

Alice came to Australia later on the Osterley in mid 1924 with her mother, two sisters, a brother (Horrie) and her two children (one baby, Verna, was the reason for Alice's delayed departure).

Alice and Bill managed the Molonglo Workers Mess catering for the 150 men who lived there from 1925 for two years. The Mess was mainly for workers on the first Parliament House. They were assisted in their catering by Jack and Horrie Worster (Alice's brothers) and substantial staff.

Alice and Bill had three children at Molonglo: Harold, Jackie and Verna. But the family suffered extreme tragedy when the younger two (Jackie and Verna) were killed in separate accidents at the Molonglo Mess. Verna, the baby, perished by falling into a tub of boiling water being used by a female staff to scrub floors and Jackie died from an accident in the kitchen of the Molonglo Mess. The couple had three more children after leaving Molonglo: Bill (junior), Geoffrey and Dion.

Bill Convine was involved with brass bands throughout his life and was a member of the Third Battalion in Queanbeyan as Band

Sergeant. Ironically in 1941, when the Japanese invaded New Guinea the Thirty Third was sent to meet them at Kokoda and Bill remarked, wasn't fit enough to be a migrant but now fit enough to fight. The Third Battalion was the first unit to physically stop the Japanese on land at a cost of 73% casualties. In 1944 after he returned to Australia and his discharge from the Army, Bill reformed the Canberra Band.

Bill retired as an attendant at Parliament House aged 65 and after a stroke at aged 72 was forced to retire from the Canberra Band. He lost part of the use of his left leg and couldn't keep up the marches.

Alice had an outstanding singing voice, was an avid short story writer and was well known locally as a clairvoyant. While working for the Red Cross she manned the Red Cross Tent every festival day, mainly at the old Acton Racecourse, where she read palms and cards for two shillings a sitting for the Red Cross. Many people sought out her forecasts and she was also conveyed to the Lodge for sittings on a regular basis.

Alice was a trained cook and specialised in pastry cooking including cake decorating; and after the worker's Mess she opened her own pastry shop. During the depth of the depression swaggies were never turned away without a Cornish pastie and a hot cuppa to help them on their way.

[Not mentioned in the article is that the Convine family lived at 44 Westlake in the 1940s.] The information above was given to me by Bill Convine (Jr) who now lives with his wife in Queensland. Bill has also published a book, *Jack the Dogger*- great tale! A photograph of Alice Convine and three children taken outside the Molonglo Mess before the sad deaths of two children is on the front cover of Alan Foskett's book – *The Molonglo Mystery*.

DAVIES, Eileen & Cyril post mistress & plasterer

DAY, Frances & Charles hd & foreman

Frances Day was nee Gallagher from Bywong and Charles from the Bungendore area. The couple moved into Briar Farm and remained

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there until the early 1950s. Alfred Charles Day [Alby – known as *Sunny*] died aged 49 years. He was buried in the ex-servicemen's section of Woden Cemetery on 5th March 1977. Charles Foster Day also died young and was buried in Woden Cemetery on 17th March 1948. In the same grave is Doris Irene Day who died 26th February 1982. In the next grave is Norman Leo Day who died 29th June 1970. Alby's son, Darryl Foster Day also died young on 1st November 1990 and is buried in Gungahlin Cemetery. Frances Lillian Day remarried to a man with the name of Campbell. She lived to old age and died 24th July 1986.

47 DAY, Islet, Harold & George hd, plumber & foreman

This family were not related to Charles and Frances Day of Briar Farm. Islet Maud Day was buried at Woden Cemetery on 15th July 1968. Her husband George was buried on 3rd February 1958 in the same grave with his wife. There are two Harold Day on the Woden Cemetery Burial Register and it is probable that the one named Harold George Day may be the person on this roll. He was buried in the ex-servicemen's section of 29th June 1979.

Nona Day wrote the following about her family: *My father George was born in Gunbar NSW and my mother Maude was born in Fredrington NSW. There are six children in the family, Harry (born Newcastle NSW), Rex (born Molonglo Settlement ACT), Nona (born Queanbeyan in Stornaway Rd) and Kevin (born Molonglo ACT).*

We lived at Molonglo for a few years. Dad used to ride his bike to Western Creek where he worked on the sewerage. He worked on shift work – sometimes starting at 10.30 at night and finishing at 7am the next day. He really had to work very hard in those days. Then we shifted from Molonglo to Westlake where Dad was a ganger on the Roads and Bridges. He sometimes would get only one week in two weeks work. I was only very young when we lived at Westlake. My brother and myself all went to school at Telopea Park. We had to ride our bikes because the buses didn't come into Westlake. We had a bus shed on the road called State Circle and the bus used to pick us up from there. But it was just as easy to jump on the bike and ride to school. [The bus shed was on

the corner of Perth Avenue and State Circle below the American Embassy. The old Westlake track roughly followed Darwin Avenue and followed Perth Avenue that now joins Darwin Avenue and down to State Circle]

53 DIXON, Elsie & Edwin hd & engine driver
The Dixon family was a large one and prior to moving to Westlake the family lived near the Power House in the Eastlake tenements (ex-Molonglo buildings) and then the Causeway before their move to Westlake. Earlier they lived in the Swagger Camp near the Power House and Molonglo Settlement.

Mr Dixon, who worked as an engine driver, died in 1944 during the time the family lived at 53 Westlake and following a fire that burnt this house down they moved into 42 Westlake. Of the family in 2008 only Shirley survives. Phillip Dixon was a good football player and received his nick-name of *Flip* because he used to put his hand under a player's foot and attempt to flip him over. He also trained and raced greyhound dogs.

Mrs Dixon was a quiet well-spoken lady who wrote with copperplate handwriting. The children born to the family are listed on Edwin's death certificate - Margaret May (Mrs R Hulme) 28, Clyde 24, Norah (Mrs Jackson) 22, Vincent 20, Roma 18, Keith 17, Phillip 14, Robert 9, Brian 7, Shirley 5. One girl, Beryl had died two years earlier aged 23.

Edwin Dixon died in his home at 53 Westlake on 27th March 1944 aged 64 years. Elsie died 17th December 1970 aged 70 years. The plaque on her grave notes that she was born in 1889 – died aged 80 years?

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Above L-R Myrtle Dixon, Colleen West and Monte Brooks (future husband of Myrtle)



Middle Photographs is Mrs Dixon. Bottom photograph is Shirley Dixon in the front yard of 41 Westlake and on the right the Briar rose front hedge in 1990s. In the background is 62 Westlake. The roads are still in Stirling Park.

60 DUFFUS, Mary & Alexander hd & labourer
Mrs Dufus was the daughter of Mrs H Johnson of 55 Westlake. Her father was a builder. Her mother died 22nd September 1939. Another family member who lived in Westlake was Neil Rogan. Mrs and Mr Duffus had one daughter who died in 1927 before her second birthday. She is buried in St John the Baptist Church Cemetery at Reid. They also had a son, Wilfred, who was nick-named *Plum Duff*.

12 GANE, Elizabeth hd
Mrs Gane was always known by her second name, Alma. She lived with George Sykes for a number of years and had a son, Harold Gane with him. Prior to her meeting George Sykes

she had a son, Alan Gane with her husband. Later she moved from 29 Westlake where she lived with George Sykes and moved into 12 Westlake. She later married a man by the name of Haywood.

Her son, Harold, wrote the family story part of which follows: *Mum was known as Alma Elizabeth Gane, nee Reedy and she was born in Bombala – one of seven children. Her parents were Thomas and Mary Reedy who had come out from Ireland some years before. Mum married Stan Gane, a New Zealander... My grandparents Thomas and Mary Reedy had a farming property near Bombala...[they left the farm and came to Canberra where Thomas worked as a labourer}. Their first home in Canberra was at Molonglo Settlement which had been used in 1918 to house non-naturalised enemy aliens. Later they moved to 21 Causeway and Granddad died about 1945.*

The whole yard of 29 Westlake was well fenced with a high fence at the side and back and a high well-trimmed pine hedge at the front...

Next door was No 30. The Wilder family lived there and I remember playing with Ray Wilder. He showed me the entrance to the air raid shelter in their backyard..

12 GANE, Elizabeth (Alma) hd



Above left Sally (Corey) Petty (left) and Alma Elizabeth Gane. On the right is Mrs Gane's eldest son Alan and his bride, Gwennyth. Alan died in early 2009.

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Alan Gane joined first the AIF and lied about his age. When he became officially old enough to join he then changed to the RAAF. He wrote his story for *True Tales*, but chose to write about his years playing one of his favourite sports part of which follows:

I was first approached about becoming a playing member of West City Football Team in 1946/47. As many men were discharged from the military forces in 1945/46 and there were other young men of appropriate age there were plenty keen to organise and compete in local competition. The Canberra League competition comprised first and reserve grades. Teams were entered from West City, North City, Causeway, Rovers, Souths and Eastlake Hostel. Selected players from these teams made up the Canberra representative team that played in Group 8 against Queanbeyan, Goulburn, Yass, Captain's Flat and Crookwell. As was tradition Canberra's Arch Enemy was the Queanbeyan Blues - no quarter given during the game but best of friends on completion.

West City was made up of people from Westlake and other areas as there were insufficient numbers from Westlake. I must say that our officials and supporters treated us well whether we won or lost...

Harold Thomas (Sykes) Gane wrote the family story. His father was George Sykes.

I was born on 11 December, 1938 at the Canberra Hospital at Acton and which is now part of the Australian National University. I believe that the building in which I was born was later used as the Canberra Film Theatre. The attending doctors at my birth were Nott and Holt. I was over eleven pounds at birth and Mum told me that I was about twice the size of Chiree Hingee who was born a week or two earlier than me.

Mum was known as Alma Elizabeth Gane, nee Reedy and she was born in Bombala - one of seven children. Her parents were Thomas and Mary Reedy who had come out from Ireland some years before. Mum married Stan Gane, a New Zealander and bricklayer/builder. The

marriage broke down and she left her husband and took with her my brother, Alan, who was thirteen years older than me. My father was George Sykes who had a son, Kevin by his first wife, June. Kevin is eight years older than me. At the time of my birth my mother lived with George Sykes as his common law wife and was known as Mrs Sykes...

My Father was George Stephen Sykes, born in Goulburn, grew up in Nimmitabel and arrived in Canberra in the early twenties with two Studebaker cars which with the help of his brother Gabriel he ran as taxis. I believe he had the first taxis in Canberra, but when official plates were made available three others were issued before him and he got Numbers 4 and 5. On the front of the taxi he drove he had a bell on the radiator cap with the word Nimmity above it and this became his nick-name. Kevin is also known as Nimmity and on the strength of this I backed a horse called Son of Nimmity and won some dollars...

In 1929 the Great Depression officially began and times must have been pretty tough because Dad disposed of his cars and had to go on the Suss - Sustenance Payments - which was like working for the dole. One of the jobs he did was with a gang building kerbing and guttering in Queanbeyan. When Dad had prepared a section ready for concrete the ganger asked him if it was ready. Dad replied, It's near enough. The ganger said, Near enough is not good enough, it has to be exact. Dad told him, Well, it is exact. The ganger then came back with Well that's near enough...

Another job he did for the Suss was planting pine trees. He told me that he planted a lot on the slopes of Mount Stromlo adjacent to the suburb of Holder. He then got a job at the Transport Department driving Thorneycroft trucks. Later he was made a ministerial driver and was allocated to the Prime Minister, Mr Scullin.

Mum and Dad met I believe at a Causeway dance which was a very popular event of the time. Mum liked to dance and by all accounts Dad was a fair exponent of the waltz. They struck up a friendship. They each had a young boy to look after and it seemed a good idea at

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the time for them to join forces and Mum moved into 29 Westlake. Kevin's mother, June (nee Braithwaite) by this time had remarried to Jimmy McKissock and lived at 5 Westlake...

At the rear of the house was a trellis or pergola with a grape vine that produced an abundance of delicious grapes each year. The pergola joined onto a summer room which was roofed over but quite open to the breezes and it was a very cool place to sit on a hot day. Behind the summer house Dad had his workshop and he was fairly capable with his hands and produced some quite useful things such as a long handled open-fire toasting forks and a billy cart complete with steering wheel. Alan told me that he used to push me around in the billy cart for hours and he had to keep telling me Steer it! Steer it! I would turn around to look at him and this would cause the steering wheel to turn and he'd have to quickly stop the cart to stop me crashing. One day he decided that I was ready for a speed run and we took the billy cart up onto the huge mound of earth near the sewer vent between Menzies House and Carns. This mound was known as the dump. Halfway down and the cart was really hooting but I lost control and the cart turned 90 degrees and the rest of the journey down the steep slope was completed by tumbling sideways. I had no recall of this - Alan told me about it as I was putting this story down so I must have had a pretty good bump on the head.

The whole yard of 29 was well fenced with a high fence at the side and back and a high well-trimmed pine hedge at the front. The hedge was a great place to hide. I could push my way into it and climb up on to a branch and sit there and no one would know I was there. People would stop outside the hedge and I am sure that if I could remember the gossip I heard this yarn would be quite interesting to a lot of people...

25 GHIRARDELLO, Erminia & Tony hd & carpenter

8 GIBBS, Violet & Henry hd & bread carter
Yvonne Arnall (nee Gibbs) – she mentioned that her mother was a sixth generation Australian

and was descended from second and third fleet convicts.

My earliest childhood memory is of Queanbeyan where my father moved to manage a butcher's shop owned by Alf Swan...At the time we were living at 23 Campbell Street. Dad owned and trained greyhounds, racing them at the Queanbeyan Showground. Sometime later we moved to a sheep property at Weetangera. Each day Dad cycled into the Civic Centre where he was working at Hayward's Butchers. Following this we relocated to Dr Nott's property, 'Lindfame' Narrabundah Lane, Narrabundah.

Dad was never one to let the grass grow under his feet, had commenced work at Canberra Bakeries. It was at this time that we met the Corsini family when they moved into the main farmhouse on the property. The family had recently moved from No 11 Westlake following the sad and tragic loss of their young child who had been involved in a vehicle accident. It was from here that I started school going to Telopea Park Infants Section...

Not long afterwards we moved again, this time to 8 Westlake. I clearly remember our arrival. The house looked fine to my young eyes but I remember Mum bursting into tears saying, 'It's a horrible green colour!'

It was while we were living at Westlake that Dad joined the Royal Australian Airforce to be stationed first at Bradfield Park in Sydney then later in Darwin and onto Borneo. I was during these early war years at Telopea Park School that I remember them digging the air raid trenches; it must have been hard going as the school was built on orange clay. Then when they were finished we would have air-raid drill. Everybody would file out of class and then down we would go into the trenches to crouch down on this clay. A few of the trenches had duckboards but not all. Then when the all clear sounded out you would come and try and clean the clay from your shoes before going back to class...

Larry Rawson who lived in Number 9 would make a tin boat, which unbeknown to Mum we would take down and launch in the Molonglo

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River down along the Golf Course. It was great fun to find golf balls in the rough – some were lost and others we made out were lost – then take them back to the Golf Club House where we would sell the good ones...

William Richard Gibbs born 18th January 1912 Kelsey St Arncliffe – died 9th March 1990 Cronulla. Married 2nd June 1934 at St Barnabas in Broadway (Sydney) to Violet May Barratt who was born 19th May 1912 at Marrickville and died 15th December 1983 at Balboa St Kurnell. The couple's ashes at interred at St Thomas Enfield.

23 GODLEY, Lydia & Arthur hd & nil
Lydia Ann Godley was buried in Woden Cemetery 18th September 1948 and Arthur was buried in Woden Cemetery 2nd July 1958. The couple lived with their daughter and son-in-law, Mabel and James Poulter. The last family to live in 23 Westlake was the Bondarenko family.

