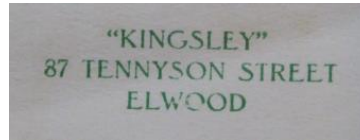


KINGSLEY: OUR HOUSE & HOME

A HISTORY OF THE ELWOOD AND ST KILDA NEIGHBOURHOOD LEARNING CENTRE



WAS 97 - NOW 87 TENNYSON STREET ELWOOD

KINGSLEY WAS ORIGINALLY A FOUR ROOM COTTAGE BUILT ON BLUESTONE FOUNDATIONS

KINGSLEY: OUR HOUSE & HOME

A HISTORY OF THE ELWOOD AND ST KILDA NEIGHBOURHOOD LEARNING CENTRE

Isaac Douglas Hermann



First published in August, 2019

Elwood and St Kilda Neighbourhood Learning Centre Inc.

87 Tennyson Street, Elwood 3184

www.esnlc.com.au

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Cover image: 87 Tennyson Street, Elwood, c. 1970's oil painting by Joan Paige

Cover design by Paul Caine

Inside Covers: Adaptation of applique motif by Eva Fabian and Ying Lee Ping's Elwood Craft Group and the Art Therapy Group

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Disclaimer: Every effort has been made for the accurate recording of personal, family and other historical details, and we regret any inadvertent errors or omissions that may have occurred.

Similarly, every effort was made as to not impinge on the good name of all mentioned within.

FOREWORD

I was delighted to be invited by Simone Jamieson, Manager of the Elwood Neighbourhood House, to write the foreword for this book about the role that the ENH has in the community. My connection with Elwood is of long standing, through two areas of business. Although I no longer practice or am affiliated with the business, I started, in partnership, Chisholm Gamon Real Estate. My other involvement has been the Bendigo Bank in Elwood. It was through my work in real estate that I became involved with the start of the Elwood Neighbourhood House. When Keith McGregor was elected the Mayor of St Kilda (now City of Port Phillip) a discussion took place about the need for a place to bring the community together through the purchase of a property where this could happen. As it happened, our business had just facilitated the sale of 87 Tennyson Street to a well-known developer for the Bond family. The Bond family had been using the property as their home, but also as a base for their concreting business. However, the developer defaulted on the sale; and I realised that the property was the potential community hub that was being asked for by the council. Subsequently, I introduced the Bond family to Keith McGregor and the council, resulting in the purchase of the property by the council for community use. Many years later, when Elwood lost its last bank, I was involved in the setting up and development of the Bendigo Bank in Elwood for the community. Through the community grants from the bank, we were able to provide a range of grants and equipment to the Neighbourhood House so that it could develop and expand its connection into the community. As I drive past the building now, I see how it has continued to grow, I feel a sense of pride that I was able to play a small part in its history.

Alastair Chisholm

INTRODUCTION

This is the story of Kingsley, our Neighbourhood House, a home that connects us to each other and to the world. Kingsley's story is the story of all our histories in a nutshell. It is a place that generates stories. Through the life stories of our early house builders and home makers we can also retrieve a glimpse of their world: the development of Elwood and St Kilda, the world wars, and the ongoing struggle for municipal progress.

Kingsley is a home whose families were driven by endeavour and self-reliance. They were indeed Port Phillip and Poets' Corner pioneers. From this home emerged both leaders of industry and society. The Kingsley families were people of faith from the outset, and zealous in their concern for community: providing St Kilda with two mayors and the families that supported them. Our House, and that of our neighbours also sprouted world war heroes: the full story of their bravery and sacrifice has remained untold for far too long.

Today, as of yesteryear, Kingsley continues to draw friends from across the globe to our threshold. It is here that the Koorie also meet. It is here that the tales of our boarding house friends coalesce into print. Our children, our elderly, our challenged and our disadvantaged, our immigrants and our indigenous all meet here. Our volunteers have enriched all our lives inestimably. This is where there is a listening ear to that weave of yarns that is ever spinning and ever inspiring. St Kilda has a fine Town Hall; though it may be said that its soul emanates from hearths like ours.

THOMAS & CHRISTIAN FISKIN 1859

An 1859 council rate book lists THOMAS FISKIN, carpenter, owning a six-room wooden house on six acres of land at Reserve St, St Kilda. 'Reserve St' may be an early name for undesignated roadways from our fledgling council; while 1860 rates mention Southey St. Thomas seems to have built his house just south of where our House will one day stand, and was possibly built some years earlier. The 1861 and the 1864 rate books note Fiskin's property as a six-room wooden house on six acres located at Tennyson St.

Thomas Fiskin (1806–1870), born in Kippen, Stirlingshire was listed as a farmer from Fiffeshire when he arrived on the *Robert Benn* from Greenock, Scotland on 26 January, 1842 together with his wife Christian (nee Hogg, 1810–1872). The ill-fated, fever-struck *Glen Huntley* had also arrived in Hobson's Bay from Greenock just two short years earlier.

We know little of their lives, except that in January 1864 Thomas was seeking to employ a gardener to help look after their six-acre property on the corner of Tennyson and Scott Streets.

Thomas at age 63 was to fall seriously ill with symptoms akin to dysentery for 12 days over January and February of 1870, and would finally succumb to exhaustion on 9 February. Barely able to sign the will upon his deathbed, Thomas would leave a weekly annuity to his brother, Archibald and '*...bequeath all my real and personal estate and effects unto my dear wife Christian Fiskin...*' Christian moved to Richmond alongside brother Laurance and her three widowed sisters, Ann, Elizabeth and Margaret. She passed on soon after in 1872, aged 62.

The couple are buried together in St Kilda Cemetery as Thomas and Christina Fiskin.

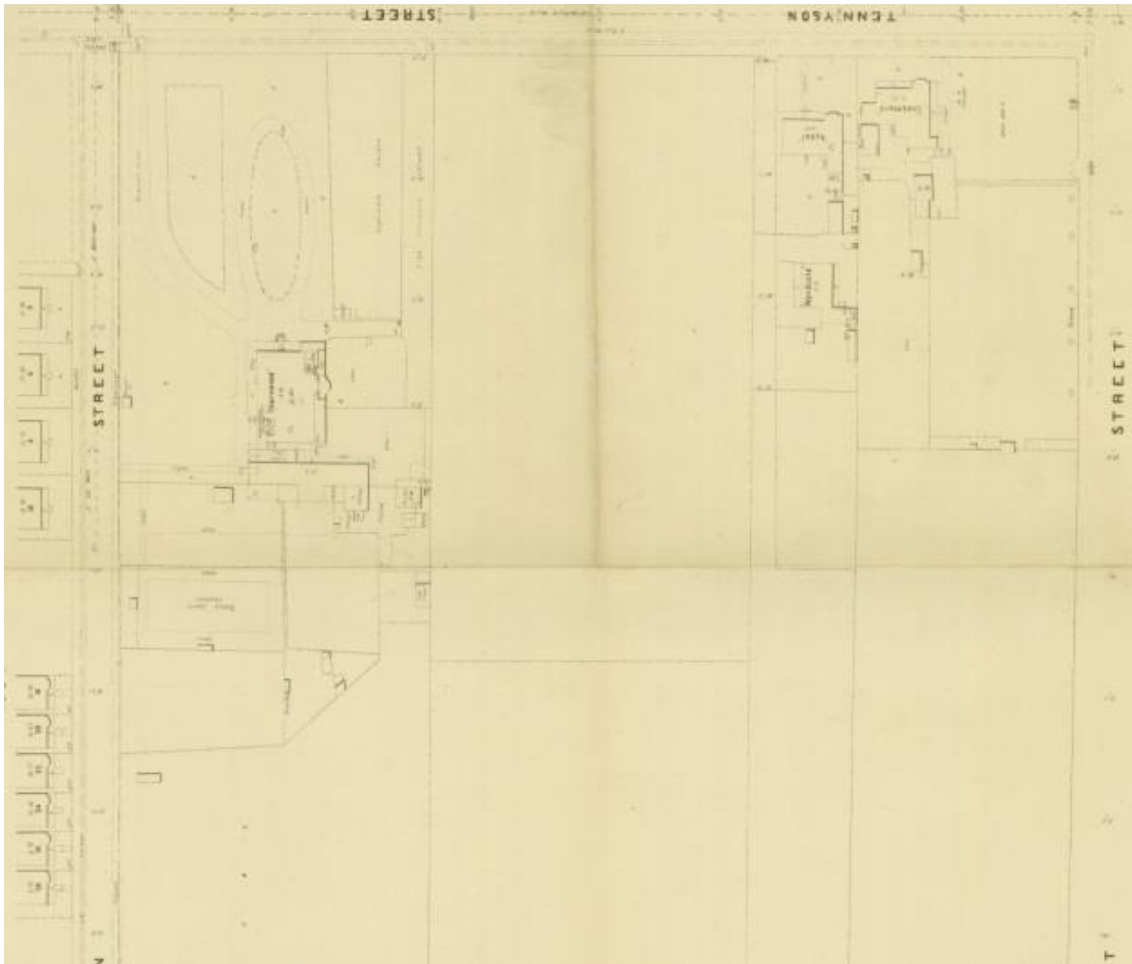


The Fiskin six-acre allotment as shown on the 1873 J. E. S. Vardy Map of our neighbourhood

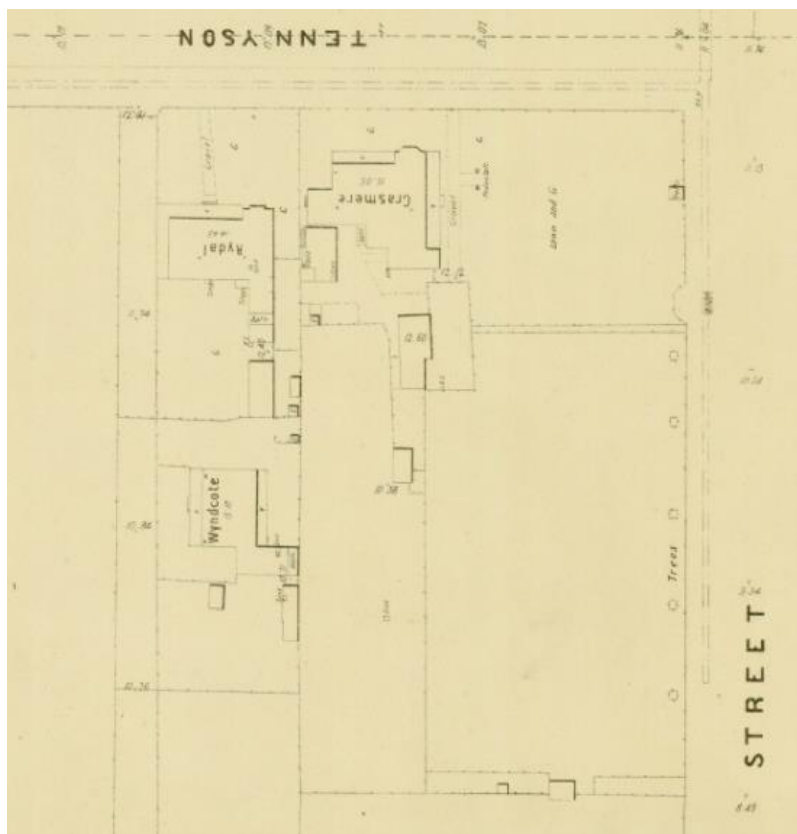
Port Phillip Library Service



2019: St. Kilda Cemetery, Thomas & Christian Fiskin's 1870s grave with toppled headstone in foreground



1905: MMBW: Plan 1400 of neighbouring Tennyson St properties, SLV Collection



Detail of Tennyson St properties showing Rydal (renamed Kingsley) and Wyndcote (renamed Glenfell)

JOHN MORRISON MUDIE 1872

1872: JOHN MORRISON MUDIE owns the six-acre allotment that comes to be known as Grassmere. The property includes a nine-room house. Mudie will have Rydal built just north of Grassmere, which will be renamed Kingsley in 1897. The Rydal property extends all the way to Mitford Street.