9 GRANT, James labourer
James Grant married Lucy Bellchambers of Westlake. His sister-in-law, Muriel Grant was killed in a car accident 8th May 1940. She was 23 years of age.

Charlie Law knew the Grant - he wrote – *Jimmy and Sandy [Grant] were great characters. Jimmy was a gentle giant and hardly ever picked a fight, but he would fight anyone who picked on his mates. He became so good the famous Sydney boxing trainer, Ernie McQuillian trained him. Jim won a couple of fights but got homesick and returned to Canberra... I think Jimmy was the only survivor of the terrible accident near Murray's Dairy which killed Roy 'Snooks' Blewitt, Alf 'Streaker' McDonald and Alice Smith, all of Westlake.*

52 HAINES, Ada & William hd & labourer
Daughter, Hazel Kennedy, wrote the following: *Ada Maria Flanagan was born in 1907. Her parents, Mick (Michael) and Ada (nee Brennan) had a farm at Naas where Ada Maria was born. She married William (Bill) Ronald Haines sometime around 1925. Bill and Ada's eldest son, Lionel, born in 1928 was named after Bill's eldest brother who died in France during the First World War...Ada and Bill Haines' children*

are: Lionel, Cedric (Peg –deceased), Edward (Teddy), Kevin (Moby –deceased), Hazel, Max, Mervyn, Lawrence (deceased), Dawn and Trevor. Hazel was the first girl in the family and the first child born at Westlake was Teddy. Peg continued in his father's footsteps and became a champion boxer. The family tradition has continued with Dawn's two sons, Brian and Terry Cooper...

My father came from Tasmania and my mother's mother was German and her father Irish. Dad and Mum married in Queanbeyan and lived at Gunning. Dad got a job planting trees at Mt Stromlo during the depression and they moved to Ainslie Camp and lived there for a few years. Mum told me it was hard living in a tent. She had to make her mattress out of hay and straw. She sewed two chaff bags together to make the cover. She had to change the hay and straw every three to four weeks. She made the boys' mattresses the same way. Mum didn't have much to cook in – she used a camp oven. Then they got moved to Molonglo. Mum thought it was wonderful to be able to cook on a wood stove. Dad got a job at the Brickyards. One pay day Dad lost all his pay. It fell from his pocket and went into a brick! His workmates took up a collection. Peg one day printed – P Haines – into the soft clay of an unfired brick. It was later used in the front wall of George Southwell's government cottage in Banner St O'Connor. It was found one day when Vi and Lionel Haines moved in next door and saw it.

Around 1933 the family moved to 52 Westlake and then we all came one after another. Mum had nine boys and two girls. We had it tough with a big family. We had sad times and good times. I NEVER regretted living at Westlake.

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Only a few of Peg's Boxing Trophies have survived the years. Some of the stories of his nephews' careers appear are published. One such article appears in a July, 1979 issue of *The Canberra Times* which in part states: *Terry Cooper was very unlucky to lose on points to Joey Franck, of Sydney. A three time school boy champion Franck has had 34 bouts to Cooper's four. Cooper is a definite contender for a State Title next year on his performance against the State Champion James Willingham, of Newcastle...* Terry later went on to beat James Willingham. *The Canberra Times* reported this win and stated that *His [Terry] effort spurred boxing authorities to comment that he was a potential amateur title holder.* Brian Cooper also went on to become an outstanding boxer.

15 HAMILTON, Cletus & Harold labourer & labourer

At the time of his death on 12th February 1944 at Uriarra Cletus Hamilton lived at Westlake with his common-law wife and children. He is buried in Riverside Cemetery in Queanbeyan. In a book printed by the Queanbeyan Councils on the cemetery the following information is provided: He was the youngest child of Lucy Harriet (nee Hush) and Roland Hamilton. He was born at Braidwood 3rd July 1910. His mother died 28th April 1946 and was born at Little River on 30th September 1877. Roland Augustus Hamilton, son of Ah Yot (Sam Hamilton) and Martha (nee Rockwell) was born at Jembaicumbenen on 23rd November 1874 and died at 11 Cobb Crescent Ainslie on 20th June 1952. Other family members also buried at

Riverside are Jessie Irene Hamilton born Braidwood 13th November 1874 and died Canberra 2nd March 1935; Annie Myra Hamilton born Braidwood 13th May 1906 and died 17th March 1935 at Canberra. Catherine, wife of George Hamilton died 1st April 1924 and Ida Agnes Hush born 1898 died at Queanbeyan 25th January 1922 and Verna infant daughter of Barry and Rita Kathleen (nee Hamilton) Blundell died circa 1934. Catherine Hamilton nee Shepherd – previously Mrs Charles Hush, was born at Braidwood 2nd February 1859 and died at Queanbeyan.

55 HARRINGTON, Edith & John hd & labourer
Mad Punters by Ronnie O'Rourke – *Cocky:*
We had some small and big time punters living at Westlake when I was growing up – mainly two bob punters and ten shillings and one pound for the big punters. Lofty (Harrington) the SP Bookmaker and his wife would take all bets on race horses every Saturday and Public Holidays. During the years between 1930 and 1950 there were hardly any race meetings held on any other days. Sometimes Lofty would have to ring up other bookmakers to cover himself. My late brother, John, used to place some big bets with him. Sometimes he would win and that used to make Lofty very unhappy because lots of money would have to be paid to other punters too...Lofty would pay someone to keep an eye for any police coming into Westlake... and that is how Ronnie got his nick-name – he used to sit in the fork of the big gum outside the house to keep an eye out for the police – he was the Cockatoo.

Lofty would pay someone to keep an eye for any police coming into Westlake. I don't think he ever got caught but may have without anyone knowing. [I did find one fine of a Mrs Harrington's reported in The Canberra Times.] I think the fine those days was a big donation to the churches. Lofty and Eddie Harrington had no children but that didn't stop them from joining in with other families and having lots of fun in the Westlake Hall - dances, cards and many other activities. Lofty worked in the Government Transport situated near the old Kingston Power House. I can still remember Lofty driving a

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Government truck every Labour Day Picnic. He would be one of the transport drivers to take children of all ages to the Cotter River for our Annual Labour Day Picnic that we always enjoyed. Those days will always be remembered.

Lofty was only a little man, but he would not take any back chat from anybody big or small when you put your bets on. When Lofty had a bad day with the SP Book, punters would stay clear of Lofty with any jokes but if he won, he and Eddie would be as happy as Larry. At the end of the day, win, lose or draw, everybody would be the best of friends again until the next race meeting. One thing for sure, somewhere, someplace out there in the new world, you can bet you last dollar or ten bob that Lofty and Eddie will be waiting for all punters to have their bets ready like the good old days. May we remember the good times spent with Lofty and Eddie and all the other punters. Lofty and Eddie were a long way ahead of most punters with the SP Book. All that remains to be said is Well done Lofty, Eddie and others from all the punters at Westlake...

36 HAWKE, Florence & Andy hd & labourer Valerie Clarke (nee Hawke) wrote the following: In the early 1920s two generations of the Araluen family of Hawke left their homes to seek work in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) where miners were required to work on the newly reopened sewer. Father and adult sons were taken on the payroll but instead of working underground they were employed to drive steam driven engines and work with horse and drays. A number of the boys joined the Sewer Football Team much to the delight of the sewer foreman, Jeremiah Dillon, who is still spoken about by many as the Father of Football in the FCT.

The patriarch of the family was Henry Hawke. His wife's name was Letitia. They had a family of ten – seven boys and three girls – all of whom were adults when the family left Araluen. Henry and Letitia Hawke and their married son, Andy (Andrew) and his wife Florence May (nee Ginn) lived for awhile at Molonglo before moving around 1926 to Westlake. Henry and Letitia moved into 18 and Andy and May into 41. The

latter couple later moved to 36 where they remained until 1957. Another son, Bert Hawke, for a time lived in 40 Westlake and during this time married Phil Higgins.

Letitia Hawke died during the time the family lived at Westlake and sometime later Henry met and married an English lady named Suzie. Henry worked as a boilerman at the Hotel Canberra. In 1956 Henry and Suzie left Westlake. He outlived his son Andy by a few years and died aged over ninety.

May and Andy Hawke met and married in Araluen where their two eldest children, Bill (William 1922) and Keith (1925) were born. Bruce (1927), Marjie (Marjorie 1929) and Valerie (1931) arrived during the time the family lived at Westlake...Near the site of the backdoor of 36 Westlake is a large gum tree. From it Andy Hawke (later I was told it was his son Bill) strung up a wire for use as an aerial for the radio. Part of it still hangs from the branch.

Val Clarke nee Hawke told her family story – part follows:

Val Hawke recalled that 36 Westlake was a small boxlike unlined timber cottage. It had two bedrooms, a kitchen and living area and at the back a combined laundry/bath/toilet and a sleep out. In the backyard there was a good veggie garden and fowls. Two fruit trees, apricot and apple along with a healthy grape vine supplied fresh fruit in season and the family cow - milked by Bruce was kept up in the area of Stirling Ridge where a concrete floored milk bail building was constructed for use by Westlake people. The floor is still on the hillside near the sewer vent.

Near the site of back door of 36 is a large old gum tree. From it Andy Hawke strung wire [Val's daughter, Lorraine, said the wire put up by Bill before going to WW2] for use as an aerial for his wireless. Part of the wire still hangs from a branch as a silent reminder of the family who lived below.

All Andy and May Hawke's children attended Telopea Park School which catered for all levels from Kindergarten through to the Leaving

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Certificate (Fifth Year). From 1939 students attending Telopea Park School who wanted to continue their studies after the Intermediate level had to transfer to Canberra High School on the other side of town.

Westlake children had to walk from their homes up over the hill past the American Embassy (built in early 1940s) to State Circle where they caught the school bus. In later years a bus shelter protected children from the elements whilst waiting but as most had to walk anything up to a mile from home during wet weather many arrived soaked to the skin. The reason given for not bringing the bus into the settlement was the state of the road - track. It was bitumened in the 1950s and then the school bus did come into the settlement. One pickup point was in front of 27 Westlake.

The cost of the school bus fare each way was one penny. If a child missed the bus or wanted to save the penny then a bike ride or brisk walk over Capital Hill past the Capitol Hill Hostel (built in 1925) was the norm. Until the post war extension of this men's hostel it consisted of a few cubicles and mess room painted a dull fawn colour. Mrs Berry was the Mess Caterer in the late 1940s.

The girls' uniform during Valerie's years of attendance at Telopea Park was black serge tunic with three pleats back and front, white blouse, tie, panama hat with black band, white socks and black shoes. During winter the socks were replaced with black stockings which were held up by very uncomfortable elastic garters. At the time when Valerie attended high school at Telopea there were two academic levels - A & B. In the former in addition to Maths, English etc, Business Principles was taught. The girls in the B class learnt Home Science (Cooking and Sewing) and Physiology. This class did not sit for the Intermediate Certificate Examination held at the end of Third Year which was an external examination set as was the curriculum by the NSW Department of Education. Valerie remembered a few of the names of her high school teachers - Mr Fry, Mr Wynn and Miss McCrea who taught Sewing. In the early years there was no tuckshop in the school that Valerie could remember. Most children took

sandwiches for lunch which had spreads such as marmite, cold meat and tomato. When questioned whether or not she had soft drink at home or school the answer was No. Water was the liquid drunk. This was the norm in most family households at this time. Sport was an important part of school life. Each week one afternoon was devoted to organised sport - usually team games or tennis. In Primary it was held on a Friday and in High School, a Wednesday. Valerie's sport was basketball and many of the competitive games held against other schools were played on the courts on the flats at Acton below the hospital.

The Hawke children were permitted to swim in the Manuka Pool but not in the river which was considered by her parents to be too dangerous - a number of people had drowned in it. Valerie's girl friends were Byrl Callen, Patsy Corie, Lauris West, Norma McIntyre and Margaret Campbell (sister of Lenny and daughter of Katie and Don Campbell who lived 54 Westlake before the departure of the West family). Valerie and her sister Marjie liked children and often looked after the youngsters Carmel Maxwell and Gary McFadzgen

Valerie recalled other facets of daily life in the settlement. Meat, bread and milk were delivered daily and vegetables, fruit, and groceries weekly. On a Thursday a man from JB Young called to take the grocery order which was then delivered on the Saturday. Every Friday a man - SO Taylor (?) called with suitcases full of clothes, linen etc and in case he did not have what was wanted or required mail order catalogues from David Jones, Mark Foy's, Grace Brothers, Marcus Clark, Wynns and Beverfall contained photographs and order forms for goods which ranged from clothing to hardware. The photographs could be recycled by cutting out to be pasted - using flour and water glue - on to the brown paper covers of school books. To keep food fresh the Hawke family had a Coolgardie hanging safe under the apricot tree and a cooler in the ground in the back verandah. It consisted of a concrete lined hole about three feet deep by one foot across. Over the top was a wooden cover. In it was kept the butter and milk. It was a very efficient. For those who had an ice chest ice was delivered twice a week. It

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was rare for anyone in the settlement to own a refrigerator in these early years.

The Westlake Hall was the centre of many of the activities of the community including the Euchre Evenings when people turned up to pay a small entrance fee, play for an evening and hope to win a small cash prize. Dances, church services, baby health centre etc were also held in the hall and when Valerie planned her wedding to Victor Edward Clarke in 1952 a Kitchen Tea was organized and held in the hall. No invitations were required - all came! Each guest brought a present, a plate and the will to have a good time dancing to the music supplied by Jack O'Brien on his squeeze box.

Val's wedding was held in St John the Baptist Church of England at Reid. Her bridal dress was the traditional long white gown made from satin with lace and her bridesmaids were her sister, Marjie and sister-in-law, Joan. Following their marriage Valerie and Victor lived for a short time with her parents until moving to Duntroon where they remained until 1975 before moving to their present home at Giralang.

Strong ties remained with Westlake and when her first child, Lorraine, was a few years old, husband Vic drove them twice a week over to Westlake Pre-School held in the Westlake Hall. Valerie visited her parents whilst her daughter played. By the time the next two children, Marcia and Raymond, were born the ties with Westlake were gone.

Marjie, Valerie's sister married from Westlake and had the usual Kitchen Tea in the hall prior to marriage to Frank Rundle. Marjie died in 1996 from cancer. Her husband, Frank Rundle predeceased her by a few years. He was born at Duntroon and through death lost his mother whilst quite young. During the period of World War II during the time when his father was in the army Frank Rundle lived with his aunt and uncle, Mary and Jack O'Brien of 51 Westlake. He and Marjie didn't go together then. They met later. They have four children. Val's brothers all married. Bill to Eileen Gallagher of Queanbeyan and has two children, Keith to Fay Campbell of Westlake and has four children and

Bruce to Joan McGowan of Canberra and has one child. All live in Canberra.



Above is a April 2007 photograph showing in the centre of the photograph the old gum tree outside the lavatory door of 36 Westlake. Careful examination of one of the branches shows a wire put there by Mr Hawke [Bill Hawke before he went off to WW2] as an aerial for the family radio. The plaque, photographs etc on the left are in the grounds of 29 Westlake. Background left is the hedge between 38 and 39 Westlake. The hall site is behind the photograph board.

Canberra Times 20th April 2007 – death notice of Valerie Letitia Clarke nee Hawke. She died at Hervey Bay on 19th April 2007 – late of Westlake, Duntroon, Girilang and Hervey Bay. Val was born on 19th February 1931 and married Victor Clarke who survives her. Her funeral was held on 26th April at the Crematorium in Canberra. The ashes of her sister, Marjorie and husband Frank Rundle are in the grounds of the Crematorium.

Val's son wrote the following poem that was published in the same paper:

*Drift away mother to a place from before
To the steps of your childhood along Molonglo
shore
Up through the paddock to old Westlake where
Andy and May still wait at the gate
There's Bill, Bruce and Keith, Marjorie too
Don't hurry mother, they wait for just for you
I'll ask one more time what sums up your life
cares, protector, mother and wife
Something you said that made you stand tall
Friends and family are sacred, family is all
Take my hand mother to a place from before
Let your soul rest in peace along Molonglo shore*

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Your loving son, Ray
Val's husband, Vic, also wrote a poignant poem to Val's memory.



Above Andy Hawke with baby Keith

18 HAWKE, Ruby, Susie & James hd, hd, & engine driver

4 HENDERSON, Dorothy typist

3 HUNT, Nellie & Matthew hd & carpenter
Mrs Hunt was one of the Post Mistresses at Westlake.

Story written by Ann Gugler nee Austin

The Postmistress, Mrs Hunt, dripped the heated red sealing wax on to the back of the envelope. She then picked up the metal stamp by its wooden handle and firmly pressed it into the liquid wax which cooled quickly leaving an official pattern indented into the surface. Mrs Hunt was Westlake's fourth Postmistress. The first was Mrs Law who took up the position in 1927 followed by Mrs Brill of 22 Westlake and later by Mesdames Davies, Hunt and Patterson. This occupation was considered by the Commonwealth to be a suitable job for married women.

Each Post Office was established in a room off the added on verandah of the post mistress's

cottage. There was a counter and on the wall opposite it, shelving divided into compartments into which letters were placed. Each had a letter of the alphabet marked clearly below or above it.

My memories of the Westlake Post Office were brought to the surface when I met our last Postmistress, Mrs Nell Patterson, at the Back To Westlake Day in November, 1997. During the chatting she mentioned that she had been born at Dunedoo - the same small township as my mother. To use the old cliché - It's a small world!

26 JACKSON, Nora & Cecil hd & labourer
Nora Elise Dixon was born 9th January 1919 at the Power House Married Quarters Camp. She died 16th October 1976 in Canberra. Her parents were Elise Kathleen and Edwin George Dixon. Her parents married 16th May 1914 at Lockart. Her mother was born Canowindra 25th November 1891 and died 16th December 1970 at Bentham St Yarralumla. Her father was born at Rushworth Victoria 21st September 1880 and died at 53 Westlake on 27th March 1944.

Nora married in 1936 to Cecil George Jackson at St John the Baptist Church at Reid in Canberra. His occupation at that time was hedge cutter. He was born 28th May 1905 at Parramatta, son of Cecil Jude and Selina Caroline Jackson. For the first few years of their marriage they lived at Manuka in one of the small flats or houses attached to the shops. Later they moved to 26 Westlake, where sadly, the first girl born to the family died as a baby and the second little girl was either still born or died shortly after birth. The family later moved to 3 Westlake – an ex-post office that had a verandah – that gave much needed extra room for the large family.

In 1942 George (always known by his second name) Jackson enlisted in the AIF. He was described at being five foot six inches tall, black hair and blue eyes. I recall that he was a tall thin man. He was demobbed on 30th September 1944 and then continued to work for Parks & Gardens. He died 19th September 1960 aged 54 years. The children listed on his death certificate are: Cecil Charles 25, Alan Thomas 22, Robert Arthur (Mick) 20, Edward Stanley 16,

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Reginald 16, Joyce Emily 10, James Stephen 8.
The baby Robin, who died aged about 12 months would have been around 12 years if she had lived. Edward died in 1993 aged 48 years and Alan in 1995 aged 56.



Above is a photograph loaned by Cecil Jackson that shows Baby Joyce Jackson and her mother Nora (nee Dixon). Until Joyce saw the photograph and identified it we did not know which Jackson child Nora held. It could easily have been Mick or one of the others.

61 JAKS, Madeleine & William hd & labourer
Mr Jaks had trained in Scotland (12 year apprenticeship) in cabinet making and made and sold furniture. The couple lived by themselves in Westlake and following Mr Jak's death Mrs Jaks moved to Causeway.

Nancy Medcalfe arrived in Canberra in 1941. She went to Adelaide for two years before returning to Canberra in 1946 where she married. Her story details some of the difficulties in finding accommodation and her letters to her Mother re her success in obtaining furniture tell of her meeting with the Jaks family – excerpts from the letters follow:

20.11.46 .. Last Saturday afternoon I went over to Westlake (an old part of Canberra) hidden behind a hill. I hadn't seen the place before as it is away from the road. I saw an 'ad' for some furniture in "The Times" (Cedar and Queensland maple) for sale and I thought I'd go and have a look. I caught the No 1 bus and got off at the Embassy [American] and walked along the road past this huge building through gum and scrub

trees- quite a long walk till I came upon this little hollow where [there are] about one hundred tiny little green weatherboard houses something like workmen's huts. It was an eye opener to me. Their gardens were quite gay in some places, others not much. At last I found No 61. It was like the other little places except that it was covered with a rambling rose and on the gate a notice, "Beware of the dogs. They may bite". I wondered if I would venture in to knock at the door and then just decided I would, when a little boy playing in the road called out that they were dangerous dogs and I had to throw a stone on the roof and then the people would come out. I asked him who lived there and he told me "Mr and Mrs Jaks. I didn't know whether I could hit the roof if I tried, so my little friend threw a pebble for me. Open flew the door and out came an old grey haired man to greet me - Mr Jaks. He proved to be quite a nice old chap. I thought he may have been a dealer, but it appeared that he made most of the furniture himself. - Most of it was in Cedar and Maple and was very nice. Furniture is a terrific price now as you know and Canberra's prices are worse than other cities. Cusacks is the only furniture store in Canberra. This old chappie's stuff was cheaper than that of Cusacks. He ushered me into a four roomed house two rooms of which were choc-a-block full of furniture. He had a few odd occasional tables, dressing tables etc - a dining suite for sale and a bedroom suite which he had just made for someone. The bedroom suite was ninety pounds (maple) and the dining room suite was fifty pounds. Even those prices were less than Cusacks our only furniture store in Canberra and this was solid not veneer. Mr Jaks took me out and showed me his workroom - an old shed out the back, also his garden which was full of veges. Mrs Jaks was in the background - a big fat woman. Mr Jaks was born in Poland and at an early age went to Scotland and did his apprenticeship there - 12 years in those days at two shillings and six pence per week. I may go over there again one day when Ron can come too...

35 JOHNSTON, Daphne & Cecil hd & labourer
Eva Johnston, daughter of Daphne and Cecil wrote the family story part of which follows: *Cecil and Daphne Johnston moved into Westlake in 1941 as newlyweds. For Daphne it was her*

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first marriage, for Cecil a second marriage. Cecil was a widower with five children. The eldest of the children, Fay, Peter and Jimmy moved in with them, Mavis and Peggy the two babies continued to live with their grandparents at the Causeway. Three years later I was born followed quickly by Ray, Gayle, Bill, and Moya – five children in five years including twins.

In 1954 tragedy struck the family, nineteen year old Peter died suddenly, internal hemorrhage the doctors said. [Peter – known as Macca had been in a motor bike accident]. Cecil did not deal well with the death, within three months he was diagnosed with cancer of the throat, and died just two years after his son. Sadly that was not the end of it, just six months later, Fay, at the age of twenty-three was killed in a road accident, leaving a husband and three small girls behind.

In 1998 only Peggy of the first family is still living. Daphne died in 1982. Moya also died in 2007 or 2008. Daphne moved from Westlake to Acton with her children and part of the story told by her daughter Eva mentioned that Daphne had been a nun in an enclosed order but ill health was the reason for her leaving the order.

31 KEIR, Enid, George & Thomas hd, nil & surveyor's chainman
Thomas Keir died following a heart attack on his way to work. He was buried in Woden Cemetery 8th January 1953. His only child, Ilma Henskens wrote the following: *My father, Thomas Keir was born and raised on his father's property in the Bywong area. After shearing and other farm jobs he became a chainman with the Survey section of the Department of the Interior at Acton. This is where he met and married my mother, Enid Tucker who was a secretary at the Department of the Interior. They married and built a house at Queanbeyan where I was born in 1929.*

Then came the Depression and men were being put off in Canberra and the first ones to go were the men who lived in NSW. Because he worked for them for so long they gave him a job with the NSW Survey Department. Dad had to go to work on the Wyanglo Dam and came home for

weekends. By this time I had started school in Queanbeyan.

Dad then got us accommodation in Cowra and we moved there for six months. After that Dad was given his old job back in Canberra. Dad wouldn't go back to Queanbeyan because he was worried that he could be put off again if he didn't live where his job was. She shifted to Westridge and rented two rooms from Radcliffes and I started school at Telopea Park. I must have been at three schools – in Kindergarten, Queanbeyan, Cowra and Telopea.

Dad was a friend of Horace Cleaver and one day he said to Dad, 'I'm shifting from Westlake why don't you shift into Number 31?' And that is what we did. About a fortnight later Dad went to the Interior and said, 'Number 31 is empty, can I have it?' And they smiled and said, 'You wouldn't be there already would you?'...Over the years we nearly always had someone staying with us. When Mrs Champ for 34 or 35 died Mum asked Sam and Joe [Champ] and their relatives to come down for meals. After the relatives left Same and Joe still came and then Sam asked if he could fill in our back verandah and move in...

One thing I remember was the day we were raided by the police. The Kinnane's next door were the SP Bookies. The Police came in the front door and out the back before they realised they had the wrong house. Dad laughed and said, "They won't find anything now!"

Moved into Horrie Cleaver's place - first hire car owner/driver in Canberra.

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Ilma, shown in the photograph above at Westlake, died 3rd June 2006. She was born 21st January 1929.

10 KELLY, Ada & William hd & bricklayer
Yvonne Arnell (nee Gibbs) wrote: *Mrs Kelly lived at No 10 with her husband, Bill, who was a bricklayer. Aunty Kell provided board for Sandy Lands and Stan who were both brickies as far as I can recall. [Hobart Sandilands & Stan Austin]. The Kelly family had no children and when the couple moved from Westlake their two boarders moved with them.*

23 LAW, Howard ps
Howard Law was always known by his second name – Charles – Charlie. He wrote about his family part of which follows: *Thomas Law, a free stonemason and Christian Hogg lived in Bennettstone Polmong Parish Stirlingshire, Scotland. They had seven children, one of whom was my grandfather, Thomas Junior who was born in 1837. The family migrated to Australia in 1846 and settled in Benambra Victoria where Thomas senior ran a hotel.*

Thomas Jr became a farm labourer and worked on a property called Tulloch near Mickleham Victoria. Ella Jane McKee who was born in Ireland in 1828 arrived in Australia in 1849 and worked on the same property as a servant. Thomas and Ella married in 1857 and moved to Euroa where several of their progeny were born. One of their sons, was my father, Robert Lawrence Law who was born in Arcadia Victoria in 1867...Robert Law.. married Esther Crow in 1892 at Strathbogie Victoria... the couple had ten children. When Evelyn, the tenth child was born in 1912 the family moved to NSW,

travelling by way of sulky and wagon, sleeping in a tent by night with some of the boys preferring a tarpaulin under the wagon...

When the family moved to Canberra we left Sydney by train at about 10pm and I will never forget the freezing cold that greeted us when we stepped off the train at Queanbeyan at about 5am on a July morning in 1924 [Robert had come to Canberra earlier and lived at the Tradesmen's Camp at Westlake] It must have been well below freezing point and we were not dressed for such cold conditions...We were met by a man called Fred Brown who helped us load our ports into his tourer car...The trip to the Tradesmen's Mess was uneventful except for the cold. Here we were greeted by my father Robert who helped us to a raring fire in the mess and after a cup of tea we began to thaw out. It was Saturday morning and Dad was taking up to our new house after breakfast. He had been allocated No 23.

It was about 9am when we set out on the short walk to our new home. We waked along the slope of a hill – Howie's Hill, and down the other side over a dry creek to a flat bit of ground and on the lower slope of another hill was a row of timber houses. They all seemed the same – box like with a set of plain timber steps in the centre leading up to a door...

In 1927 Westlake was granted a semi-official post office which my mother ran from our house. A verandah was built right across the front of the house and a room enclosed at one end, with a door from the verandah. Mum had access from the inside though our lounge room which had a door cut into it. She had the post office for sometime and after that the Brills who lived next door took it on...

During the years my father worked at Parliament House he helped to assemble the beautiful Speaker's Chair...

I did not send Charlie Law (one of the original 1924 kids of Westlake) a Newsletter last year. He had moved. In early February this year I received a letter, photograph and 1931 programmes from him – and a new address.

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Above is a copy of one of the photographs that Charlie sent. The costumes were made by his mother and we won first prize. We were in 6th class. Charlie identified the girls – Barbara Bossence, Gwen Pinner, Jean Miller, Laurel, Joan Joiner, Olive Marchant, Florence Winterman.

20 LEECH, Florence & Eric hd & cleaner
Mrs Leech became a widow shortly after the death of her son, Neville who died after diving into the Acton Swimming Hole in the Molonglo River. Later her daughter and son-in-law died in an accident on a level crossing.

45 McCAULEY, Hilton porter

Hilton McCauley married Eileen O'Rourke and after the Tschannen family moved out of 45, Hilton and Eileen moved in. Jane O'Rourke, sister of Eileen, married Ernest Tschannen. Eileen and Hilton married in May 1943. Hilton McCauley of 45 Westlake (home of his parents-in-law, Cornelius and Annie O'Rourke) paid for the grave of his infant daughter Dawn who died aged one week on 3rd March 1944. The child is buried in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery.

13 McDONALD, Clifford labourer

7 McDONALD, Spencer labourer
Spencer McDonald let out the house in later years and lived in a shed in the backyard.

22 McINTYRE, Evelyn hd

11 MacKENZIE, Valerie & Colin hd & milk vendor
Colin MacKenzie arrived in Australia in 1921 from Scotland – the land of his birth. His mode

of travel was Catalina. He was nineteen years old and paid for his own passage. In the early 1930s he married Valerie Norris. She was the daughter of the owner of Bogola Station (about one hundred and twenty miles from LakeCagellico) where he worked as a stationhand.. Three children were born to the young couple during the time they lived on the property – Danny (1934 deceased), Barbara (1936) and Ailsa (1938) – a premature baby. The primitive conditions – in particular the heat – threatened the life of baby Ailsa with the result the family packed up and came south to Canberra where Colin found work in the police force. Their first home was in Queanbeyan in Federal Avenue and then to Number 11 Westlake where they remained for the next four to five years. One of Ailsa's fond memories is meeting her father – Pop – at the top of the hill and being allowed to ride her father's push bike down to Number 11.

5 McKISSOCK, June & James hd & labourer
The father and mother of James (Jimmy) McKissock lived next door at No 4. He died in 1942 and his wife some years earlier in 1925. John McKissock married a second time to a lady with the first name of Maud. The notice in the *Canberra Times* in 1942 gave the names of John McKissock's children – Archie, Isabelle, John, James, Andy and Molly. Lynette McKissock, daughter of James and June wrote the following: *My name is Lynette Ada McKissock and my parents and I moved into No 5 Westlake when I was about two years old... No 29 – George Sykes (Nim) had previously been married to my mother, who arrived from Sydney in 1927. They had a son, Kevin – Young Nim – who was born in 1931. He lived with his father and the two of them regularly came to No 5 for family lunch on Sundays...*

No 4 was the home of my grandparents, John (Jock) and Jessie McKissock where they resided from 1924 until Jock died in the early 1940s. The family migrated from Argyllshire Scotland around 1910 with my great grandparents, Jock and Isabella. My grandparents, Jock and Jessie arrived in Australia with three children, Archie, Bella (Isabella) and John. They subsequently had James, Mollie and Andy. The men were mainly bricklayers and stonemasons... They [other families from the same area] all settled at

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Duntroon where my father James was born in 1913.