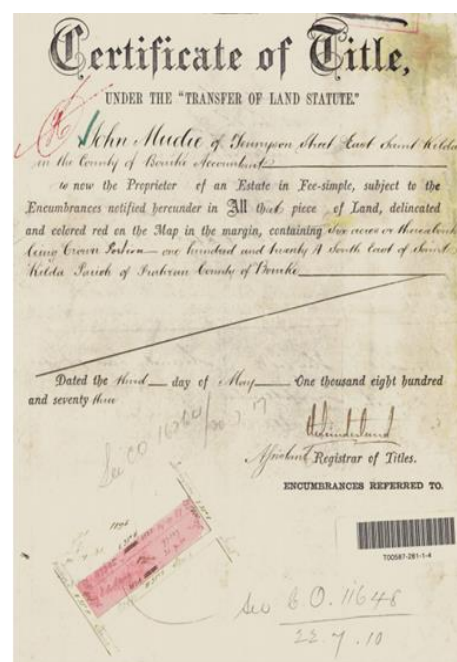
John Morrison Mudie (1842–1879), born in Hobart Town, was a clerk who came to the Colony of Victoria in 1857 after a period in St. Croix in the West Indies. Mudie first lived in Caroline Street, Prahran and then George Street, East Melbourne, before moving to Tennyson Street. He died at the early age of 38 in Black Rock and is buried in St Kilda Cemetery.



1879: Mudie's headstone, St Kilda

MUDIE. — WANTED, information respecting **JOHN MORRISON MUDIE**, who left the West Indies about six years ago for Australia. His father and elder brother are dead, and any communication with his family in St. Croix, or with his uncle Chris. Mudie, 9 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, England, by the said J. M. Mudie, will be to his advantage. Any information respecting the said J. M. Mudie will be gladly received by Mr. Chris. Mudie.

1863, August, *The Argus*: family executors search for Mudie



1873: die's six-acre property title



1873: Margaret Richardson owns the Grassmere seven-room house and six-acre property, with a possible lease to Edward Ashley.

1876: Margaret Donaldson owns Grassmere seven-room house and six acres.

1878: Mrs. Catherine Donaldson comes to reside in Elwood.

From Mrs. C. Donaldson, complaining of neglect on the part of the man who lighted the oil lamp at the corner of Scott and Tennyson streets, which was totally neglected on the 25th and 26th of July. This lamp was not on ordinary occasions lighted till an hour or two later than the gas at Mr. Duckett's corner, and if the council would request the Gas Company to extend the gas pipes a little further, it would greatly oblige the families in that neighbourhood, the lamp not being suited for oil.—Referred to the surveyor.

1878: Mrs. Donaldson's letter to *The Telegraph*

1880: Maude Mary Middleton comes to own the six-acre property.

1881: The six-acre property is subdivided, with Catherine Donaldson purchasing Rydal on two acres while Frederick Andrew Long purchases Grassmere on four acres, with a frontage of 181'6".

1887: Catherine Donaldson builds Wyndcote, a 4 room cottage on the same property as Rydal, to be later renamed Glenfell. Catherine lives in Wyndcote while renting Rydal to clergyman Charles Ford.

1888: Wyndcote is now leased out to Clement Jarrett.

1890: Hugh Cameron Gillies owns Rydal and Wyndcote.

1890: H.C. Gillies passes away sparking several years of searching for relatives by the legal executors of his will.

Legal Notices.

To **JOHN GILLIES**, formerly of Milo Station, Adavale, Queensland, then of a Station on the Culgoa, near Bourke, New South Wales, Cattle Drover.

TAKE NOTICE that upon communicating with the undersigned Solicitors for the Executors and Trustees of the Will of **HUGH CAMERON GILLIES**, formerly of Beaconsfield Parade Hotel, East Melbourne, and late of "Rydall," Tennyson-street, Saint Kilda, both in the Colony of Victoria, Gentleman, Deceased, and giving satisfactory evidence of your identity, you will hear of something to your advantage.

CRISP & CAMERON, Oxford Chambers, 475 Bourke-street, Melbourne, Victoria.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

Any person acquainted with the address or means of communicating with the abovenamed **JOHN GILLIES** if living, or means of ascertaining the fact if he is dead, will render a service to those concerned by informing the abovenamed Solicitors, and they will pay any reasonable compensation for the communication and trouble taken in the matter.

1891, January: *The Queenslander*

1890–1897: The Rydal–Glenfell property appears to be leased for this period.

1890: Grassmere owned by Charles Bennett possibly a relative of Caroline (nee Bennet) Love.

1895: Grassmere is owned by Samuel Turner.

SOUTH ST. KILDA.

All that piece of land, containing 1a. 3r. 24 9-10p., having 82ft. 6in. frontage to Tennyson-street, by a depth through to Mitford-street of 1004ft. 6in., together with two W.B. cottages erected thereon, viz.,

RYDAL.

Containing five rooms, kitchen, bath, wash-house, storeroom, together with galvanised iron stables, coachhouse, and man's room.

WYNDCOTE.

Containing five rooms, kitchen, washhouse, bath, &c.

The situation is high, well drained, and about 10 minutes' from Elsternwick station or St. Kilda tram terminus.

1896, November, *The Argus*: Sale of Rydal and Wyndcote

1897: The Love family come to Rydal. The title is held by one Thomas Arnfield.

c. 1900: William C. Oxley, net manufacturer, is neighbour at Grassmere.

1904: The now six-room house, Kingsley is offered for sale, and is bought by Caroline Love.

1904: The Klaws family come to Kingsley.

c. 1905: John Booth of Caenwood is neighbour to the north, towards Saint John St.

1908: Kingsley and Glenfell – 97 and 97A Tennyson St – and the remaining backyard are now subdivided into 3 separate properties.

1910: Grassmere, 99 Tennyson St, is owned by Thomas W. Rowe.

1913: The Durstan Family move to Kingsley.

1914: Eve (nee Davie) and James Goldsworthy rent Kingsley.

1915: The Davie brothers purchase Kingsley for their sister.

1917: The Grassmere home and Poultry Farm is for sale.

1928: Eve Goldsworthy takes possession of Kingsley.

1946: Eva and Arthur Watson now own Kingsley.

1969: Donald and Barbara Watson now own Kingsley.

1977: Brian Roberts owns Kingsley.

1980: Albert Bond purchases Kingsley.

SATURDAY NEXT, 15th DECEMBER.
At Half-past 3 o'Clock,

On the Premises,
"GRASSMERE," 99 Tennyson-street,
"GRASSMERE," 99 Tennyson-street,
ST. KILDA,
Corner South-street, 10 Minutes From Brighton-road
Cable Train Terminus, 5 Minutes to Rippon Lea
Station, or Electric Train to St. Kilda.

VERY COMMODIOUS D.F. W.B. VILLA,
With Roof of Slate and Iron, Containing 8 Rooms,
Large Linen Press, 3 Pantries, Bathroom, Wash
House, and Enclosed Verandah.

MOST EXTENSIVE STABLE,
Comprising 6 Brick and 2 W.B. Stalls, Feed Room,
Loft, Buggy Shed, and Other Outbuildings.

Also,
NUMEROUS FOWL HOUSES, Wire Netted Pens
(Chicken Pens, Incubator and Brooder House,
Large Rat-proof Brick Sheds, and Feed Rooms.

The Property stands on a **LARGE** ALLOTMENT,
141 Ft. 6 in. x 200 Ft. 6 in.,
and is Most Suitable for **SUBDIVISION** OF
POULTRY, by which it is known **ALL** over THE
COMMONWEALTH as
"THE GRASSMERE POULTRY FARM."

Builders, Speculators, Poultry Breeders, and Others
Should Not Fail to Attend This Sale, as the
Owner is Determined to Sell.

TITLE, Certificate, Terms at Sale.

LEONARD BRIDGES
Corner High and Carlisle streets (opposite Town
Hall), St. Kilda (Tel. 551, Wind.), will sell the
above by public auction, through his auctioneer
(Messrs. T. H. Morgan).

1917, December, *The Age*. Grassmere for sale

OUR POETIC BEGINNINGS

Undoubtedly the neighbouring northern English Lakes District hamlets of Rydal and Grasmere conjure up associations with the Lake Poets' William Wordsworth, who lived at Rydal Mount overlooking Rydal Water, alongside Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Robert Southey who stayed at Grasmere, where Wordsworth would be laid to rest.

Our cottage names of Rydal and Grasmere would certainly find romantic resonance amidst our collection of many another poet street names. Indeed, these names are full of beautifully lyrical associations in and of themselves:

Grasmere: a grass-banked lake

Rydal: a valley sown with rye

Kingsley: a king's glade or lightly treed meadow

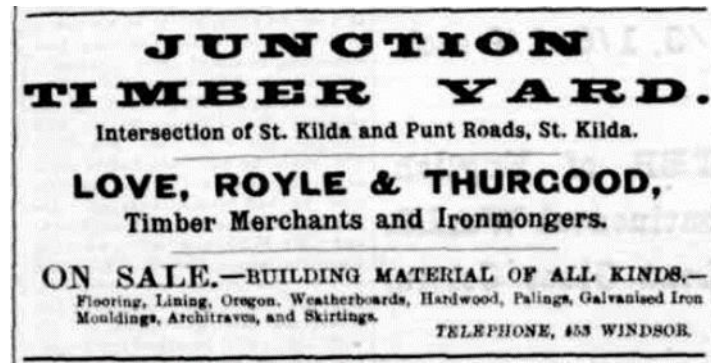
Glenfell: a deep valley in the mountains.

To have a neighbourhood interwoven with the souls of poets was born of early council diplomatic intent to stave off sectarian strife: no street would bear the name of a specifically Catholic or Protestant statesman. Thomas Ellwood, our Quaker poet inspiration, thus became the pleasant home for eponyms of a similar ilk.



Rydal Mount: Wordsworth's home 1813–1850, *The Age*,

THE LOVE FAMILY: c. 1897–1903



1904, July: *The Prahran Telegraph* advertisement

JOHN JEREMIAH LOVE, born in Brackernagh, Ireland (1867–1937) married CAROLINE BENNETT (1872–1956) in 1894. They moved to Rydal in 1897, added two rooms and renamed the six-roomed cottage Kingsley. John J. Love arrived in Australia aged 19 in 1886 with his parents, Simon Love (1833–1920) and Jane (nee Sharpe) Love (1828–1910); and his brothers George, 23 and William, 21.

Port Phillip City Collection

John J. and Caroline had three sons. Howard Kingsley Love (1895–1948), the eldest, bore a middle family locational name derived from the Old English *cyningesleah*, meaning king's glade or thinly wooded meadow. The name Kingsley may be derived from a town or village in Cheshire, and is noted as *Chingeslie* in the Domesday book of 1086. The youngster Lloyd Francis (1900–1906) sadly died of diphtheria in their next home at the corner of Mitford and Clarke Streets. Their third son was named Allan Rynhart Love (1909–1980).



John J. Love was a Methodist lay preacher and an advocate for better local conditions. He promoted Elwood's secession from the City of St. Kilda, was Chairman of the South St. Kilda Citizens' Vigilance Committee and was pivotal in Elwood's Fourth Ward Movement.

John J. Love was a local councillor from 1911 to 1918 , and was mayor in 1915–16. He was a member of the St. Kilda Fore Shore Committee, and a commissioner with the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works.

In 1917 Cr. J.J. Love sought to alleviate the miserable quagmire by Tennyson St between Austin Ave and Glen Huntly Rd: “It was a place that should not exist in any civilized community.”