Ronnie O'Rourke wrote the following about Archie McKissock following his return from the second World War.

Archie McKissock [of Westlake] who ran the SP Book at the Hotel Canberra used to hold a lot of money when the races were on so if you wanted a bet - go and see Archie at the bar. There were other SP Bookmakers in all the other hotels due to fact that there was no TAB in those days. Archie had a good offsider looking after him. He held a high position in a government force. I could remember one day Archie telling his offsider to put everything away because he saw the police outside the hotel. His offsider then told Archie that it was not his turn to get caught so it was alright to keep on taking bets as if nothing had happened. But the Police Force had a secret squad called 21 Division. They used to raid all SP Bookies in Canberra without telling anyone what they were doing and many did get caught when the division came up from Sydney. The ones that did get caught paid a very big fine.

Kathie Lee (nee Dunn) whose mother was Mollie nee McKissock wrote the following:

My mother, Mollie, was born into the McKissock family. She had four brothers - Archie, John, Jim and Andy - and one sister, Bell. My mother often talked of her days growing up in Westlake. Her mother died in 1925 (aged forty) when my mother was only nine years old so her sister Bell became the family Mum. Mollie and Bell remained great friends all their lives although Bell married (to Richard Dockerty) and lived in Newcastle. My mother lived at Kingston after her marriage to Walter Dunn. I am the eldest and have two brothers, John and Jim who have always lived in Canberra...

Next photograph: Jock McKissock, his second wife Maud, daughters Belle (left) and Molly (right) and grandchildren.



6 McVEIGH, Leslie labourer

56 MARTELLO, Katie hd

43 MAXWELL, Margaret & Norman hd & horse driver

Norman Maxwell was the uncle of Arthur Maxwell who later moved into 56 Westlake with his wife, Dorothy and daughter, Helen Carmel. Peggy [Margaret] was a teacher before marriage and Crow was a horse and dray man. The couple had two children, Tommy and Margaret. Tommy joined the AIF and was a most highly decorated soldier.

Arthur, Dorothy and Carmel Maxwell were moved to Sydney during the war where Arthur worked on war work. The family lived in Anzac Parade. During the years they were in Sydney, their house, 56 Westlake was subleased to others. Arthur died 7th August 1988 aged 80 years and is buried in Gungahlin Cemetery. He was born in July 1918 and as a young man served in the Light Horse. Carmel wrote the following: *Extract from the Parliamentary Debates, Senate, Thursday 19th August 1977 – Retirement of Principal Attendant (Senator Byrne, Tasmania) – I shall be very brief in addressing the Senate on a matter that I feel should be drawn to the attention of the honourable Senators. I rise tonight for the purpose of a valedictory to a very well respected and long serving member of the staff of the Senate, Arthur Maxwell, who is on the eve of retirement after thirty years of service of the Parliament. Arthur Maxwell joined the Joint House Department in 1947 and transferred to the Senate in 1950...He became Principal Attendant in 1958.*

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The gate to the land was on the right hand side of the house. Opposite it and near the back of the land was a garage. Here in later years the family Bedford Utility was housed. The woodheap was behind the garage. Anyone who entered the back of the house would come up the drive and enter a passageway covered with a grape vine which led to the back door. One would pass a room added to the back of the house. It had windows with opaque panes of glass. This room was used as a dining room. On the other side was the combined laundry/bathroom/toilet. Carmel's room was off the kitchen and in it was a large white sheepskin rug and on the neatly starched and ironed floral cotton bedspread.

Shortly after our first meeting the Maxwell's moved to Anzac Parade Kingsford in Sydney. Mr Maxwell who was medically unfit for the army was transferred to Sydney to work in a munitions factory. At the end of the year the family returned to Westlake where they remained until around 1949 before moving to Hackett Gardens in Turner.

In 1950 Carmel's grandmother - always called "Mother" left Briar Farm to move into a cottage in Braddon. Mother and Father - Francis (nee Gallagher) and Charles Foster Day had moved into Briar Farm cottage in 1927. Their youngest child, Claude, was born there. Carmel's mother, Dorothy is the eldest of the Day children. She was followed by Marjie (married 1 Boyd & 2 Chicker Archer), Phyllis (married Harry Oldfield), Alby (married Dorothy Green) and Claude (married Beryl Shiels). Father died in 1948. The cause of death was cancer. He had worked for many years as a surveyor's assistant and was responsible for looking after the track between Westlake and Hotel Canberra.

At one time Marjie and Don Boyd lived at 48 or 49 Westlake. Nearby in No 43 was Norman and Peggy Maxwell - brother and sister-in-law of Arthur. They had two children, Margaret and Tommy. Norman was a horse and dray man. Peggy drove a utility. She used to pass her annual driver's eye sight test by memory rather than sight. At one time a nephew, Norman Geary joined the family group and for a time worked on a horse drawn delivery van - with

piping hot bread - baked in a wood fired oven. On one occasion a loaf fell off the back and before it hit the ground it was gathered by numerous children and devoured.

Carmel attended St Christopher's Convent School. The uniform initially was black tunic with a large collar and black bow. It later changed to a dark blue tunic, blue blouse and striped red and blue tie. The sports uniform had a blue tunic and white blouse. St Christopher's was a co-educational school run by nuns. Failure to learn an appropriate text in history often resulted in detentions on a Saturday morning. One lady feared by many was Sister Stanislaus - who may have in reality a very kind person.

The river was a part of life - it was there to swim in and sunbake on the suspension bridge which joined the two sides of the Royal Canberra Golf Course. Some tin canoes were borrowed at various times and fun was had with the old swing which consisted of a tyre tied to rope. It swung from a branch of a willow over the water. Walks across to Black Mountain and bike rides out to the Cotter were not unknown and the all important bush around our cottages were integral to the playlives of all children in the Settlement. The bitumen surface of the old road presented a firm surface for hopscotch, cricket, rounders and other such games. Another favoured pastime was sliding down the sides of the chalk dumps - not good for shoes if one was wearing them. Nearby to the sewer vent dump were areas of land which were dug out. These places formed convenient windbreaks in which to sit and light fires in hastily constructed fire places. Once darkness fell a game of hide and seek was carried out on many evenings. The most exciting evening was the bon fire night held on Empire Day (later called Commonwealth).

A half day holiday was given to commemorate this day but instead of lessons the children were bused or walked to the Capitol Theatre at Manuka where numerous boring speeches were given followed by a war film. The real part of the day began in the evenings when the bon fires were lit and great numbers of fire crackers were lit. During the festivities of the evening

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many of the local letterboxes were blown up with the aid of penny bungers.

Arthur Maxwell recalled the names of a number of people who may not be on rolls who lived at Westlake – they include: Hilton Bourke, Harmer, Don Campbell (Martello) and Baker.

16 MENZIES, Eric labourer

28 MENZIES, Olive hd

Olive and Eric Menzies married in 1934 and their first home in Westlake was at 16 before 28 became available. The latter had open land next to it where a milking cow could be kept. Eric came from Italy around 1920 and became an Australian Citizen who fought in the AIF during World War 2. He changed his name from Marco Enrico Menegazzo to Eric Menzies. Olive died aged 83 and Eric lived to his late 90s.

Fay and Sylvia Menzies wrote:

Mum (nee Dawson) and Dad were married at St Christopher's Church, Manuka 18th August, 1934. Mum originally came from Nagambie Victoria and Dad from Innis, Italy. They lived at Charnwood Station Hall, Hillside Farm and Lanyon Station, Tharwa before moving to 16 Westlake after the birth of their first son, Neville in 1936, after which there were eight other children. (One died two hours old.)

We grew up as a close family. We all did our chores around the house and garden when we were old enough. We grew our own vegetables and we had chickens which supplemented our meat. Mum made spaghetti, cheese and butter. We owned two Jersey cows which gave good rich milk that I used to put through the separator for the cream to make butter. Mum also made jam, pickles and preserved fruit and vegetables. She also made most of our clothes and knitted jumpers, so we were mostly self sufficient.

Neville being the eldest boy had the responsibility of the chickens, wood and gardens when dad was working or in the Army and I (Sylvia) being the eldest girl helped mum with the younger children and the housework. I also milked one of the cows and Neville milked the other morning and night. Even with our chores

we still had time for play, either marbles, cricket or football or sliding down the[earth] dump on the seat of our pants along with the other kids in Westlake. We all played together as mates do. It wasn't boys with boys and girls with girls, it was mixed.

As our family increased we moved from 16 down to 28 where there was room to extend on the house. There was a room built on to back near the kitchen for Neville and after a time the Housing Department put a cubicle at the back which we curtained off and made into four rooms, so the sleeping arrangements were a lot better.

We all went to Telopea Park School, although I went to St Christopher's for awhile but I didn't like it as all my friends were at Telopea, so I left and went there too (dad wasn't very happy). One Saturday afternoon a month Neville and I were able to go to the movies at Manuka. When things got a bit better financially we went every Saturday but we had to earn our money before we could go. As the other children grew the work load was easier for Neville and myself as Ray, Jim and Fay were able to help and Neville got himself a job at Johnson's Poultry Farm in Narrabundah before and after school. After a few weeks he was able to buy himself a bike to ride to and from work. I remember borrowing the bike one day to go on a message for mum and I was racing down a hill and hit the wrong brake. I ended up over the handle bars plus I got two stitches in my chin and told off by Neville. I also had to carry the wood and kindling in for a week for him. (I didn't touch his bike again.)

I can remember the first time a bus came into Westlake, the parents had been trying for a long time to get the school bus in there but without success. Leslie had been sick with bad stomach pains but the Doctor told mum there was nothing wrong with him he just didn't want to go to school - so mum sent him but he collapsed at the bus stop and the driver of the bus turned the bus around and brought Leslie home. He was admitted to hospital with acute appendicitis... The school bus started to come into Westlake not long after Leslie's first operation.

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Entertainment for adults and teenagers was quite good. The ladies would arrange a card night or bingo either held in one of the houses or in the hall. Mum and a couple of her friends would make sandwiches, cakes and scones along with tea and coffee. These nights were usually held on Wednesday and Friday nights. Once a month a dance would be held, music was supplied by Jack O'Brien and his squeeze box. Everyone came, from babies in prams to grandparents. Supper was provided by the ladies. No alcohol was allowed and everybody had a good time.

The kids always had a good time, especially riding their billy carts down the dump at the side of our place. Mum always closed her eyes. She was sure one of them would break their necks one day, but they didn't. We also used to go swimming down in the river at the old Royal Canberra Golf Club. The boys would dive for golf balls and then sell them to golfers or to the club house. Sometimes they would hide in the reeds and get the balls that landed in the river and sell it back to the person that hit it. Cracker night was the best night of the year. There would be three bonfires built - one at the top, one behind our place and one near the O'Rourke's place [No 45]. They were lit at different times. Ours was the last because it was the biggest (maybe because we used to nick the branches off the other ones). We used to throw embers and cook sausages on a stick. It was great fun and nobody got hurt. Maybe a few letterboxes kind of blew up but that was to be expected. They just replaced them until the next year.

Delia was named after her Godmother, Delia Keirnan (Murphy), wife of the Irish Ambassador in Canberra. Her husband was Delia's Godfather. Delia Murphy was a famous Irish ballad singer and her records were often played on radio 2CA. She was a regular visitor to our house. Some days arriving around 7.30 am to have breakfast with us before school and then help mum with the housework and take her out shopping or up to the Embassy for the day. Both Dr and Mrs Kiernan used to attend the church service in the Westlake Hall on Sundays. Mrs Kiernan was also my sponsor at my confirmation. Mum always brought her friends to the kitchen and business and such was

conducted in the lounge room. She always said if you wanted to have a good and real conversation (nag) and a cuppa, the kitchen was the place to do it otherwise it's too formal and I still find that true today.

The Menzies Family - Birth & Death Dates:

Eric 26.4.1906 [died nearly 100]; Olive 20.5.1914 - 25.8.1995; Neville 7.7.1935; Sylvia 7.9.1937; Raymond 26.7.1938; Jimmy 18.12.1940 - 31.7.1995; Leslie 26.1.1942; Fay 28.1.1944; Joyce & John 20.10.1946 (John lived for 2 hours); Delia 23.8.1948...



Above – Menzies family at the ceremony for the unveiling of the plaque and sign L-R Leslie, Neville, Sylvia (Cleveland) and daughter, Shiralea – 27.11.1997.

49 NEWTON, Allan labourer

19 NEWTON, Edith hd

51 O'BRIEN, Mary & John hd & labourer

When I (Ann Gugler nee Austin) met Jack and his wife they were already an old couple - retired. Jack's musical abilities with his squeeze box were always in demand and he played at many an engagement and wedding party including mine. They had one son that I knew, Jimmy. Mrs O'Brien - Mary (nee Rundle) was famous for her abilities to read the tea leaves and I have been told that many came to her to drink her tea, have the leaves read and left behind around a quarter of a pound of tea.

I came across a photocopied story about the O'Brien family. The source was not noted on the paper hence I cannot acknowledge the author. This document supplied the following

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information about the O'Brien family. Jack's parents were Catherine McIntosh and Matthew O'Brien. They married at Yass in 1882. Following Catherine's death at Hall in 1929 Matthew moved in with Jack and Mary O'Brien at 51 Westlake. Matthew died on 23 August, 1937 at Westlake. Following is part of his obituary:

The death occurred at Westlake on Monday of Matthew O'Brien aged 83 years, who had spent the whole of his life in the Canberra District. Born at Ginninderra, the late Matthew O'Brien was a son of Mr & Mrs O'Brien who selected land there nearly a century ago. Prior to the resumption of the Federal Capital Territory by the Commonwealth Government, Mat O'Brien was employed as a boundary rider for many years by EG Grace of Gungahlin. As a young man, the late Mr O'Brien was a crack pidgin shot, and took a prominent part in local sport fixtures as a foot runner, cricketer, tennis player and footballer. In recent years he was a member of local quoits teams. In the early days of the district, when a man was judged according to his ability as a horseman, Matt O'Brien and his friend the late Pat Curley of Mugga were recognised as one of the finest horsemen in the district... The family of six sons and two daughters, is well known in the district, all the sons residing locally. They are John, William, Matthew, Andrew, Francis and Sidney, while Mrs Casey resides at Murrumburrah and Mrs Hennessy at Sydney. There were 37 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

During the war Frank Rundle of Duntroon whose mother had died, stayed with his uncle and aunt O'Briens at Westlake. His father joined the armed services for the duration of the war. Jack and Mary left Westlake in the late 1950s or early 1960s to live out their lives in the Goodwin Homes.

38 O'REILLY, Ethel, Jean & James hd, bus conductress & labourer

Ethel May O'Reilly was buried in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery on 17th September 1944. Her grave was paid by James O'Reilly of 38 Westlake. Ethel was 47 years of age at the time

of her death on the 15th September 1944. James Cardinal O'Reilly was buried on 1st June 1962 in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery.

James Cardinal O'Reilly (1887-30.5.1967) and his wife Ethel (nee Wallace 1897- 15.9.1944) lived at 38 Westlake. The following information is quoted from a booklet put together in 1988 by Jim O'Reilly's grandson, Mark O'Reilly.

James Cardinal O'Reilly put pen to paper to produce perhaps hundreds of poems some of which survive. He like his neighbours, the Hawke family - came from Araluen where he worked as a sawyer cutting logs for the gold dredges.

Jim O'Reilly moved to Canberra a few years before his family. In 1924, Ethel and daughters, Jean, Norma and Betty joined Jim and moved into 38 Westlake. Two sons, Max James and Terry were born during the years that the family lived in Westlake. Jim O'Reilly worked on the sewer and later the roads. Following are a few of his poems.

Memorial to a Leader

*Now dry your eye, old Laborite,
Though our loss was nation wide
For one who fought for worker's rights
Has crossed the great divide:
And though we mourn our loss today
For our leader who has gone,
I fancy I can hear him say,
"Old Comrades, Carry On."*

*Yes, carry on; we'll carry on,
To seek the things he sought;
For right to triumph over wrong,
The things for which he fought
For justice and equality,
For people to unite
And hand down to posterity
The world that's ruled by right.*

*To realize what he achieved, in just one single day
And wonder why a nation grieved when Chifley passed away.
He proved himself a statesman, a leader of the best,
He'll rank among the great men, like Lincoln and the rest;*

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*For discussions over the banks
We feared would wreck the crew,
He closed the rift in Labor ranks
As only he could do.*

*Through storms that tossed her fore and aft,
And many a dangerous shoal,
He safely steered the labor craft
Onwards to her goal.
To leave behind a memory that time shall not
erase,
For in Australian history he's earned an
honoured place;
And generations yet unborn,
Men of another day,
Will read of how a nation mourned
When Chifley passed away.
And when his monument they seek,
They'll visualize the scene
From Kosciusko's simmering peak
To fields of verdant green.
The worker's quiet contentment,
The children's merry song,
A time enduring monument,
When Chifley walked along;
To enter silent portals
With a life's work bravely done,
To rest with the Immortals -
Australia's noble son.*

45 O'ROURKE, Annie & Cornelius hd & labourer

The couple had a large family. Cornelius is buried in Riverside Cemetery. Frank (Francis) O'Rourke the eldest son of Cornelius and Annie died on 13th August 1955 aged 36. His grave in Woden Cemetery and that of his grandfather, Samuel Henry Whittaker were paid by John William O'Rourke of Bonney Street. John was the second son of Cornelius and Annie. Samuel Henry Whittaker was 90 at the time of his death on 23rd October 1954 and lived at Sutton Road.

O'Rourke Girls of 45 Westlake. by- Moya Strickland nee O'Rourke

The O'Rourke Boys are Frank, John - married with four children, David married with three children and Ron married Betty Bradley and has two boys and a girl - Colin, Kelvin & Kerry. (All boys deceased)

The O'Rourke girls are:

Lilly - married Tommy Williams and has four children, Lorraine, Margaret, Warwick and John. They rented No 37 Westlake for awhile. **Mary** - married Leon Blundell (related to Blundell's Farm) and has eleven children - Faith, Freddy, Patsy, Leonie, Mary Ann, Dawn, Robin, Roslyn, Peter, Michael & Gregory (deceased). **Jane** - married Bernie Shannon and has two girls. **Eileen** - married Hilton McCauley and has four children - Lance, Laurie, Robert & Debbie **Valerie** - married Don McGrath and has two girls. **Moya** - married Don Strickland and has three children - Kim, Terry & Mark.



Above l-r Des West, David O'Rourke & John O'Rourke outside the Hotel Canberra . The hare probably became lunch.

DAVID O'ROURKE (as told to me, Ann Gugler)

David was born on 5 June, 1927 at the Queanbeyan Hospital. At the time his parents, Annie (nee Whittaker) and Cornelius O'Rourke lived at Uriarra Station where Cornelius worked as a shearer. Prior to the move to 45 Westlake the O'Rourke family lived at Molonglo and Eastlake.

Aged thirteen or fourteen David got his first job as a kitchen hand at the Hotel Canberra. His day commenced around five in the morning and ended around ten in the evening. David's first task of the day was to light the coke burning stoves. He earned around one pound two and

sixpence per week (two dollars, twenty-five cents). The basic wage for a man was between four and five pounds per week (eight to ten dollars). The hotel used top line chefs many of whom were imported. David recalled that one was German. The money was poor even for them. David also mentioned that the majority of the staff were floating - that is they were not permanent and local staff came only when needed. When the hotel was full it employed around eighteen housemaids. As work became available at the hotel David was joined by his brothers, John and Ronnie...

David talked about the old days at Westlake and one topic which is common to us all is the golf links. It is probable that every Westlake child collected golf balls and sold them to the golfers. Some worked as caddies and received a sum of one shilling and nine pence for each session carrying the heavy bags. Another well known Westlake identity was Spencer McDonald. His services with a gun were used to dispatch the crows which liked to pick up the golf balls and shred them with their beaks. Spencer's dog was also trained to find golf balls.



Above Ronnie O'Rourke taken in the early 2000s

Ronnie O'Rourke 45 Westlake "Big families were in most houses at Westlake. We all played together until dark and then were told to get ready for bed. I remember playing with the Haines boys one night. When Mr Haines told the boys it was time to come and get ready for bed no one took any notice. So the next time he came out of the house with a big razor strap and belted all the boys on the backside – me included. We had all placed bags on our heads so he did not recognize me and apologized for

getting me mixed up with his family. **Mad Punters** We had some small and some big time punters living at Westlake when I was growing up – mainly two bob punters and ten shillings and one pound for the big punters. Lofty Harrington, the SP Bookie and his wife would take all bets on race horses on every Saturday and public holidays. During the years between 1930 and 1950 there were hardly any race meetings held on any other days... Lofty and his wife lived at 55 Westlake. They had two big trees near their place and they were a good lookout for the police coming into Westlake. He always paid someone to keep an eye out for vehicles that looked like police cars..."

Brief History of the O'Rourke Family (Ronnie O'Rourke)

My family moved from Uriarra Station where my father worked as a station hand. We moved to Westlake around 1927-1928. I was born at the old Acton Hospital where the John Curtin School of Medical Research at the Australian National University is now situated. My sisters, Valerie and Moya were born at the same hospital. All my other brothers and sisters were born in Queanbeyan. However, as a family we all lived at Westlake until our late teens. Three of my sisters later married and lived at 37 Westlake. When one family member moved out to another accommodation another family member would move into No 37 and so on. My brother and my sister's husband who were in the army together used to play up a fair bit when they had a beer or two and got drunk. Everytime they went missing, my other sister's husband who was a Provo in the army, would go searching for them. One time he could not find them. Suddenly he heard a noise and found the missing pair sleeping below the manhole. They both received the same punishment handed out to others even though they were related to a Sergeant in the Army Police Force.

When we were growing up as kids we had enough food. If you were short of any food, your neighbours would always help and provide. The people of Westlake were united in every way. For pocket money we would find golf balls and sell them, or caddy for the golf professionals. Sometimes we would get two shillings and that

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was really big money. The golf course and river were just below our house, where we had a lot of fun besides earning our pocket money.

There was a man called George Blewitt (nicknamed Carrots). He used to carry a lot of money in his coat pocket. Everytime he went into the river swimming for golf balls he would put his coat beside the river but nobody would dare touch his coat because he owned a big blue dog. He would tell the dog to bite anyone that came near his coat. Some tried, but alas did not succeed.

Big families were in most houses at Westlake. We all played together until dark and then were told to get ready for bed. I remember playing with the Haines boys one night. When Mr Haines told the boys it was time to come in and get ready for bed no one took any notice. So the next time he came out of the house with a big razor strap and belted all the boys on the backside - me included. We had all placed bags over our heads so he did not know I was not one of his family. On removing the bags he recognised me and apologised for getting me mixed up with his family. He had a family of ten or eleven children...

33 PATTERSON, Ellen & William hd & transport driver

PATTERSON STORY by Norm Patterson

Just a brief story of how and when myself and family came to the Monaro district. It was about 1940 when we left Forbes Gilgandra area. Forbes is where I was born. Our home was three canvas tents pitched on the Gudgenbey River at a place called Naas.

Before I went to Telopea Park School we were educated at Ted Oldfield's property at Top Naas. From Naas we moved to Wentworth Avenue Kingston, next to Westlake and then to Narrabundah, Ulladula - Melbourne and back to Queanbeyan where I live today. Queanbeyan is where I have no intention of leaving.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, I have been asked to write a narrative concerning my time which I spent in Westlake from about 1941 to 1954.

These thirteen years to me I regard as probably the most enjoyable and educational years of my life. I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to all the people whom I have the greatest respect - and while I have not contacted or seen them in a very long time my thoughts are always with all of you.

We moved in 33 Westlake about January 1941 and we left in January 1954 (I think). To my best memory this is the summary of the people who were residing at Westlake in those years. I will try and put these names in alphabetical order. If I miss someone, my sincere apology. First in the A we had the Austins, Atkins, Then Bell, Bellchamber, Boyd, Blewitt, Bourke, Byrne, Carne, Campbell (2), Sally Corey, Callans, Convine, Duffus, Ganes, Gibbs, Gregory, Harrington, Haines (Bill) - he had about half of Westlake's population with nine boys and two girls, Hawke, Jackson, Johnston. I have overlooked the Dixons and the Ghiradello's (sons Wally & Guido), Calabria, Brayshaw, Keirs, Menzies, Maxwell (Arthur), McKissock (Archy), McCauley, Maxwell (Wick), McIntyre, MacKenzie, O'Rourke, O'Reilly (three lovely girls), O'Brien (Jack - He was our squeeze box musician at any of our local dances or functions). Sorry - Charlie Day and all of your family and the other Day family whom I believe were no relation. Patterson, Peasley, Pennington, Purtell, Reynolds, Rawson, Rhodes, Smith, Sykes, Summerfield, Wilder, Walters, White, Wests. For all of these people I have the most utmost respect. Some of these men and women with some of their advice I still to this very day I do honour and cherish, like nobody could explain...

42 PEISLEY, Mavis & Charles hd & gardener

Peisley family lived in No 42. They arrived sometime in the late 1930s or early 1940s. The parents were Mavis and Charles Peisley. He worked as a gardener. The two children are Gloria and Ken.

40 PENNINGTON, Eliza, Douglas, Herbert & Thomas hd, dairyhand, labourer & farmer

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Above Top: Mrs Pennington and son Herbert and below, Doug and Herbert Pennington



The son-in-law of Douglas Pennington, Wayne Applebee, wrote the following:

The best thing would be to start with the head of the family at 40 Westlake. Thomas James Pennington died while still living at Westlake. He died from a heart attack down at the railway station on 26th February 1948. He was born at Narango NSW on 6th January 1883. He came to Westlake from Newcastle where the farm that he owned was resumed for a new suburb of Newcastle. Eliza Emma Pennington, nee Brown, born 1880 Waterloo NSW left No 40 Westlake some time after 1949. She moved with Herbert James (Bert) her eldest son to Flat 1, 36 Batmans Street Braddon. Eliza died on 9th May 1961 and is buried with her husband Thomas at Woden Cemetery in Section C Presbyterian grave 074. Herbert (Bert as he was known) was born in 1916 at Toowoomba Qld. He later married Kathleen French. Bert died 27th September 1994. Douglas Baker Pennington born

Toowoomba Qld 28th June 1918 while living at Westlake married Emily Betty Protingale born South Melbourne Victoria 15th July 1924. They both lived at Westlake till 1949 when they moved to 22 Hackett Gardens, Turner...

14 PETTY, Henry labourer

34 PETTY, Sarah hd

Sarah Petty married 1. Ernie Corey, who during World War 2 was absent in the forces. He lived at 34 Westlake. Sally married 2. Henry Petty.

Ernie Corey was buried in the ex-servicemen's section of Woden Cemetery - he died on 25th August 1972. He married Sarah Jane Fisher in 1924. She died on 18th February 1978 and is buried in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery. Ernie and Sally divorced and in 1940 Sally married Henry George Petty. Henry was also known as Sid De Saxe and Duntroon work records of civilians working at the RMC notes that a S De Saxe worked there in 1924. His parents were Louisa (nee Ponting) and Alfred A Petty. Records held in the Australian War Memorial notes that Sergeant Henry George Petty aged 41 (born 17.5.1902) died Sunday 21st November 1943 - Son of Alfred Arthur and Louise Phoebe Petty, husband of Sarah Jane of Canberra - Buried at Thanbyuzayat War Cemetery, Myanmar, Grave ref A5. G. 2. Sergeant NX 57356 AIF 2/30 Bn. He enlisted in Sydney 12th April 1940. Ernie enlisted in AIF in World War One on 13th January 1916. He gave his mother's name as next of kin - Mrs Ellen Corey of Bombala Street Cooma. Ernie Corey also enlisted in the Second World War. The AWM documents show that he was born 20th December 1892 and enlisted for this conflict on 23rd September 1941. He was discharged 11th October 1943. Ernie named his daughter, Patsie, as his next of kin.

Sarah did not have children. She and Ernie Corey adopted a girl - Patsy who later married George Blewitt of Westlake. He died on 7th September 1965 aged 38 years. Patsy died in her forties? and her children were brought up by her second husband. .

Kevin Sykes 29 Westlake - *Ernie Corey was my Godfather and Sally [his wife] was my*

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Godmother. They lived at No 30 at the time of my birth in 1931. I had a lot to do with Ernie over the years and enjoyed every day of it. I feel very privileged to have known Sally and Ernie...Ernie possessed a very fertile mind when it came to telling stories about the depression years. He told me that one of his get rich schemes was to breed black and white cockatoos. He got one of each (male and female) and put them in a cage. Nothing happened for a long time because they didn't seem to like each other. Ernie said one of them must be racist. Eventually they mated and the hen laid six black and white eggs. He went to see his bank manager to try and borrow money to go into business. The manager came to see the eggs and decided to invest in these rare birds at once. Three weeks along the way they hatched. You won't believe it – there were three white ones and three black ones...

4 POULTER, James dairyhand

23 POULTER, Mabel hd

9 RAWSON, Ruby & William hd & labourer

6 REYNOLDS, Clarice cleaner

Mrs Reynolds was a widow. Her husband's name was Thomas Francis and he died whilst they still lived at Russell Hill. He was aged 35 years at the time of his death on 18th August 1929. Mrs Reynolds had three children and her brother William Chapman moved in with the family to help out. *Johns Churchyard* Jean Salisbury REYNOLDS, Thomas Francis. A carpenter living at Russell Hill, Canberra, was married to Clarice Ruby Reynolds (nee Chapman) and was the father of three children, one of whom was born in 1927 and baptized at St John's the following year. Thomas Francis was 35 years old when he died on 18 August 1929...

57 ROBINSON, Ethel & Amos hd & labourer

The Robinson family lived in 57 Westlake and prior to that at Russell Hill. Their son, Clarence Lander born at Candelo, was killed in an accident on 15th July 1930. He was 17 years 11 months. He like Thomas Reynolds is buried at St John the Baptist Church Cemetery in Canberra. Reference *St John's Churchyard* by Jean

Salisbury. Amos Herbert Robinson was buried in Woden Cemetery on 29th December 1944. He was 61 years of age. Ethel Grace died 8th July 1977 and is buried in Woden Cemetery. Ethel Grace Robinson of 57 Westlake paid for the grave in the Anglican Section Woden Cemetery of William Amos Hughes who died on 15th October 1951 aged 5 months. He lived at 22 Tyson Street Ainslie. A headstone in Woden Cemetery is to Ethel Grace Robinson died 8th July 1997 aged 93.