J. J. Love was a Justice of the Peace who also sat on the bench of the St. Kilda Juvenile Court. Later, John J. Love was to also serve as a Malvern councillor for three years.

John J. Love was listed as a baker when he arrived in 1886, but he was to become a significant timber merchant, becoming President of the Timber Merchants Association of Melbourne; a partner in the St. Kilda Junction ironmongers and timber trading firm of Love, Royal & Thurgood, founded J. J. Love and Son Pty. Ltd; and was an owner of the Camberwell and Kew Timber Co.



1911: St. Kilda Fore Shore Committee:

Cr. John Jeremiah Love standing on the left beside Carlo Catani under the Pavilion Tea House

courtesy of the Port Phillip City Collection

A qualified electrical engineer, HOWARD KINGSLEY LOVE served in WWI, first with the 60th Battalion, the 5th Division Cyclist Company, the 2nd Anzac Cyclist Battalion, then was seconded to the Australian Flying Corps, and later completed combat training at the School of Aerial Fighting in Ayr, Scotland. He flew as an air force pilot with the 4th Squadron of the Australian Flying Corps during which time he was shot down by machine gun fire in France behind enemy lines. He was captured by German troops and interned in Kriegsgefangenenlager in April 1918.

H.K. was repatriated on 2 December to England and married his fiancé, Muriel Beaumont Pye on the 28th of that December, 1918. From 1925 to 1930, Lieutenant Love was to serve in Australia's Citizen Air Force, and was registered with the RAAF reserve until 1939. His last flight time was logged in 1933 with the Central Australian Survey.

H.K. Love pioneered amateur and aeronautical radio communications. From his service record, we read that Love organised the first experimental trans-Pacific wireless tests and achieved long distance radio transmissions from Australia to Great Britain, the United States of America, and to China from his private radio station 3BM.

A 'Kingsley RAAF AR-7 Radio Receiver' is displayed at the ScienceWorks Museum. H.K. became the inaugural Federal President of the Wireless Institute of Australia in 1923, and was the managing director of Kingsley Teleradio Construction Pty. Ltd., in production 1934–1971.

H.K. was so highly regarded that he was thought to have been awarded either a Distinguished Flying Cross or an Air Force Cross; though supporting documents are yet to surface to substantiate this.

RADIO SIMPLY EXPLAINED
 IN
 A SPECIAL ARTICLE
 IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE OF

**THE
 LISTENER
 IN**

By
H. K. LOVE

Also
 A HIGH QUALITY
 LOCAL RECEIVER

NAVIGATION BY WIRELESS
 ALL THE PROGRAMMES

3d. ALL NEWSAGENTS 3d.



HOWARD K. LOVE

1929, 25 February, *The Herald*

This advertisement with Lt H.K. Love in uniform broke convention and sparked military rebuke

MEMBERS OF THE MACKAY AERIAL SURVEY EXPEDITION.

From left: Flight-Lieutenant Kingsley Love, Captain Frank Neale, Mr. Donald Mackay (leader), Commander Bennett, and Mr. C. J. Robertson.

MACKAY EXPEDITION RETURNS FROM CENTRAL AUSTRALIA.

From left: Mr. Donald Mackay, Mr. Frank Neale, Mr. C. J. Robertson, Commander H. T. Bennett, Mr. Kingsley Love, and the Lord Mayor (Alderman Hagon), at Mascot yesterday.

1933, *Sydney Morning Herald*: Flt Lt Kingsley Love on the 19,000 mile Central Australian Aerial Survey

5 GOOD REASONS
 why you should buy
THE KINGSLEY RADIO

1. Exclusive Circuit.
2. Designed to give even amplification of every frequency in the musical range.
3. Hand Assembled.
4. Not built in stock cabinet. 100 designs to choose from.
5. Each set bears the personal guarantee of H. KINGSLEY LOVE, for 9 years technical adviser to A.B.C. listeners.

SETS From £17/10/-

PHONE: CENTRAL 8461.
 After Hours: XW1447 or U3781.
 and arrange for a demonstration in your own home.
KINGSLEY TELERADIO CONSTRUCTIONS Pty. Ltd.
 249 SPRING ST., C.I.

KINGSLEY RADIO RECEIVERS

If your receiver is not functioning, call our Service Department—we specialise in repairs to every make of receiver.

Don't put up with noise or poor reception—call C. 8461 and ask for Service Department—our Van will call.

The 1935 Kingsley Models are now ready. For life-like reproduction of all classes of speech and music, you must have a Kingsley.

Kingsley Teleradio Constructions Pty. Ltd.
 249-251 SPRING STREET, MELBOURNE.
 Cent 8461. Open on Friday Nights.

1935, *The Advocate*

1936, *The Herald*

Younger son, ALLAN RYNHART LOVE was to become a successful architect of the Collins St. firm of Scarborough, Robertson & Love that designed for Scotch College, and several churches.



VICTORIAN DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE

Architects: Scarborough, Robertson & Love.

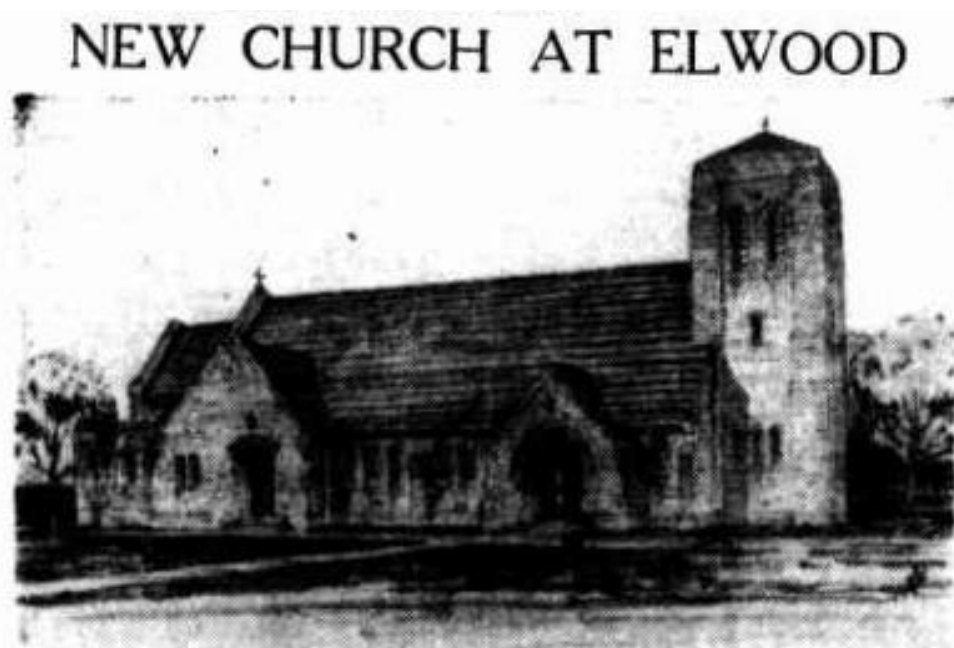
Builder: Graham Phillips

With a direct and simple plan of living room, entrance and service on the ground floor, and two bedrooms and bathroom on the first floor, this little house in East St. Kilda, is refreshing with its brick walls painted white, and one pair of green shutters over the entrance. Without affecting any style, the architects have achieved a cottage of character and charm.

1937, *Construction and Real Estate Journal*



1938, *The Argus*



Tenders will be invited soon for the erection of a church building for the Elwood Presbyterian Church, at the corner of Tennyson and Scott streets, Elwood.

The building will be erected at the side of the existing timber church, with the main front facing Tennyson street. Blended bricks will be used for the construction, and the roof will be covered with tiles. Seating will be provided for 160 persons, and the church has been planned so that this can be increased for special occasions. The choir, which will be in a transept, will seat 18.

A special feature of the church will be

a tower, which will face Scott street. The ground-floor portion will be used for the managers' room, and the upper space will accommodate an organ chamber and possible future belfry.

An arched chancel, recessed beyond the nave, will accommodate the Communion table and the elders' chairs. The pulpit will be on one side of the chancel. Acoustic insulating board, will be used to line the open trussed roof. The choir and clergy vestries have ready access to the church.

The architects are Scarborough, Robertson, and Love, of 368 Collins street.

1938, *The Argus*

THE KLAWS FAMILY: 1904–1913

ST. KILDA.—Six-roomed W.B. VILLA, best style, lovely view. Particulars on application "Kingsley," Tennyson-st.

1904, 15 October, *The Argus*: advertised sale of Kingsley

In 1904 MAX J. and LILY KLAWS and children VICKEY, MAX, HERMANN & LAURA moved to Kingsley from Carlisle St, St Kilda.

Maximillian Johannes Klaws (1866–1913), a commercial traveller (salesman). was married to Lilian Empey (1867–1956). Max J.'s father, Wilhelm Jacob Anton Klaws (1829–1909) was born in Kiel, Germany. Wilhelm was a shipping clerk who married Laura Puttmann (1838–1879).

The Klaws family appear to be of the Lutheran faith. Max J. and Lily had four children:

Adelaide Victoria Klaws (1892–)

Max William George Klaws (1894–1976) d. Heidelberg

Hermann Alexander Klaws (1896–1973) d. Liverpool, NSW

Laura Millicent Lilian Klaws (1902–1958) d. Kew

The family's several and successive moves may have been motivated by the providence of new offspring. Previous family addresses were :

1893: 525 Station St, Carlton 1896: 18 Waterloo St, St Kilda 1897: 2 Argyle St, St Kilda

1899: 18 Byron St, Elwood 1902: Southey St, Elwood 1903: 78 Carlisle St, St Kilda

1910, 18 July: Max J. injured in Richmond train collision that killed nine, injured 60 – 100.
the 8:27 am. Elsternwick train collides into the rear of the 8:20 am. Brighton Beach
train waiting at Platform 1, Richmond Station on a foggy Monday morning



1910, 21 July, *Murchison Advocate*

1913, 1 June: Death of Max J. at Kingsley.

1913: The Klaws family moves to 199 Fitzroy Street, St. Kilda.

1915–1919: Max William George Klaws serves with the 6th Field Ambulance, the 21st and 24th
Battalions in Gallipoli, France and Belgium. He is wounded, and comes to be promoted
to Lieutenant in the field.

THE DURSTON FAMILY: 1913–1915



c.1914: Raymond George, Sydney Frederick, Frederick,
young Vera, Beryl Annie, Ellen, and Norman Henry in uniform

1913: Sale of Kingsley to MRS. ELLEN DURSTON & FAMILY. The Durston family were formerly from a Poowong dairy farm in South Gippsland.

NORMAN HENRY DURSTON (1893–1915) was an officer with the Commonwealth Military Forces before the war, having just graduated from Duntroon and enlisted in 1914 as a commissioned Lieutenant of the 16th Battalion. At Gallipoli he volunteered to charge a Turkish trench, which was taken. He was wounded in that action and likely again when the trench was shelled by Turkish forces. Norman died that night in May of his wounds upon a hospital ship, was buried at the Beach Cemetery, and later re-interred at the Lone Pine Cemetery.

Ray (1899–2002) enlisted and embarked with the 14th Battalion, arriving in Europe for the Armistice.

Initially, the Durstons rented Kingsley to the Goldsworthy Family for £2 a month, and moved to 119 Tennyson St, while some of the family is later to be found at 85 Dickens St.

THE DAVIE & GOLDSWORTHY & WATSON FAMILIES: 1914–1969

1914: EVE EMILY (Nana) nee Davie GOLDSWORTHY (b. Blackwood, Vic., 1862–1961) lives at Kingsley with husband JAMES GOLDSWORTHY (b. Wales, 1858–1941), a mining engineer with Cassilis Gold Mining Company, Gippsland around 1908. James was a Freemason.