Above is a photograph of Mrs Robinson and children taken probably at the time the family lived at Russell Hill

39 SALON-BURNS, Dorothy waitress

10 SANDILANDS, Hobart carpenter
16th July 1960 H Sandilands 74 Scrivener Street O'Connor paid for the grave of William Henry Kelly of the same address died 16th July 1960 aged 76 years. C/E. Hobart Sandilands boarded with the Kelly family and moved with them when they had to leave Westlake

20 SCOTT, Eileen & Thomas hd & labourer

No 20 was rented in 1924 by the Leech family. Mrs Leech's only son, Arthur Neville aged 14 was killed after diving into the Acton swimming pool near Lennox Crossing. His death date was 15th March 1930 and he is buried in St John the Baptist Church Cemetery. He was born in Queensland. Reference *St John's Churchyard* by Jean Salisbury. Mr Leech died shortly after his son. Florence Leech was buried in the

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Methodist Section of Woden Cemetery on 2nd July 1969. Florence Leech's daughter was Eileen who married Thomas William Bryan Scott and for a time lived with Florence. They were killed in a level crossing accident and were buried in the Methodist Section of the Woden Cemetery on 5th August 1955. They shared the same grave. Thomas was 39 years of age and Eileen, 37. They were killed on the 11th August and their address was given then as 16 Cunningham Street Kingston. Their grave was paid by Emily Scott of Sutton.

9 SEWELL, Thomas labourer

15 SMITH, Alice hd

19 SMITH, Annie & John hd & labourer

17 SMITH, Doris & Thomas hd & labourer

Colin Smith, eldest son of Doris and Thomas Smith was born on 30th October 1939 in the old wooden hospital at Acton (now part of ANU). He was followed by Roy, Stanley and Pauline who were all born at Westlake and then another six to bring the numbers of children to ten. During chats with Colin and his parents, stories about the extended family living at Westlake were told. Both sets of Colin's grandparents lived at Westlake along with uncles and aunts. When Colin was three at the time the family lived near the top of the hill, he decided that he wanted to visit his grandparents Smith, then living at the foot of the hill at 49. His mother didn't believe him, but young Colin got into the family car, stood on the seat, put the vehicle out of gear and let off the brake. He went through the gate and managed to make a sharp left turn before rolling down the hill to his destination. He just missed a large gum tree that today still stands in the grounds of the Finnish Embassy. Colin also has fond memories of playing football with the *Midgets* which perhaps should have been renamed *Westlake* because 9 of the players came from there.

Colin recalled that his grandparents Smith – Jack & Elizabeth, along with their children, Jack, Bessie and Tom, arrived in the territory in 1918. They travelled in a horse drawn caravan from

Bombala and set up house on sites near Oaks Estate. Later they moved to an area near the south side of modern Kings Avenue Bridge. The flood in 1925 moved them up the hill near to the site of the St Mark's Cross. They were moved from this site to Russell Hill. Finally the family was able to move out of their humpie into a cottage at Lister Street Ainslie before the move to 49 Westlake and later to 19 Westlake.

In recent years, Colin found out that his grandfather Smith's surname was Brooking and that he had been born in Victoria. For some unknown reason, he changed his name to Smith. He married and after the death of his first wife married Elizabeth. She died in 1939 and John married his third wife with the first name of Annie. After Jack's death in 1960 she returned to England.

Doris Smith died in June 2004. Her husband Tom died 12th May 1998. His sister, Elizabeth pre-deceased him in 1997. Jack died in an accident in Red Hill Quarry 14th February 1941. He was 29 years of age.

Doris' parents were Frances (nee Bradley) and Joseph Blewitt. The family lived at Carwoola for many years where Doris was born. The family then moved to the Cotter to an area near the Scout Hall thence to Yarralumla Woolshed, Weston Creek, Russell Hill, Molonglo and Westlake. Frances and Joe had a large family – Lena and Alice 1913 –early and late – Roy (*Snooks*) 1917, Doris 1920, Stella 1922, George 1924, Laurence (*Roukie*) 1934 and three other children either still born or died as babies. Joe Blewitt died in 1957 aged 63 years. His lungs were damaged by many years of working in quarries. Frances died in 1976.

Colin married Jutta Huchthausen in 1962 and has two children and four grandchildren.

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13 SMITH, Henry labourer
Henry Sidney Smith died on 29th October 1949.

16 SUMMERFIELD, Mary & James hd &
blacksmith

James Summerfield died 5th July 1954 aged 65 years. He is buried in Woden Cemetery. His nick-name was *Lizzard*. Mary is buried in the RC section of Woden Cemetery 22nd February 1984 and her daughter-in-law, Gertrude Summerfield is also buried in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery. Gerty died 14th March 1974. Yvonne Arnall nee Gibbs wrote the following that mentioned the Summerfields: *Initially the post office was sited near the mullock heap [dump] but later moved to the Davies's at No 2. Sometime later Mr and Mrs Summerfield took over. Aunt Mary and Uncle Jim [Mr & Mrs Summerfield] moved to No 16 with their sons, Jimmy and Kevin. Several times I accompanied Aunt Mary and the boys to the Capitol Theatre [Manuka] on a Saturday night. Later Uncle Jim became fatally ill...*

29 SYKES, George labourer

George moved into this cottage in 1929 and was the last to leave Westlake in 1965. He and his brother Gay were the first taxi car owner drivers in the territory.

Hannu Hovi 29 Westlake *"In August 1998 Hannu showed me the sites of each of the flats, the garden and the house. He remembered that*

only a few of the cottages remained [mid 1960s]. One was No 9 or 10 and another 34. The hall was already gone as was the dump. This left plenty of space for the bon fires which in true Westlake tradition were burnt every Empire/Commonwealth night – on 24th May. In the same area every Saturday boxing events were held by the boys... In 1965 the Hovi family moved to No 11 – 13th Street Narrabundah...

37 TSCHANNEN, Irene & Alfred hd & chef

Judith Tierney (nee Tschannen) wrote her family story. Her mother was Jane O'Rourke, daughter of Cornelius & Annie who lived at 45 Westlake. Of her Tschannen grandparents she writes: *...No 37 TSCHANNEN, Irene & Alfred hd & head Chef (at the Hotel Canberra). Dad's parents – Irene British born and Alfred, Swiss born. Before arriving in Australia Alfred left South Hampton Docks to work as an apprentice on the P&O Cunard lines to learn English. He became a qualified chef at th Langham Hotel in London. He came from a privileged background. His parents owned a hotel in Berne and had servants, maids etc but when the war came (1914-1918) they lost everything because of the big crash...At fifteen years of age Dad was a kitchenhand at Hotel Canberra and earnt three pounds per week... When my grandfather, Alfred Tschannen, left Canberra for Sydney, my Uncle Jonnie O'Rourke became Head Chef of the Hotel Canberra. Full story published in *The Builders of Canberra. Where They Lived 1913-1959....*Gugler*



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4 WALTERS, Mildred hd



Above L-R – Mr Walters, Arthur Maxwell, Dorothy Maxwell, Carmel Koenig (nee Maxwell) and Eric Menzies – 1958.

WALTERS FAMILY of 4 Westlake – by Denny & Kay (nee Walters)

Our family tree:

Parents: Cyril Walters married Melvie McKay in Bombala in 1931. They had three children: * Kay (born 1932 Bombala) - married Ron Keeley. Kay and Ron have six children - Ronald 1949, Laurie 1950, Terrial 1952 (one child, Shannon 1984), Reslie 1953, Maree 1954 (two children - Felicity 1979 & Mark 1982.) Joseph 1956 (three children - Cystrel 1982, Reece 1984 & Ashley 1986.)* Sheila (always known as **Denny**) born Bombala 1938) - married Helmut Frei. Two children: Louisa 1958 (two children, Josh 1984 & Bethany 1987) and Susan 1960 (two children, Rebecca 1985 & Stephan 1988.)* John born Canberra 1945 married Lynn Bayley (three children: Donna, Kelly and Jodie.)

We shifted to No 4 Westlake in 1943 after we had come from Bombala. Our father's occupation was linesman for the PMG. Our first encounter with Westlake was when our neighbour, Iris Hunt (who had a bad speech impediment) rushed into our home and tried to tell us something. Dad thought she was saying Fire! Fire! and rushed out with a hose only to discover she was saying Mr Milliner the travelling grocer was selling his goods. Another time Denny refused to have her hair cut so was chased by Kay to Hotel Canberra, round the Prime Minister's Lodge and home only to be given a good belting and have her hair cut. Also when Denny broke her collar bone she was on

Carmel Maxwell's horse. Carmel's grandmother's dog bit the horse throwing Denny off causing her to have her arm in a sling for five months. Denny also caught her dressing gown on fire and only for the quick action of her mother there was no serious injury. We always knew where John was as a youngster. He had a border collie dog and we only had to look out the window to see this white tail wagging to know where he was. Dad was very involved in the setting up of the Rugby League Wests Club Team and used to be the First Aid Man. Kay left Westlake early in our stay to marry. Both girls attended Ainslie then Telopea Park Schools and John went to Telopea Park. This is just a small part of our family happenings but the community adventures were just as important as looking back on the fun times. The dances and functions at the Hall, the Bonfire nights that always started with big fights amongst the kids only to be solved when the sun went down and the big fire was always a great treat...

Mildred Walters died 23rd March 1960 aged 56 years. She is buried in the Methodist section of Woden Cemetery. Cyril John Cambridge WALTERS died 27th June 1973 and was buried in the ex-servicemen's section of the cemetery.

54 WEST, Margaret & Reginald hd & painter

The West family arrived in Canberra around 1939 and moved into 54 Westlake. Reginald West and his wife, Margaret (nee Kelleher) married in Sydney where four of their five children were born. Colleen, the youngest was born in Parkes. Mrs Margaret West was a local lass. On her mother's side she was a Coppin after whom the local crossing is named. The West children are: Reg (1928-1997), Des (1929), Lauris (1931), Keith (1935) and Colleen (1937)...

When the family moved Des remained behind. He lived for a time with the Martello family (who later changed their surname to Campbell) at 54 Westlake. Today all the surviving children, with the exception of Lauris live in Canberra...

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Above Bull Bellchambers and Des West.

58 WHITE, Maud

THE WHITE STORY by Bernie Rochford

During Heritage Week 1998 I visited the former Westlake site with my son Christopher now aged 52. It was my first visit for probably thirty years and but for Christopher's knowledge and some identification markers I may not have been able to recall the lay-out of the area. So many changes seem to have occurred and the former approach by road has disappeared completely. I first visited Westlake about 1930, soon after the homes were constructed. I accompanied my parents on a day trip from where we lived on a property near Jeir, that is off the Barton Highway approximately seven miles past Hall.

My Aunt, Mrs Collie White had been allocated a cottage - No 58. It seemed quite comfortable and electricity, water and sewerage were the envy of we folk from the country where a special value was placed on abundant water. My Aunt before her marriage was Mary Maud Curran - my mother's sister - born and raised at the family home Elmgrove, Williamsdale NSW. She and Collie had one son, Darcy Mannix White born about 1920.

Collie worked at the Water & Sewerage projects including that section which was tunneled under the Molonglo River just above the Commonwealth Bridge. He may have been a ganger or a foreman then referred to. Collie passed away about the early thirties but my Aunt and Darcy continued to reside at No 58. During 1936-37 I had my own car and I called in on my Aunt more frequently and on occasions stayed overnight. She was a very happy person and respected in the Westlake community. For some years she was employed on the cleaning staff of the old Acton offices and with at least one other lady from Westlake walked across the golf course foot bridge over the Molonglo twice a day five days a week.

I recall that the Robinson family lived on one side of No 58 and the McCanns on the other side. Across the other side [opposite side of the road] there was the O'Reilly family and friends of Darcy White included Bruce Armstrong and Frank O'Rourke - one of a large and respected family some of whom I met from time to time around the shopping centres. I have special memories of old Mrs Blewitt, the mother of a number of boys and girls who later settled in various suburbs of Canberra. Mrs Blewitt kept a spotless home - even swept the area between the street and her front fence. In the early to mid fifties she had moved to Ainslie and used to come to our home in Braddon to help my wife when she was not very well and our children were young. She and my wife were fond of each other and Mrs Blewitt used to refer to our place as her second home.

Darcy White was perhaps more like his father than his mother. He did not get far from home and was a close companion of his mother. From the beginning he addressed his mother as Mrs White. He also learned to smoke when he was about three years old and I recall how his mother used to roll his cigarette on demand or at some regular time. Darcy died quite young - some years before his mother passed away in the Canberra Hospital following the loss of both legs from diabetes...

With affection and respect I especially remember old Mrs Dixon. She was of Aboriginal descent, extremely deaf and in my memory

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raised her family without a husband to offer some support. She took in washing from better people, went to and fro in a horse drawn sulky and was widely respected. I think I recall she told me she started life as a school teacher. Some of her family are still about as far as I know. Mrs Dixon should be in heaven...

30 WILDER, Dorothy & Raymond hd & labourer

Wilder Family of 30 Westlake. Raymond Jr lived up until his death in the late 1990s in the heritage listed cottage - 35 Hutchins Street Westridge where the family moved from Westlake in 1956. His parents were Raymond (born Braidwood and died 1988) and Dorothy May (nee Walters - born in Dungog NSW and died 1990). Ray's parents married in 1939 and moved to Westlake in 1940. Ray was born in 1940 and his brother, Thomas in 1945. Raymond Sn joined the AIF and served during the period of World War II. His civilian job was working in the Water & Sewerage Department



R-L back row – Frances Day, Dorothy Maxwell, Albie Day, Dorothy Day, Marje Hawke & O'Reilly young woman. The children are Carmel Maxwell and son of Albie and Dorothy Day. Dorothy Maxwell and Albie Day are Frances Day's children. This family lived at Briar Farm and the Maxwell's at 56 Westlake. The only people in the photograph alive in 2007 are Dot Day, Carmel and Dorothy (nee Day) Maxwell.

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Now the suburb of Yarralumla. The area was originally part of Westlake which stretched across from the Brickyards to the western side of Capitol Hill and back from the Molonglo River to Red Hill. In 1917 Walter Burley Griffin named the area Westridge (West of Stirling Ridge?) in order to prevent confusion with Yarralumla the old property of Frederick Campbell.

BATCHELOR, Margaret & William hd & nurseryman

BOYD, Doris & William hd & carrier



Above Bill Boyd's truck at Brickyards. Below the Boyd children – LR Don, William (Bill), and Jean – unknown and Annie Spithill. Photograph taken when the family lived in one of the ex-Molonglo buildings in the vicinity of the lawn in front of the Forestry School – c1921.



CARGILL, Mildred & Peter hd & gardener

HOBDAV, Alan shop assistant

HORAN, John brickmaker

KILBY, Elsie & Sidney hd & hd

KINLYSIDE, Thomas labourer

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LANE-POOLE, Charlotte nursery gardener
JOHNSON, May & Michael hd & hotel employee
JONES, Meredith labourer

McGOVERN, Annie & Owen hd & brickmaker
Daughter, Margaret wrote: *My father Owen McGovern, (nickname Peaches or Mac) came from a family background of brick makers. His father and grandfather all had brickyards at Tathra and Cobargo. Owen met Annie Irene Peck whose family were dairyfarmers at Bemboka NSW. On 16 October, 1929 Owen and Annie were married at St John's Church Bega. Owen continued to work at his father and uncle's brickyard for a further few years. Then along came Noel and two years later a lovely little blonde daughter – me of course, Margaret Anne.*

After a couple more years dad decided to have a go and build his own yard. So he packed us up and we moved to Moruya where he bought some land to set up his own brickyard. Things were tough for awhile then the yard took off. The next four years were fine. Then came the day when the big bushfire swept through the brickyard. Our timber log house was gone and we saved very little of course...The Brickyard in Canberra got in touch with Dad and offered him a job and house at Westridge. The move was on again. Arriving in Canberra in 1940 only to find the house was not ready so we stayed in Queanbeyan near the Queanbeyan Hotel with the Underwood family. After about six weeks we moved to that lovely village, Westridge – three blocks of houses, a mess for the forestry workers, brickyards, a hall and lots of friendships from people.