Eve Emily (Nana) is one of nine children. Eve's brothers are Albert and Thomas. Albert Davie builds Yarramundie on Ormond Esplanade in 1913 and purchases and builds upon the corner property at 27 Ormond Esplanade. Thomas Davie builds Moolaboola in Normandy Road in 1913. The brothers purchase Kingsley around 1915 for Eve and James.



1913: The Point Ormond Estate Subdivision



2019: Yarramundie, Normandy Rd, Elwood

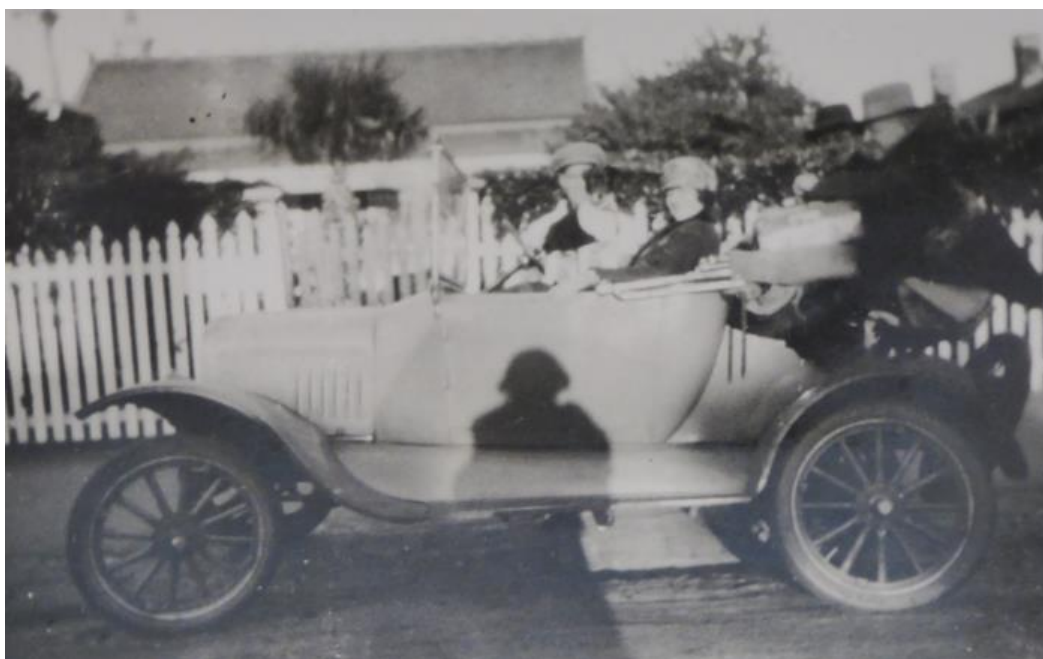


c.1920 at Kingsley: Eva, Jean and mother Eve Goldsworthy



1952: Eve and brother Albert Davie
and friend Gracie Southouse

The Davie parents were: WILLIAM DAVIE (b. Sterlingshire, Scotland 1834–1924) and LOUISE nee HOLE (b. Bradford, Devon). They lived in Kynetton, though William started off as a tent-dwelling blacksmith in Daylesford, who came to own the Farmers Arms Hotel. Eve Emily (Nana) and James Goldsworthy have a number daughters, including Eva (b. 1899) and Jean (b. 1903).



Davie Family: son Albert driving, sister Elizabeth; back seat: son Thomas and father William

At the time Eve and James move in, Kingsley has a picket fence – though no front living room! It is likely that Eve Emily's builder brothers, Albert and Thomas Davie constructed the new gable-roofed living room in the early 1900s.

About 1917 a Norfolk Island pine was purchased from a WWI fundraising fete at Luna Park. The pine was planted at the front fence by young EVA GOLDSWORTHY. The fete may have taken place in November 1917, after Catani's supervised renovation of Luna Park for the State War Council to hold the St. Kilda Patriotic Carnival (according to the St.KHS Luna Park was closed for much of WWI).

THE WATSON FAMILY



1910: Arthur Clive Le Seuer

'Wattie' was born ARTHUR CLIVE LE SEUER in Collingwood in 1894. He was born to 'Nellie' Helen Elizabeth Le Seuer along with brothers Cecil Cassell Le Seuer, John Leslie Watson (who resided by WWI nearby at Amazar, 11 Robert St, Elwood), Frederick William Le Seuer, Harold Le Seuer and Roy Lyndhurst Le Seuer. Latter records will come to note Wattie's parents as Mr. and Mrs. Slodon Watson of Cobram.

At age 13 Wattie went to Queensland to cut railway sleepers, and at age 21 in December of 1914 he enlisted for military service as Arthur Clive Watson. Wattie rose from the rank of medical corps private at Alexandria and came to epitomize a self-made man. He returned from the war a pilot and officer, though was never to speak of his wartime experiences.

1914–16: Wattie enlists in Brisbane in the Army Medical Corps, 12th Field Ambulance as a private, after having completed 9 months as a cadet, and serves in Alexandria and France, where he is wounded. Wattie served with the First Australian General Hospital, and was promoted to Sergeant. Wattie's next advance to flight training remains a mystery.



c.1915, Alexandria: Sergeant Watson, centre, with the wounded



c. 1915: Sergeant Watson, seated right and mates sightseeing in Egypt

1917: Discharged from the AIF, Wattie enlists with the RFC, England as 2nd Lieutenant with the 59th Reserve Squad, British Royal Flying Corps in WWI. He earns a British-Commonwealth Victory Medal including a Mentioned In Despatches Oak Leaf Award, 1914–1920 and an Imperial Russian Order of St. Stanislas, swords 3rd class (1 of 4 awarded to Australians) for his post-WWI duty with the Royal Air Force in the Northern Russian Expedition that culminated in October, 1919



2nd Lt Arthur Clive Watson



Oak Leaf Award



Royal Flying Corps Badge



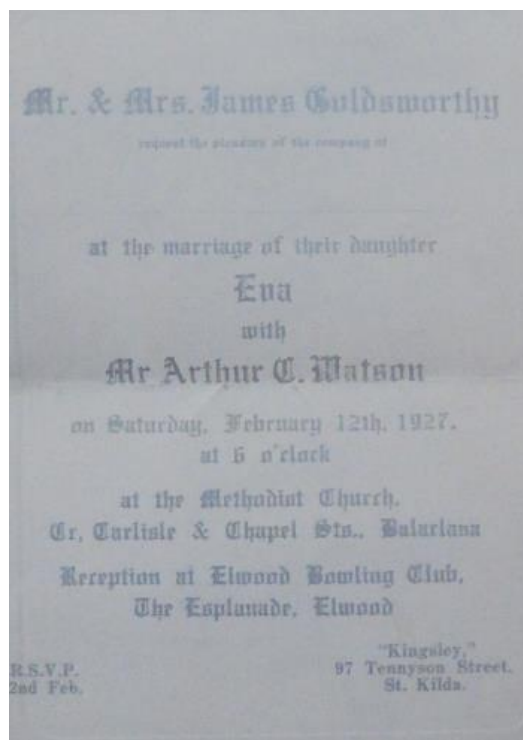
White Russian Medal



1917, thought to be Exeter, Oxford, England: centre, 2nd Lt Arthur Clive Watson, Pilot

Returning from the war, Wattie works railway station shifts and at Newport Power Station.

On 12 February 1927, EVA GOLDSWORTHY marries ARTHUR CLIVE WATSON.



1927: Eva and Wattie's wedding invitation



Bridal Party: Mary Brown, Jean Goldsworthy, Eva Goldsworthy (bride), Mary Cardwell, Esme Watson (Wattie's niece)



1927, 22 October: Eva's sister JEAN GOLDSWORTHY marries W. J. WATKINS of Colac.

The reception is held at the Masonic Hall, St. Georges Rd, Elsternwick.

WEDDINGS.

MR. W. J. WATKINS TO MISS JEAN GOLDSWORTHY.

The Elwood Methodist Church was the scene of a pretty wedding on Saturday, October 22, when Jean, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Goldsworthy, of "Kingsley," Tennyson street, Elwood, became the wife of Mr. W. J. Watkins, of Colac.

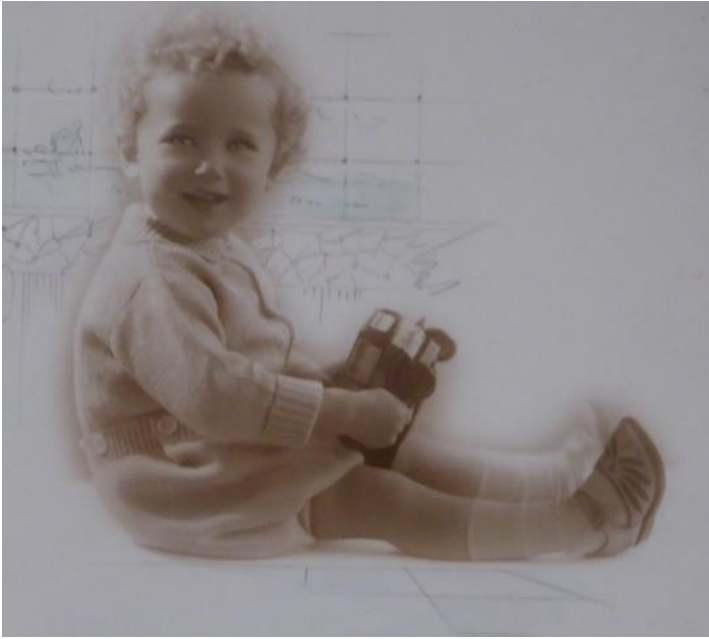
The bride wore a lovely frock of gold lace, with a train of gold velvet lined with georgette, and a beautiful lace veil lent by her sister, Mrs. A. C. Watson. She carried a bouquet of golden roses.

Mrs. A. C. Watson was matron of honor, with Misses Mary Gray and Jean Mackay as bridesmaids. All wore cyclamen georgette frocks lined with gold lace and carried bouquets of pansies. Mr. S. Spargo was best man, and Messrs. E. and A. Harris groomsmen.

After the ceremony Mrs. Goldsworthy received the guests at the Masonic Hall, St. George's road, Elsternwick. She was gowned in chetille embossed georgette. The young couple will make their home at Colac.

1927, *The Prahran Telegraph*: Jean Goldsworthy's Wedding

1928: Eva and Wattie's son DON is born in the front bedroom, our current office.



c.1929: a young Don Watson



Don on his father's bike at Kingsley

1932: Wattie and Eva's daughter Diane and family friend Bonnie Verna Welch are born at St. Clements Private Hospital on the northern corner of Tennyson and Byron Streets.

1940s onwards: Eva Watson establishes Kingsley Knitting Mills in the back workshop.



1947, February, *The Age*

1941, January: Death of James Goldsworthy, funeral cortege leaves from Kingsley.

1946: Wattie and Eva Watson take possession of the Kingsley.

1949: Don's 21st birthday party held at Maison De Luxe, Broadway followed by further celebrations at Tennyson Street.



Don Watson's 21st at the Maison De Luxe



Don Watson's 21st party at Kingsley



Don Watson's 21st at the Maison De Luxe

Most of Don's friends pictured above were from Caulfield Grammar, where Wattie came to be President of Old Caulfield Grammarians Football Club.

Wattie was also to take on the mantle of Elwood Bowling Club President.

1952, February: Wattie Watson takes Oath of Allegiance for council office, and serves to 1968.

1952, 25 February: Wattie and Eva's 25th Wedding Anniversary. Don Watson and Barbara Pitman announce their engagement at the celebration



1952: Don Davie Watson and Barbara Pitman announce their engagement at Kingsley

1953: Don and Barbara are married at St. Andrews Anglican Church, Brighton

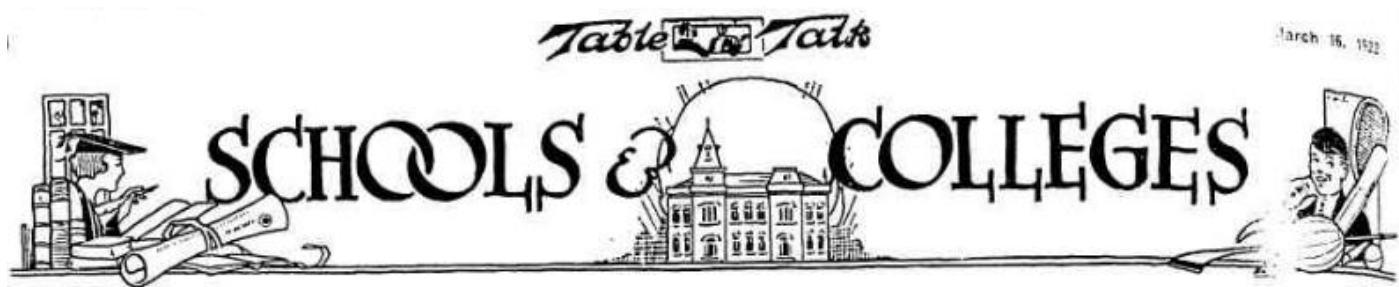


1953: Wedding reception at Berkley Hall, Princes St, St Kilda

Don and Barbara with flower girl sister Suzanne Pitman, Diane Watson, Ethel Andersen, Patricia Bols

1953–1959: Don and Barbara live at Yarramundie, corner of Ormond Esplanade and Normandy Road.

1953, October: Don and Barbara have son James Davie Watson at Yarramundie (d.2017).



Barbara Joan and brother John Pitman were born to Noel Divine and Bert Pitman. Noel Divine attended Oberwyl Girls' College, 33 Burnett St. St. Kilda, with her sister Audrey. The Pitman family boys for generations attend Scotch College. Bert Pitman owned a number of city and suburban businesses including: Bourke Radio Centre and Lonsdale General Electric.

Barbara Pitman first attended Shelford C.E.G.S, then St Kilda Park State School from 1937. Following a severe strapping, her Mum enrolled her in *Miss Bradshaws* private boys' & girls' school behind the Methodist Church, Fitzroy St, in 1939. She later attended Firbank Church of England Grammar School, Brighton.



1939: Barbara Pitman at St Kilda Park State School, 2nd row up, 7th from left



c. 1944: Miss Bradshaw's Private School, Mrs Lang religious instructor far left; Miss Bradshaw, principal far right
Barbara, top row, 5th from left; Patricia Bols, bottom row, 3rd from left



1949: Barbara Pitman, debutante in the Kingsley living room before her appearance at the St. Kilda Mayoral Ball

WEDDINGS AT KINGSLEY

1955, January: Bonnie Verna Welch marries Peter Dunn.



Ken Clarke & Margaret Trewin, Peter Dunn & Bonnie Welch, Diane Watson & Max Winslow

1955, July: Diane Watson marries Peter Mackie.



Bonnie Verna Welch, Diane Watson,
Barbara Watson, Janet Hassel and Katrina Economou



Bonnie Verna Welch, Barbara Watson,
Diane Watson, Janet Hassel and Katrina Economou

1954: Cr. Watson supports Elwood Citizens' Vigilance Committee for the Head Street Diversion.

1956-8: Wattie Watson is Mayor of the City of St Kilda.

1957, February: Don and Barbara have son Ian Davie Watson.

1957: Mayor Watson opens McKewans supermarket in Fitzroy St (closed 1959).

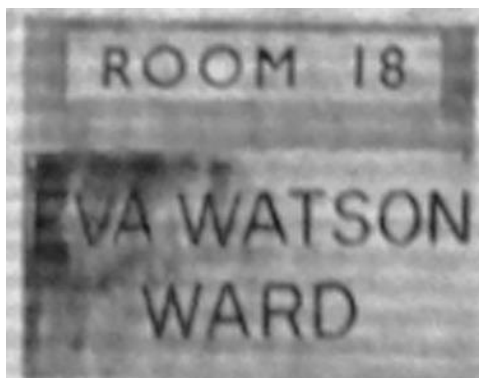


1957: Mayor Arthur Clive Wattie Watson – the Centennial Mayor of St Kilda

Cr. Wattie Watson and wife Eva were devoted to community work. They worked together to raise funds to build the Elwood Scout Hall. Eva volunteered tirelessly at the Cora Graves and Betty Day Centres, and was involved with Elwood High School efforts.

Though initially opposed, Cr. Watson lent his support to the establishment of the Public Library after witnessing a 500-strong resident turn out on a bitter wintery eve.

Eva founded the Elwood Ladies Auxiliary of the (Caulfield) Southern Memorial Hospital in 1951, and in recognition of her efforts a ward was named in her honour. The inaugural meeting of the auxiliary was held at their Tennyson Street home, Kingsley. Eva was the Hospital Vice President.



Eva Watson Ward at the now Caulfield General Hospital

Eva was also foundation Vice President of the St. Kilda Elderly Persons Recreation Centre, and the Vice President of the St. Kilda Ladies Benevolent Society.

Cr. Wattie Watson was a Justice of the Peace and will become a Commissioner at Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works', a Member of Albert Park Committee of Management and a Member of the Southern suburbs Weights & Measures Committee.

Wattie often hosted Liberal Party fundraising functions at Kingsley.



1958: St. Kilda Town Hall hosts the Royal Visit Women's Organizations of Victoria Morning Tea

1958: Mayor and Eva Watson greet the Queen Mother at St. Kilda Town Hall.



1958, 3 March: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother at St. Kilda Town Hall for Morning Tea for the Women's Organizations of Victoria: Mayor Wattie Watson and wife Eva, with the Premier's wife, Lady Edith Lilian 'Jill' Bolte



Mayor Wattie and wife Eva, the Queen Mother, Lady Bolte, Catherine Cox and Jamie Watson

1959, January: Don and Barbara have daughter Christine Ann Watson.

1961: Eve Emily 'Nana' (nee Davie) Goldsworthy passes away in the front bedroom at Kingsley.



1957: Eve Emily Goldsworthy's birthday celebration
Jamie Watson, Jean Watkins, Eve, Eva and Don Watson



1950: Percival Harris, Eva Watson, Mary Harris and Wattie
in the living room – the Harris' 25th Wedding Anniversary



1950s: Diane, Wattie, Eve Emily, Eva, Don and Barbara at Kingsley

ST. KILDA CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

SOUTH WARD

*Meet
Wattie
Watson -
Make Him
Your Councillor Again!*



POLLING BOOTHS:

St. Bede's Hall, Ormond Road, Elwood.

Kingsville Reception Rooms, 17 Quat Quatta Avenue, Ripponlea.

VOTING TAKES PLACE BETWEEN 8 A.M. AND 8 P.M.

ON THURSDAY AUGUST 24

VOTE 1 **WATSON A.C.**

Wattie Watson 1960s campaign flyer

Who is Wattie Watson?

- Member of St. Kilda City Council since 1952.
- Mayor St. Kilda 1957-58.
- Justice of the Peace since 1957.
- Commissioner of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works since 1960.
- Member of Albert Park Committee of Management.
- Member of the St. Kilda Foreshore Committee.
- Member Regional Committee, Southern Memorial Hospital.
- Past President, Elwood Bowling Club.
- Past President, Elwood Sailing Club.
- Member Elwood R.S.L.
- Life Governor of ALL Metropolitan Hospitals.
- Former Vice President, Elwood High School Advisory Council.



WATTIE WATSON IS GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF:

Mr. Barlow Telford, J.P. (Chairman); Mr. Jack Aarons; Mr. E.S. Appel; Mr. John Baker; Mr. J.R. Berkley; Mr. I. Bornstein; Miss Victoria Buntine, M.B.E., J.P.; Mrs. Betty Day; Dr. R. Freshwater; Mrs. Win. Geoffre; Mr. Ray Joseph, J.P.; Mr. Arnold Koppell; Mrs. M. Levy; Cr. Ray Manning; Mr. Arthur Mansfield; Mr. Bruce Matthews; Mr. Neil McNeill; Cr. John Mickles; Mr. F.R. Power, J.P.; Mr. Fred Smith; Cr. John Talbot, O.B.E., E.D., J.P.; Mr. Eric Vienet, J.P.

PUT WATTIE WATSON BACK IN SOUTH WARD ON AUGUST 24

VOTE 1 WATSON A.C.

Authorised: Barlow Telford, 202 Barkly Street, St. Kilda.
Printed by: Twin Press, 310 Chiswick Road, Moorabbin.

Wattie Watson 1960s campaign flyer

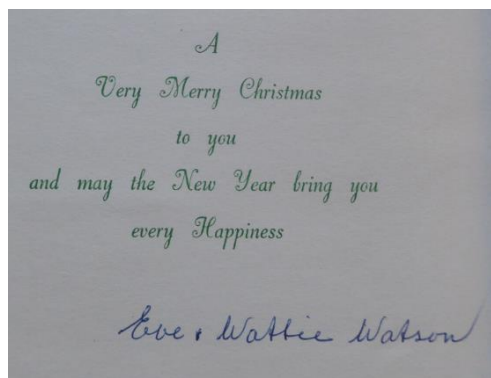


c. late 1960s: Wattie and Eva in the backyard



1968: Arthur Clive Wattie Watson passes away

1969: Eva (nee Goldsorthy) Watson passes away.



One of Eva and Wattie's last greeting cards

DON & BARBARA WATSON, JAMIE, IAN AND CHRISTINE 1969–1977

1969–1977: Don and Barbara and family live at Kingsley.

1970: Don and sister Diane Davie Watson inherit the Kingsley property.

1971: Donald Davie Watson now owns Kingsley.



c. 1959: Barbara, with sons Jamie and Ian visiting by the liquidambar tree



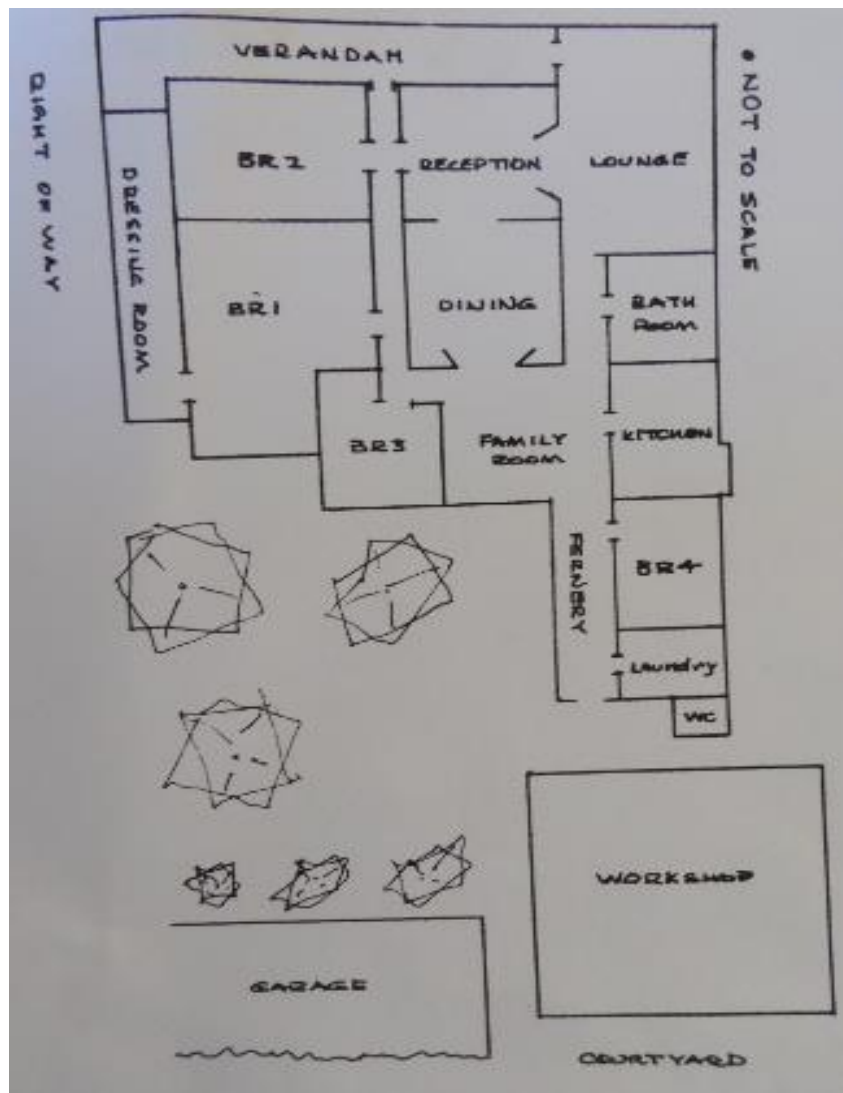
c. 1969: Christine in Girl Guides uniform by the front door



1969: Brothers Jamie(left) and Ian on Ian's first day at Caulfield Grammar School



1973: Christine in the garden



Kingsley house plans 1977

BRIAN ROBERTS: 1977–1979

1977, 19 March: Kingsley is sold to Brian Stuart Roberts, South Melbourne footballer and publican, and his wife, Jillian Samantha Roberts, for \$63,500.