The brickyards were not fully operational. Everything was going along fine then a lot of men enlisted in the army. Of course Dad was one of them. He was a driver NX155930, Anti-Aircraft, Search Light Battery Platoon. Mum was left to look after Noel and I in a strange town. Thank God everyone was very helpful.

Mum kept herself busy by joining different groups such as First Aid, War Warden and Ladies' groups who knitted scarves and gloves to send over to the men. They used to make lots of fruit cakes, wrap them in brown paper and seal them in aluminum cake tins.

She made a lovely vegetable garden and used to make her own pickles, chutney and jams. Noel and I started school at Telopea Park. By this time I was six and Noel was eight. We got to know our neighbours. On the right side of us was Mr and Mrs Galbraith and their daughter Isabelle and on the other side was Mr and Mrs Snowy and Glad Marsh and daughter, Marlene. Gee it was great. I had playmates – so did Noel. Just up the hill (Novar St) was the Horans and Noel became quite friendly with David.

We had to go to school on the school bus with all the other kids. This was a very exciting time for me as I had never been on a big bus. Noel and I each had a little calico bag twelve inches by twelve inches. Inside each was a dolly peg, some barley sugar and fruit. This was for us to take across the road to the big drain we used to get put into when the war siren would go off, and we would stay there until someone came and got us. Mum used to take us shopping at Manuka and Kingston. We would travel on the early morning bus but lots of times there was only three buses a day and if you missed any of them coming back you would have to walk home from Manuka. Many of a time we did. One when we were walking home from Manuka - we kept walking around and around this one block and a statue called Robert Burs kept coming up until Mum realised that we were just going around in circles.

We were going to school one day and the bus driver had the radio on. He was waiting for the news that peace had been signed. The war was over! He told us that he was going to give us a holiday but by the time we got back to Westridge someone was waiting and he had to take us to Manuka Oval for a picnic. I loved that day as I won two books – one Bambi's Children and the other, Little Women and a nice silver cup.

Dad came home and started work at the Brickyards once more. With some deferred pay he bought a T model Ford Truck. It was great. We used get all our firewood, go shopping and do lots of other things. Of course Noel had to be pulled back in line, but he was just a boy that needed a father's hand on him...

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After the war Zara Holt was to remarry to Mr bates. She wanted an extension done on her house at Tilba Tibla NSW, but couldn't find who made sand stock bricks. The builder contacted the brickyards in Canberra and Dad was asked if he knew how to make them. He replied, 'Of course I do. Get me the moulds and I'll make them.' He was very pleased about this...

NEWCOMBE, Reginald brickmaker
OLDFIELD, Ronald labourer
O'CONNELL, Blanch & Ernest hd & labourer
QUIGG, Mary hd
REIDY, Maud, Jean & Harold hd, laundry packer & nurseryman
RIDDLE, Louisa & Rita hd & hd
SHARP, Vera hd
SULLIVAN, Leo cleaner
THOMPSON, James shepherd
TURBIT, Florence & Richard hd & brickburner
TURNER, Mary hd
WEAVER, Gwenith hd
WYBORN, Leslie brickburner
WARE, Lilian, Reckka & Alan hd, typist & brickmaker

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AUSTRALIAN FORESTRY SCHOOL, WESTRIDGE 1943

BEESELEY, John forester
DARK, John student
FEAGAN, William student
FRAMPTON, Frederick student
GREEN, Jack student
HODGSON, William gardener
LANE-POOLE, Ruth & Charles hd & ps
PORTER, Herbert student

-
COTTER ROAD, WESTRIDGE 1943

HORAN, Marguerite hd

NEIBERDING, Sylvia & Franz hd hd & ranger
Ray Neiberding's family lived in the Yarralumla area on land leased from the Commonwealth. His parents were Franz (Frank) Neiberding (1889-1988) and Sylvia nee Dennis (1895-1970). They had nine children, Vida, Alice, Daphen, Roland, Ronald, Raymond, June, Pat and Frankie. The youngest child, Frankie, died of diphtheria. Alice (Allie) died shortly after her marriage to Len McInnes of Queanbeyan. She was buried in her wedding dress. Following is part of the story told by Ray Neiberding.

Frank Neiberding and his wife Sylvia came from the Gundagai District and arrived in Canberra in 1915. He had worked on the construction of the Cotter Dam. Later Frank joined the Lands Department and served there for nearly twenty seven years before retiring.

In the Lands Department he was employed as a ranger at Uriarra during the week and camped there. Each weekend he returned home to Oaks Estate where the family rented a cottage.

In 1942 (the family had moved to Ainslie) Frank and his family wanted to live in a more rural setting with the result that he took up a lease of a forty-eight acre property situated near the Yarralumla woolshed and just off the road going to Scrivener Dam [road not constructed at that time]. The property was previously leased by the Horan family. This property had all the advantages of country life and yet close to the growing city of Canberra.

There were no phones of electricity. The phone was eventually connected by the PMG when the Neiberding family supplied and erected the poles. Electricity was connected about the same time. Having no electricity meant the need for a kerosene fridge and many lamps. A drip safe was also used to keep food cool. A flat iron, heated on the wood stove was used for ironing. In spite of these drawbacks, there were advantages such as a comfortable homestead, space for gardens (vegetables), keeping cows, sheep (Frank was a shearer in his youth) and a large poultry run.

Sylvia Neiberding came from a background of property owners (R Whitticker, Gundagai) and was a marvelous manager while Fran was away during the week. She had quite a reputation for never missing with her trusty shotgun – shooting crows and hawks who took the hens eggs or the numerous snakes around the homestead!! During the war years with the introduction of coupons her home made butter was greatly appreciated by the family – as well as the well stocked pantry of jams, pickles and preserves. There was only one bus – the school bus – during the week. The driver was Bob Roots. He left the pick-up point at the Cotter and travelled to Telopea park School – doing the return trip at the end of the school day. Two Neiberding

WESTLAKE & WESTRIDGE 1943

daughters attended Telopea Park School at this time.

Life on the farm was very enjoyable and a favourite pastime was playing cards with family and friends. Sergeant Wintle (sergeant on the gate of Government House) and Mrs Wintle and the Gibbs family who also had a farm on the Cotter Road, were frequent visitors – playing cards until the early hours of the morning.

Two of Frank and Sylvia's sons, Ronald and Raymond enlisted in the army while living at 5 Cotter Road. An older brother, Roland, joined the army before the family moved to Yarralumla. Thankfully they all returned at the end of the war. The lease on the property was taken over by Mrs Bobby Llewellyn for a riding school when the Neiberding family moved back to Ainslie in 1960.

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LEURA, WESTRIDGE 1943

CORKHILL, Teresa & Phillip hd & nurseryman

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RIVERVIEW, WESTRIDGE, 1943

CORKHILL, Catherine, Catherine, John, Patrick & Robert hd, hd, farmer, farmhand & dairyman
MORRISON, Eileen hd [nee Corkhill]
RYAN, Irene hd

Margaret Sullivan wrote a story about the Corkhill family for *True Tales From Canberra's Vanished Suburbs of Westlake, Westridge and Acton* – part of which follows:
Robert Corkhill was born 31 May 1863 at the family home of Ballemaugh in the Parish of Lonan, Isle of Man. When he came to Australia as a young man of eighteen years in 1881 he was employed as a groom for the Campbell Estate of Duntroon where he remained for many years. Robert was offered a small parcel of land near the National Library of Australia that was called Canberra. At the time Robert was still employed at Duntroon. His wage was ten shilling per week with ample rations and amongst his chores was the collection of rations for Duntroon from Queanbeyan.

On 6 February 1893 Robert married Catherine Rolfe, daughter of Edmund and Margaret Rolfe (nee Logue). Catherine's mother died when she was only a few weeks old and she was reared by

her maternal grandmother, Granny Crinigan nee Logue.

The Corkhills remained at Canberra for many years where their family of ten children were all born. The children were: John (1893) md Emily Wolfenden, Margaret (1895-1902), Edmund (Ted 1896) md Vera Blewitt, Phillip (Phil 1898) md Teresa Skerry, Thomas (Tom 1900) md Elsie Moore, Catherine (Kathleen 1902) md Jack Maloney, Eileen (1904) md Edmund Morrison, Phyllis (1905) md Michael McKee, Robert (Brendon 1907) md Louisa Crawford and Patrick (Pat 1913) md Catherine (Kit) McGee.



Above: Eileen Corkhill, Queen of Canberra.

In 1913 the family leased Riverview from Frederick Campbell and when the family first moved there lived in a building where the garage later stood. Later they moved into the brick residence where the family remained until the property was resumed by the Government in 1961 for Lake Burley Griffin. During their years at Riverview the family supplied milk and delivered it to the Yarralumla and Duntroon Estates and building camps used during the early construction years of Canberra.

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A few recollections of Robert & Catherine's life at Riverview. Depression Years: People came to Canberra looking for work – mainly unskilled people – to help them Father Haydon would organize at Riverview Sunday lunches for these people. The cooking was done outside and although money was light there was always enough meat and vegetables to go around. Milk was delivered and was always left for people with children even when no money was left out for payment – Grandma's orders! The family members all milked the cows at 4am. After this the children went to the Crossroads School also known as Narrabundah School. As a child became old enough another bail was added to the line. Floods were a part of life and when the warnings were made of impending floods the downstairs goods were taken to the top floor. In the pantry (downstairs) there was a collection of kerosene tins all painted green and all had handles which made it easier to grab them and move them quickly to the safety of upstairs. Grandma always had the rosary and she had more trimmings than John O'Brien and it always amazed me the number of Uncles and Aunts we had. They all turned out to be Grandma's cousins, their cousins and many more. Four grandchildren lived at Riverview and Eileen following her return to the family home after her

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young husband's death. She helped rear and spoil these grandchildren.

During the Depression years Kathleen's children from Tidbinbilla and Brendan's from Boorowa stayed at Riverview. They were joined during the school holidays by more cousins. At the time when Tom Corkhill took his bride to meet his family there were 17 children staying at Riverview. The extra accommodation needed for the family was 'The Cubicle' a worker's hut. With such a large extended family they did not need to socialize. Catherine Corkhill died in 1952 and her obituary in Cathedral Chimes dated October 19, 1952 in part reads: She was a distinct feature of Catholic life in Canberra, as she was born a few hundred yards from where Parliament House now stands...Her husband ...survives her and he is in his 90th year. Also surviving are her six sons, John, Thomas, Phillip and Patrick all of Canberra and Edward (Goulburn) and Brendan (Boorowa), Mrs J Maloney of Queanbeyan is a daughter. Three daughters predeceased her: Margaret, Eileen (Mrs E Morrison) and Phyllis (Mrs M McKee). There are 24 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren left to mourn the grand old lady...

YARRALUMLA NURSERY, WESTRIDGE 1943

HOBDAY, Elsie, Joyce, John & Milton hd, assistant, civil servant & apprentice plumber

GOVERNMENT HOUSE (Yarralumla House), WESTRIDGE 1943

BONNAR, Agnes cook

BOND, Violet hd

BRILL, Leslie carpenter

Leslie Brill moved from Westlake to Westridge. The family lived at Westlake between 1923-1938. His son, Stanley Curtis Brill (died 15.3.2008) wrote for *True Tales* – part of which follows: My father was Leslie William Brill who was an original ANZAC. His regiment number was 40. He enlisted from Tasmania in the 12th Battalion. He won the Military Medal at Gallipoli and was mentioned in dispatches twice. After ANZAC and being wounded he was repatriated to England for surgery. He met my mother Gladys Tippsell and on his return from action in Flanders they were married.

After the end of World War One my sister Marjorie was born in England. She was our only girl. When my mother arrived from England as a war bride she travelled to Bomabal where she and my sister were picked up by my father and then travelled to Delegate by buggy and pair. My mother thought she was on the other side of the world going thirty miles from Delegate to Craigie where the family had a saw mill – a change from London!

My elder brother, Jim, was born in Delegate in 1920 and my birth certificate shows that Delegate was my first look around in 1922. The next born was Edward followed by Richard who were both born in Queanbeyan. I'm not sure what date we shifted to Westlake but it could be 1924 as Dad was employed on the construction of Parliament House. The reason for the move from Delegate to Canberra was my mother's wish that we should be educated.

My father was a carpenter and joiner and he told me he worked on the original Speaker's Chair. We lived in 22 Westlake and were all educated at Telopea Park School. My mother was the first Post Mistress in Westlake. In 1938 we shifted to a new house in Barrlier Street Griffith and I was one of the first indentured apprentices at the Bus Depot at Kingston. Percy Huntingford and I started as apprentices in fitting and machinery in January 1938. We both owned Velocette motor bikes. My number had a number plate FCT 666 – later changed to ACT 8 and Percy's new plate put on when he picked up the bike in Eddy Avenue Sydney was ACT!. As he put on the plate a policeman stopped him and said, 'What's the joke here – act one?'

When the Second World War broke out my brother Jim and I enlisted. Jim was in the 3rd Anti-tank Regiment and I enlisted in the airforce as an engine fitter and later trained in the Empire Air Training Scheme as a pilot. Jim was taken prisoner in North Africa and was a POW in Germany in Stalag VIIIA for three years and returned after the war to work in the public service at the War Memorial. He died in 1970. My five years in the airforce were spent in the New Guinea campaign. Ted was also a soldier in the same area as myself but we never met up until after the war. Ted now lives in Foster. Richard, our youngest brother who now resides

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in Isaacs was not old enough to enlist for war and lived with our Mum and Dad at Yarralumla. Dad was caretaker for Government House during the reign of Lord Gowrie, Duke of Gloucester and Sir William McKell.

My wife Beryl and I lived with out Mum and Dad at Yarralumla until we shifted to Turner in 1946 and we are still living in the same house having reared our family of two girls and three boys, who live in Canberra except for John and Gary who live in Sydney and Milton NSW.

Mum was an educated woman and a great pianist. Whilst living at Yarralumla she was regularly called upon by the Westridge Social Club to play at balls and other events such as benefits for men in the armed services... Stan, who wrote this story in 1997 died on 15th March 2008 – two days after his birthday on the 13th. He and his wife had recently moved from their Turner home into a retirement village.

CAIRNS, Eva & George housemaid & handyman
DONALD, Margaret cook
HODGENS, Eric handyman
MOLLROSS, Jean kitchenmaid
PARKINSON, Phyllis secretary
PYE, Kathleen & Arthur hd & motor driver
SCOTT, Violet & Allastair hd & head gardener
Quarters, SCOTT, Allastair linesman
SCOTT, Alexander head gardener
STACEY, May ladies' maid
STEPHENS, Flora housekeeper
THOMAS, William valet
WINTLE, Alexandra & William hd & peace officer

BANKS STREET, WESTRIDGE 1943

BENTLEY, Margaret, Francis & Frederick hd, labourer & labourer
CHARLTON, Audrey, Mary & Henry typist, hd & brickmaker
DAY, Harold labourer
12 GRIMES, Frances hd
24 MADDEN, Edna bus conductress
TURNER, Donald & Leonard labourer & labourer

BENTHAM STREET, WESTRIDGE 1943

Bentham & Hutchins Sts GREANEY, Kathleen & John hd & labourer
RADCLIFFE, Jessie & John hd foreman
brickworks
WOOD, Euphemia & Andrew hd & nurseryman

HOOKER STREET, WESTRIDGE 1943

25 CAPPELLO, Veronica hd
DAVIDSON, George labourer
DEVLIN, Bessie & Joseph hd & fitter
FISHER, Lucy, Henry & John hd, labourer & brickmaker
NOBLE, Jessie & Henry hd & brickmaker
QUIGG, Ethel, Florence, Mary, Harold, Morris, & Roy hd, hd, hd, brickmaker, brickmaker setter & brickmaker

REES, Violet & William Victor hd & brickmaker
Bernie Rees, son of Violet and William, wrote a story for *True Tales* part of which follows:
In 1938 Vic Rees and his wife Violet lived in the coastal town of Woonoona with their children, Desmond, Malcolm, Douglas, Brenda and three year old – Bernie – me. Marcia was born in Canberra. Dad being a fitter and machinist and also a boiler maker, managed to procure a job in the machine shop at the brickworks at Westridge in Canberra. So the family moved in two stages, Dad and the three older boys firstly and then he returned to collect Mum, Brenda and me and Lady (our red cattle dog) in February 1939...