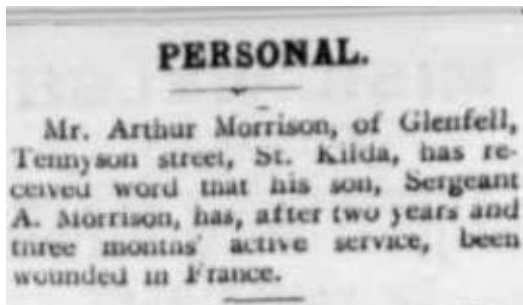
ALBERT BOND: 1979–1982 KINGSLEY SAVED FROM FIRST THREAT OF DEMOLITION:

1979, October: Rear neighbour, Albert Bond purchases Kingsley for \$83,500 and proposes a multi-unit development which ultimately fell through when the developer walked away. There were also said to be local objections.

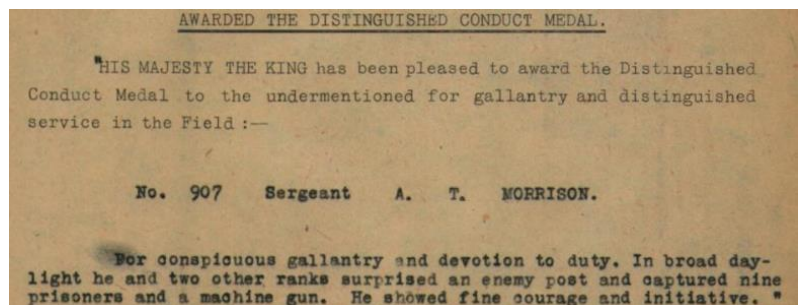
PREVIOUS NEIGHBOURS

GLENFELL

The rear cottage, Glenfell came to be owned by Mr. Arthur Kendall Morrison (1862-1949) and Mrs. Eliza Jane Morrison (1870-1955), with son, Arthur and daughter Florence Maud who married Ronald Cox in April 1918. Their son, Sgt. Arthur Thomas Morrison (1889–1938), was wounded in France in 1916. On 6 June 1918, Arthur and two mates took an enemy machine gun post and nine prisoners in broad daylight between Meteren and Merris.



The Prahran Telegraph, Jan. 1917



5th Battalion, Gallipoli and France: Sgt Morrison's DCM award for bravery

Albert Bond owned the rear property from 1948, was a Master Builder, and later operated a concreting and swimming pool construction firm at Glenfell, the 85 Tennyson Street property. Mr. Bond also leased a portion of the rear property from the Nichols.

Mr. & Mrs. Stan Worthington with a son, and daughter Anne are also recalled there at no. 85, where they had a shed dedicated for growing mushrooms, though it was to become the Bond business office. A 50' two-way radio transmission tower was to be erected in front of the office and drew the ire of council and neighbours alike. Remnant chook pens were also just there, though they were soon to be demolished. There were extensive sheds for the concreting trucks and equipment, as well as two petrol bowsers and their underground fuel tanks.



Mid-1960s: Bond's concrete pumping hoists in the rear yard



The view towards the rear of 38 Scott Street



1965: A Bond concrete hoist truck at a High St., Prahran work site

David Bond thoughtfully contributed these recollections about his father:

I promised to give you some details on my father Albert George Edward Bond. He was born in St Kilda on 16 February 1914, went to school in St Kilda and was a Freemason at the Balaclava Lodge in Crimea Street. He served his apprenticeship as a cabinet maker with H & E Sidgreaves Shopfitters, played district cricket with St Kilda and worked in the shopfitting and building trade for several decades until he became an early member of the Master Builders Association Victoria and formed the building company A. E. Bond Pty Ltd in June 1948. He met our mother Elma May Peters at the Palais de Dance and they married at the Presbyterian Church, cnr. Barkly Street and Alma Road St Kilda on 7 June 1947. Dad was a visionary with a broad range of trade skills that led him from building into hoisting concrete with machines called mobile hoists, that were eventually replaced by new technology to the building industry called concrete pumps. Albert was a pioneer in the introduction of concrete pumps in Australia and ran a successful concrete pump hire business with around 30 employees from his Tennyson Street yard from 1966 until the mid-1970's. He died peacefully at home in Elsternwick, in the family home he built in 1950 on 24 February 2002 at the age of 88 years. Mum died on 16th April 2012 at the ripe old age of 96 years.

The Bonds were formerly of Herbert St. St Kilda. During WWII, Albert Bond was engaged in the manufacturing of propellers for the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation in Port Melbourne, and was later employed at the Williamstown Naval Dockyards.

David Bond took early to the family business, *Mobile Hoists*, and later, *Mobile Concrete Pumping* learning to drive upon his father's trucks in the driveway, that eventually lead to his success in rally car driving. His father's legacy, no doubt also happily laid the foundation for David's nation-wide company, *CPE Machinery Pty. Ltd.*



c.1955: Albert Bond with David and Jenny on Remo, with neighbourhood kids in the Tennyson St. driveway

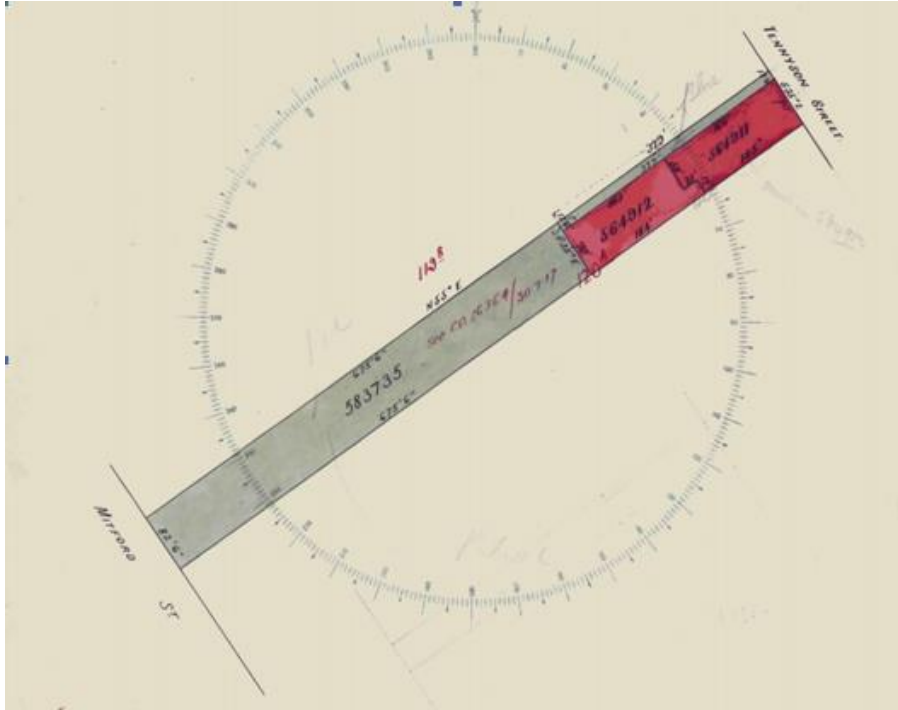
Their children, David and Jenny's four Shetland ponies were also stabled on the property, while the family lived in Elsternwick in a house they built by the Ripponlea Estate.

The driveway from Tennyson Street was once bordered with pepper trees and Moreton Bay Figs that lined the property. There one night, Mr. Bond found himself in dire straits, precariously sandwiched by his car door and a light pole. Neighbour, Harry Nissen heeded his desperate calls for help, and undoubtedly saved his life.

Younger daughter, Jenny Bond was to become a local school teacher who began at Elwood High School, and went on to teach at Gardenvale State School, Shelford Girls' Grammar, and at Richmond Girls High School. Between late 1979 and 1982, Jenny and husband Jim Nelms resided at Kingsley with their children, Daniel and Katherine.

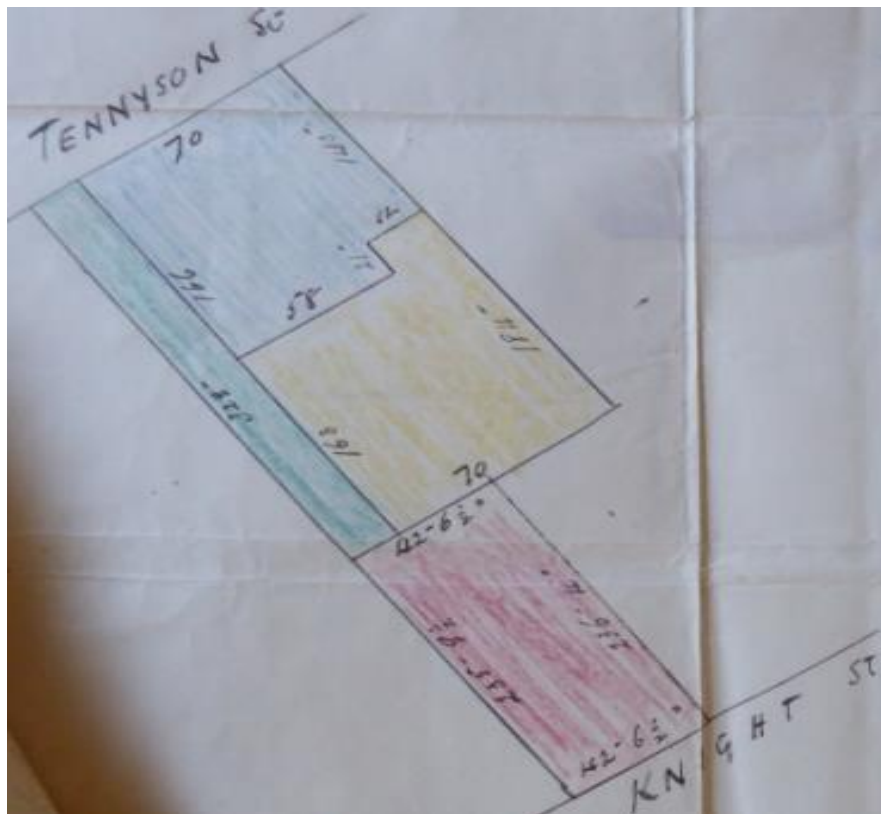
1980 would herald David's engagement to Miss Alison Randle, that took place at Kingsley.

Our property was subdivided into three lots: Kingsley, Glenfell and the rest to Mitford St.