Westridge was comprised of three blocks of houses containing about 57 houses. It was isolated from the rest of Canberra in those days with the others in close proximity being the Forestry School, the Government Nursery and the two farm house of the Corkhill family and of course – the Brickworks which is the reason why Westridge was built to house the workers. Surrounding the main suburb to the North, South and West were wooded hills and grassy plains – an ideal place for kids to explore, learn about nature, hunt rabbits and wild ducks and save a variety of birds eggs as a collection.

When we arrived we lived in No 2 Hooker Street, but when more houses were built we became No 14. Our house was occupied by the first manager of the brickworks then the Radcliffe family, then us in 1939 [the house would be one of seven brick cottages built in 1921-1922 – Section 64]...

The swimming hole was in the old Molonglo just below the present Water Police Office. This building was one of the Corkhill's farmhouses... The Westridge Hall even though it is long gone it was the venue of nearly every function or

WESTLAKE & WESTRIDGE 1943

meeting in our small community. As a child I recall the Christmas parties, sometimes a birthday party. Dances at the hall were quite a function when the floors were sprinkled with kerosene and sawdust, the swept off to make the floor nice and slippery. Catering was supplied by the local ladies, and generally a good time was had by all. That is where I learnt most of my dancing. Outside at some of the dances some of the young men may have settled their difference dancing to a different tune. The YMCA under the leadership of Mr Glover and then later Mr Harry Black was conducted there for quite some time. Also judo was taught there and Committee meeting held etc etc...

RIDDLE, Ethel, Dora, Harry, Joseph, Joseph, Sydney & Charles hd, hd, labourer, brickmaker brickburner, labourer & brickmaker
SHARP, Edith, Thomas & Joseph hd, nurseryman & nurseryman

HUTCHENS STREET, WESTRIDGE 1943

LEE, Eileen hd

I am Eileen Lee (nee Horan) and I was born in Canberra in 1920. My parents came to Canberra in 1910 and settled on a farm at Coppin's Crossing Lane where I was born. Later, in November 1925 we shifted to our new home which was later known as Marcel's Horse Riding School across the creek from Yarralumla Woolshed. We always went to Westridge to dances, tennis, cricket, football etc and my mother Mrs Matguerite (Daisy) Horan senior played the piano for the dances and my father, Mick Horan, was MC. He was also president of the original Progress Association of Westridge.

We had seven children in the Horan family and all at one time or other lived at Westridge (Yarralumla). I am the only Horan left here now – living in Novar Street. My brother, Terry Horan, sold his house in Hutchins Street a couple of years ago and is now living in Holder. My son, John lee still lives at 37 Hutchins Street which was my address from 1942 to 1977, My late husband, Wallace Lee and I retired down the coast to Narooma in '77. I came back to Canberra in 1986 after losing my husband in 1980. I am now living in Novar Street and so pleased to be back as it is a wonderful suburb to living in!...

The land between Westridge and the Prime Minister's Lodge used to be known as the Cow Paddock where a lot of people kept their cows, which they used to milk daily. Sitting at our kitchen window we watched the American Embassy being built. We wouldn't be able to see it now for the trees and houses. In the block across from my home in Hutchins Street in the war years we all dug a big air raid trench. Thankgoodness we never had to use it! My husband was discharged from the Army – medically unfit. So we both joined the VDC (Voluntary Defence Corp). We had to do a St John's Ambulance Course and we were classed as Air Raid Wardens. We had to make sure everyone had their lights blacked out in case of an Air Raid and we were always on call in case of a raid.

I married Wallace Sidney Lee at St John's Church of England, Reid on 12 April 1941 and we shifted to 37 Hutchins Street Westridge on 28th March 1942. Wallace was the eldest son of Mr and Mrs Jack Lee (Jack & Ruby). We had three children, Pam (Blanken), Brian and John who were all born at Westridge.

QUIGG, Edward labourer

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MUELLER STREET, WESTRIDGE 1943

AXELBY, Elsie, Albert & William hd, forestry branch & labourer

McKAY, Elsie & Francis hd & labourer

NEWCOMBE, Edith & Reginald hd & brickmaker
Kath Devlin married Reginald Albert Newcombe, son of Reginald and Edith Newcombe. They wrote their history for *True Tales* part of which follows:

Kath's parents were Joseph and Bessie (nee Martin) Devlin. They married at the Presbyterian Church at Cowra in 1935. In 1936 Joseph came to Canberra in search of work. Two years later when he was able to get a house (3 Hooker Street Westridge) his family joined him. Joe and Bessie had two children, Kathleen born in 1935 who married Reginald Newcombe at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church Canberra (two children, Mark and Garry) and Robert born 1937, who married Lorraine Hawkins (two children – Deborah & Amanda).

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Reginald Newcombe's parents were Edith Dorothy (nee Owers) and Reginald Alfred Newcombe. They married in Sydney on 27th October 1928. At the time Reginald Sn was already living in Canberra. He and his father and brother Jim moved to Canberra in 1921 to work in the newly opened brickyards. Reginald Newcombe Sn had prior to the move to Canberra worked in his cousin's brickyards at Cowra and following its closure in the State Brickyards Sydney and then the FCT.

Reginald Albert was born at 51 Mueller Street Yarralumla on 6th June 1929. The witnesses to the birth were Doctor Robert Alcorn and Nurse Dunn and the birth registered at Queanbeyan. It was not until the early 1930s that the ACT started its own records. A second child, Harold Snowden Newcombe was born two years later. Harold (Toby) married Marg Solway on 20th December 1952 at St John the Baptist Church. They have three children, Sue, Reggie and Harold...

REIDY, Joyce assistant

WARE, Eva & Kevin hd & labourer

WOOD, Minnie & John hd & labourer

NOVAR STREET (originally named "Mountain Way"), WESTRIDGE 1943

BURTON, Violet & Albert hd & fitter & turner

CURLEY, Amy & William hd & foreman
brickworks

DEAN, Kenneth lorry driver

HARRIS, William labourer

LEE, Rita, Ruby, Wallace & John hd, hd, labourer
& labourer

McARTHUR, Annie & Horace hd & ganger

MARSH, Gladys & Vivian hd & bricksetter

OLDFIELD, Catherine, Jean & Sydney hd, hd &
brickwork's manager

Moya Campbell (nee Oldfield) wrote for *True Tales* part of which follows:

Moya's parents were Claude Oldfield and Jean Boyd. They married in 1928 and Moya was born on 5th December 1928 and her sister Audrey on 19th September 1933.

We lived at 70 Novar Street. At the age of five I started school with my cousin, Gordon Corey. We went to St Christopher's Catholic School at Manuka. After a few months I left this school

and moved to Telopea Park. Gordon remained at St Christophers until his death. Following the death of my grandmother Oldfield my parents moved from Novar Street into my grandfather's house. It was the Brickyard's Manager's residence erected in an area now called Lane Poole Place. It was lonely there because there were no neighbours. The nearest residence on one side was over the hill where three blocks of houses were built and on the other with a pine plantation in between, Government House. Sometime during the war a plane crashed into these pines and another near Horan's woolshed.

During the war (World War II) the brickyards were closed and we moved to Parramatta into a lovely two storey house divided into four flats. Our neighbours were Mr and Mrs Davies from the Causeway. They had two daughters, Betty and Valma. Dad worked at a munitions factory in Sydney...

When we came back to Canberra I started work in Woolworths in Kingston as a cashier and window dresser. Later I applied for a position in the office doing the wages. We all rode push bikes to work both summer and winter. Many times coming home from work the brick carters would stop and put the bikes on the truck and how lovely it was to get in out of the cold! Westridge was a lovely suburb – everyone helped one another – no need to lock the houses. How times have changed!...

The Westridge Hall was wonderful and used for most community activities. We had kitchen teas for everyone. I received five flour sifters at mine. The dances were great. Neville Lee used cut up candles to wax the floor boards. Archie Brown and Mrs Tom Sharp played the violins. Edith Sharp and Jacky Ware (at different times) the piano. Mrs Horan Sn also played the piano and because she didn't like being on the stage by herself got her daughter, Eileen, to stand next to her to turn the pages of the sheet music. Mr Horan was also MC at times. My cousin, Bobby Boyd reminded me that Archie Brown called the square dances in the Westridge Hall. He also held dances in his woolshed on his property on the Cotter Road. They tell me that the dances went on all night and he served the dancers with breakfast the next morning. He got very upset if they didn't stay. Colin Axelby had a wonderful

WESTLAKE & WESTRIDGE 1943

voice and he sang at many of the dances. The milk coffee for supper was made in a kerosene tin hung above the open fire. The Brown family brought the milk. It was beautiful coffee and nothing to mention the great variety of foods for supper.

Crafts were also taught in the Hall. On Friday nights I learnt to make broaches out of bread and also leant table settings. One of the teachers was Jo Grimsley who is now in her eighties and lives in Yarralumla [this article was written in 1997 and she still lives in the suburb in 2008 – Joe – Joyce – was a teacher at Canberra High School]

Val Quigg remembered learning tap dancing in the hall. She had a special pair of white shoes with a buckle on the side. Taps made from an old kettle were put on the shoes. When she finished dancing the taps were taken off and the shoes used for school wear. At Christmas time we always had a large Christmas Tree as high as the ceiling. Everyone received a gift and dancing and singing were part of the evening's entertainment.

Speaking of singing – Keith Radcliffe and I went to singing lessons at Mrs Kilby's. She had an organ and I think the only hymn Keith and I could sing was 'Jesus Loves Me, Yes I Know'. We didn't mention to her that on the day before most lessons when the fruit was ripe, we, along with others used to pick it from her tree and throw it up on the roof.

On Sundays we attended church service in the hall taken by Mr Miller from the Methodist Church. I can't remember the other people. Nearly everyone played sport which included tennis, cricket, softball and swimming. We also played competitive tennis and rode our push bikes to venues at Braddon, Manuka etc. Near the tennis courts were two swings and we used to compete to see who could swing the highest.

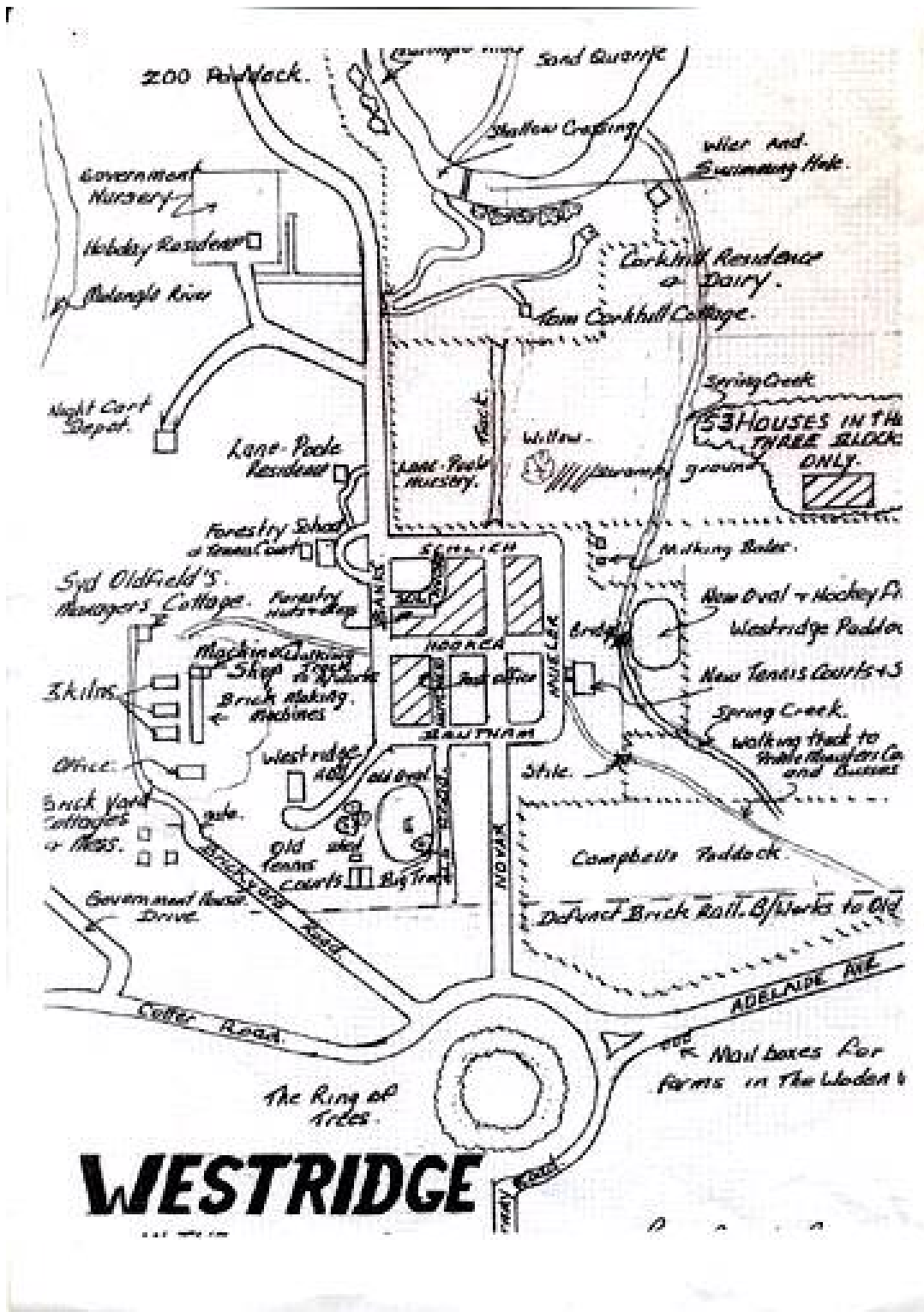
One day Bobby Boyd walked into the line of the swing with the result one of his front teeth was broken. When we played cricket at Westridg Neville Lee put the garbage bin (used for stumps) in the middle of Novar Street. The game was played near the Lees, Yandall (Stand and June) and my Uncle Bill Boyd's place. Anyone could come and have a bat or bowl. Late in the afternoon during a game someone would say, 'It's time for Bill Boyd to come home – so clear the road for a minute.' After his truck went by we resumed playing. This couldn't happen today and one has to hurry across the road to miss the heavy traffic of cars, buses, trailers, etc going to the Lake and Western Park.

Bill had an old truck and he would take many children to the Cotter or Kambah Pool. Everyone sat along the table top of the truck with legs dangling over the side. The little ones sat in the middle. No one ever fell off and there were never any injuries. After a swim or fish we came home singing. The boys also told tales – mainly about fishing – but they never caught any! We were all healthy kids.

Corkhill's cows were in the paddocks and wandered around. After the rain we would find a bucket and a knife and go around the paddocks looking for mushrooms. The cow paddock was opposite Reynold's place and there were always a ring of mushrooms. We could fill the bucket in no time.

SHUMACK, Rita & John hd & setter
SULLIVAN, Katherine hd
SWEETING, Una hd
TAYLOR, Phyllis & Harold hd & truck driver
TREPP, Marie hd
WILLIAMS, Dorothy hd

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SCHLICH STREET, WESTRIDGE 1943
GALBRAITH, Rose & Albert hd & assistant



Above: Bernie Rees' mud map of Westlake.