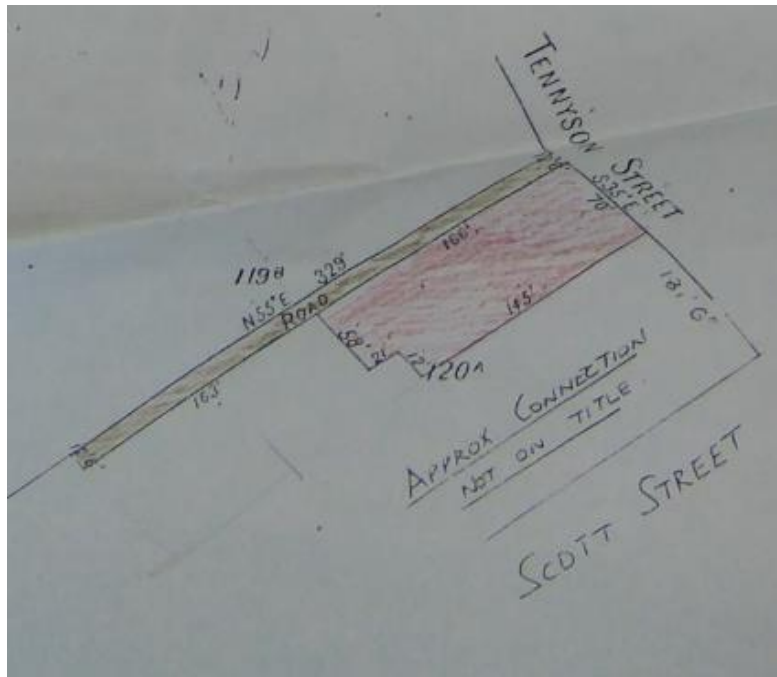
1908: Property subdivision

The property fronting Knight St on the northern side (closer to Rothesay Ave) was owned by Mrs. Rachel Bounas in the 1920s.



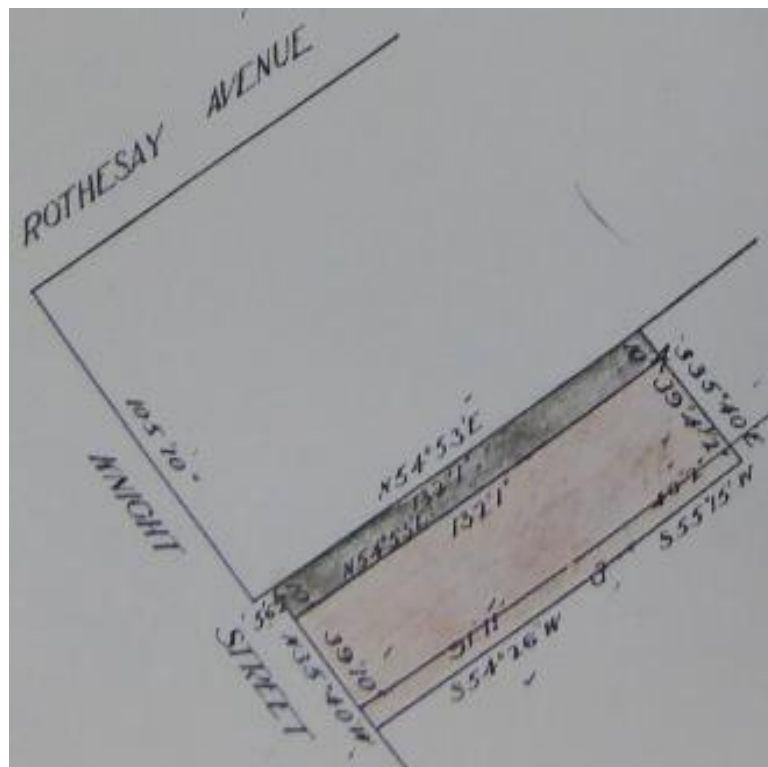
1923: 97, 97a Tennyson St. and Knight St property allotments

In 1928 Eve Emily Goldsworthy took possession of the House title, which was formerly held by her brothers Thomas Matthew Davie and Albert Hole Davie.



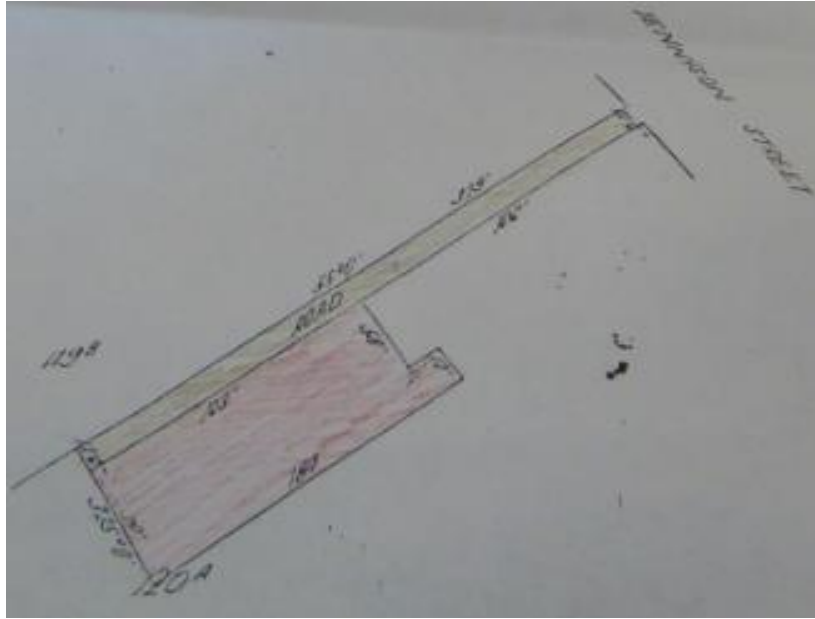
1928 House title detail

In the 1920s this driveway was owned by Mrs. Sarah Jane Knight of Mitford St. Charles Norman Buckland comes to own 1 Knight St and the driveway in 1941.



1941: 1 Knight St. title plan detail

Albert George Edward Bond takes possession of the Morrisons' Glenfell property in 1948.



1948: Title plan detail for 97A Tennyson St

In 1956 Evelyn Violet Nichols owned 3 Knight Street, some of our current backyard and the Knight St. driveway. Evelyn's parents, Bill and Dorothy Nichols were the long-time owners. The family lost a brother in WWI. Evelyn would come to marry one of Albert Bond's employees.



1956: Rear property title plan

83 TENNYSON ST

Our neighbours at 83 Tennyson Street prior to the 1950's were Robert and Effie Marshall. From 1950 to 1980 were Harry & Doris Nissen lived at 83 Tennyson Street with their children Vivian and Peter, with a dog, 4 cats and an aviary of white doves.

.



Viv on Mr. Mouldon's ex-police horse, *Grenadier*



Viv and Peter on the way to school

Peter and Viv at home, 83 Tennyson St



Viv's first job at age 12 was at Hamilton's Dairy two doors from the Elwood Book Club Library.

Viv recalls her father Harry would throw his old shoes up into the Palm Tree, while Barbara remembers the Watson children favoured the Pepper Tree and so emerged the name, the *Shoe Tree*.

HARRY NISSEN, Leading Aircraftman in the RAAF No.5 Airfield Construction Squadron, the 'Flying Shovels' at Port Moresby and Milne Bay during WWII, also served as a compere with the RAAF mobile entertainment unit, and was discharged with war wounds. Harry comes to marry Doris, a Holocaust survivor from Berlin.



Around 1960 Viv recalls the flats behind their property being a Chinese gambling den, and their house being swarmed during a police raid.

In 1980 Robert and Barbara Gara, and son, Stuart moved into number 83 Tennyson St. The Gara family recall the remnants of an orchard behind their property.

81 TENNYSON STREET

Vivian's maternal grandmother, Gertrude Heyman owned number 81, and let it out to Mr. Boris Stupel, former concert master of the Munich Radio Orchestra, and teacher at the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music in the 1950s.

89 TENNYSON STREET

From around the 1940s, the Seeligsons live at number 89 with their daughter, Bella. Mr. Nathaniel Seeligson was a teacher, journalist and communist.

Russell, a builder, and Jayne, a museum director and their children now live next door at number 89, which they bought in April, 2007. They have a cat, a dog and four chickens.



1957, November, *The Tribune*

OTHER TENNYSON STREET FRIENDS

Around 1955, Bonny Verna Dunn lived across the road at 114 Tennyson Street, which was owned by Eva Watson. She married in our front yard. Also across the road, on the other side of Tennyson St lived Florence and May Bickham, who own the tennis courts where Frank Sedgeman coached, that became the squash courts.



Ethel Anderson and Barbara Pitman at Kingsley, with Bickham Courts across the road



1947, December: Frances Hopgood, Doreen McEvoy, Barbara Pitman and Patricia Bols
St Kilda's St Moritz, Earl's Court and Mandalay Flats in the background

THE CITY OF ST. KILDA & OUR NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE: 1982

1981 August: A public meeting is held requesting 'a permanent location, a permanent facility'.

1982, 12 January: Official transfer of the two properties previously owned by Mr. A. E. G. Bond to the City of St. Kilda, after a sale coming to \$272,500.

1982, 12 January: Official opening of the House. Some of the official invitees were:

Mrs Leanne Phillips and Mrs Denise Shine: original proponents for the House

Mrs. Gaye McCarthy

Rev Vernon Cohen, St. Bede's Anglican Church

Fr Des Jenkins, St. Columba's Catholic Church

Mayor Cr Keith McGregor

Dr Goldberg

1982, c. July: Glenfell, (97A) 85 Tennyson St is demolished, along with two underground tanks.

1982, December: Cr Keith McGregor supports the Neighbourhood House and residents' campaign to keep the house that requires \$14,000 in renovation costs. The house was in use by 13 local groups including Parents Without Partners, Nursing Mothers Assoc., Elwood CYSS. The Council at the time had pursued the house's demolition in order to create new parkland.

KINGSLEY SAVED FROM SECOND THREAT OF DEMOLITION



1982 1 December, *Southern Cross*: Elwood Neighbourhood House saved from Council demolition

CHRONOLOGY FROM THE HOUSE ARCHIVES

1983, 31 July: Well attended Public Meeting. Constitution for the House put in place.

- 5 September: House opened with no set activities. All work accomplished by volunteers.
- October: Organised activities commence: playgroups, aerobics, drawing, sewing, knitting, craft, yoga, women's discussion group, Polish community involvement, and 'Drop In' time four days a week.

1984, March: Committee of Management employ co-ordinator, Paddy Millin to assist with growing activities and increased use of the house.

So much fun and wonderful friendships and very happy memories.

I was the police liaison officer, my hubby was the new sergeant in charge of the local police station, and the rest is history: 34 years later still as happy as ever.

I actually met my second husband through the house. It is part of my history with the house and therefore also the house's history.

Eric, being new to Elwood then, organised a youth club at the house, run by the police every Friday night. That was a great success, and gave the local youth somewhere to go and hang out, we had music, etc. That lasted for about 6 months I think.

We had loads of groups use the house, and Pat Draper ran sewing classes. It was our group that started the Toy Library – now that was a real hit!

Our Committee members were:

myself, Sandy Ijewsky, Clare George, Pat Draper and Marty Malone.

I hated leaving Melbourne, so many happy memories.

Christine Flage

1985: The establishment of the Toy Library was a major project that gave local families access to good quality toys for a minimal annual fee.

1986, 10 May: Fire caused the House to close its doors for six months. Many activities cease

KINGSLEY RISES FROM THE ASHES



1986, May: Local newspaper article

From House to Council correspondence:

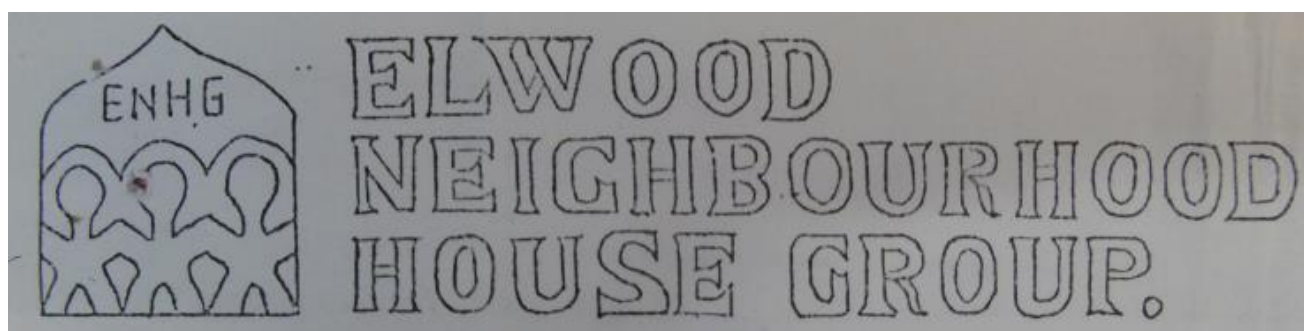
We feel that the recent closure of the House due to the fire on the premises has shown clearly what a vital role the House has played in the Elwood community over the past few years. The Toy Library has been opened for 14 months now and 130 families from St. Kilda have used it with new members joining every week. We run 3 aerobic classes a week and hope to start a yoga class when we reopen. The C.A.P. have used the house as a venue as well as the Home Based Care Unit. We have always been responsive to the needs and desires of House users and wherever possible have tried to provide the activities and classes local people have asked for.

We maintain contact with other neighbourhood houses and with local groups. We regularly attend meetings with other community workers to increase our awareness of the services available in St. Kilda. Several local groups use the House as a venue on a casual basis for fundraising, social and educational functions.

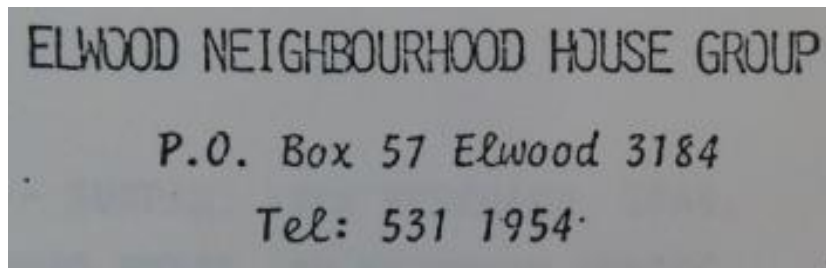
This year we would like to hire guest lecturers to speak on various topics as we feel this will be an excellent way to introduce the House to more people in the community.

Over 90% of House users are St. Kilda residents.

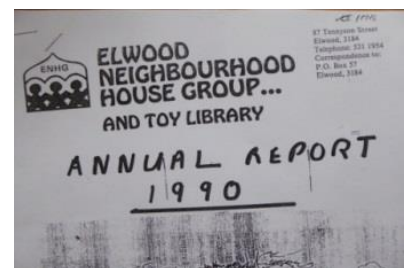
- 1986, October: The House was re-painted and new carpets installed.
- 1987: Established activities continue, new ones begin.
- 1988: Elwood Primary School establish their After School Care Program at the House.
- 1989: Waterside Learning transfer their Further Education classes here due to geographical limitations. The House is open 7 days per week, with recreational, and educational classes, and self-help groups. The House applied for funding from CSV for a co-ordinator, and receive 10 hours co-ordination time.
- 1990: Co-ordinator Kathy Desmond is employed and activities move ahead with increased use by self-help groups.
- 1991, April: Cathy Smith is employed as new co-ordinator. The House is currently operating on a 50–60 hour week, with approximately 550 participants using the House. Classes include: Basic English, writing, maths, Conversational English, craft, art, aerobics, yoga, play groups, Tai Chi, The Polish Women's Educational Group, Toy Library, and after-school care are all hosted at the House. Self-help and community groups and clubs use the House as their regular venue. Future directions are to provide more access to community with special needs, such as the disabled, and senior citizens.



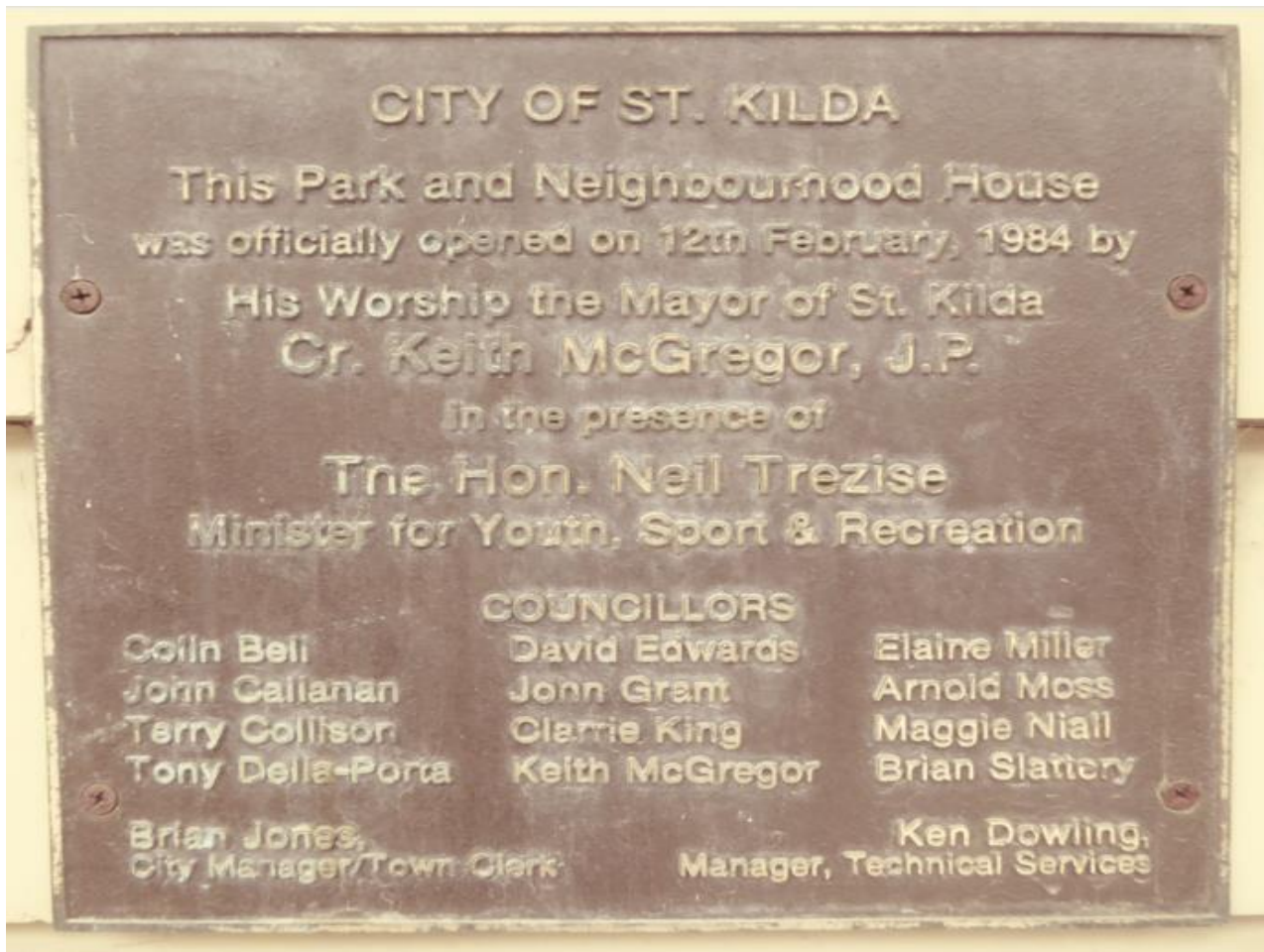
1983 House Letterhead Logo



1984 House Letterhead address and telephone number



1990 Logo



Park & House Opening Dedication Plaque



1998 Toy Library Letterhead

1998, April: Elwood Learning Centre building extension underway, with the Toy Library operating out of temporary mobile shed.



1998: Toy Library in the backyard



1998, July: The Toy Library moves to the St. Kilda Bowling Club while works continue

There go the

Pictures by PETER WEAVER and DARREN JAMES



Vibrant and versatile, they run on a shoestring and provide vital education and services in their communities. But Victoria's neighbourhood houses are struggling to survive. By JEWEL TOPSFIELD and SIMON KIDD

"SCRAMBLE," says Marion Blanc brightly. "Does anyone know what scramble means?" The literacy class at the Elwood/St Kilda Neighbourhood Learning Centre scramble for their dictionaries.

"Scramble is a motorcycle race through the country," ventures a Greek woman in her early 50s. Blanc hesitates. "Try the first dictionary meaning. To climb or crawl awkwardly, or to mix together as in scrambled eggs. Have any of you ever felt your minds were scrambled?" The class giggle and nod. Scramble gets written on the white board.

"Determine," Blanc says. "Can you put determine in a sentence, Maria?"

"I'm determined I'm going to learn English," Maria Apolito says resolutely.

"Very good," says Blanc. Apolito beams. Apolito, who immigrated from Italy 40 years ago, decided to learn to read and write English when she closed her dress-making business in 1998.

"My English was all right but I couldn't write, so when I had to write a note I felt very stressful. My husband has been very lazy in English. He didn't pick it up because he got older and

he got slower. I have to support him in communication or if we have to pay a form or write a letter."

Apolito did not qualify for university entry in Australia. Instead, she was referred to the Elwood/St Kilda Neighbourhood Learning Centre. For \$20 a term - "for the coffee" - Apolito participates in literacy classes every Monday.

"I love it, I am always looking forward to coming here. On Sunday I cook for my husband for Monday because I am not coming home until late. Monday is a day for me. The Neighbourhood Learning Centre is a lovely service, we get heating, coffee and a half-hour break where we can talk to the ladies and you build a relationship with the girls."

The literacy class is one of dozens of activities operating out of Port Phillip's four neighbourhood houses. At Garden City Neighbourhood House there is a class called Stitch and Bitch, where people gather to swap gossip and craft tips.

Get Out of Town, co-ordinated by the Port Melbourne Neighbourhood House, is a program of "adventure days" for public-housing families during the school holidays. There are also organic gardening courses, computer and internet classes,

child-care, teenage writing groups aimed at boys who want to pen rap songs and comics, and activity groups for isolated men who live in rooming houses.

But despite providing vital education and services, Port Phillip's neighbourhood houses are struggling to stay open.

Port Melbourne, Alma Road and Garden City neighbourhood houses have all been threatened with closure in the last couple of years. They managed to dig their claws in, but massive funding shortfalls have resulted in axed programs and reduced opening hours.

John Shugg, executive officer of umbrella body the Association of Community Education Victoria, says the problem is state-wide. He warns that up to 20 of Victoria's 350 neighbourhood houses face closure within 18 months, unless the State Government pumps at least \$4 million into the houses' educational budget.

Mr Shugg says last week's \$2 million state budget boost was a good first step, but will not prevent closures. He says centres need \$8.90 per student per hour to break even on staff costs and resources, but that the increase brings the rate up to only \$6.11.

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

MATERNAL / CHILD
KINDERGARTEN

ELWOOD 81 ST. KILDA
Neighbourhood Learning Centre
Ph: 9531 1954

Elwood Chess Club Sat. 12 - 5pm



2003: After School-Care



Play Group Dress-Up



Play Group



Kids at Christmas time at the House



2008, 30 September: Mrs. Barbara Watson visits the House and comments:

'I do think it is fitting that the property is now being put to good use for the community and not pulled down and lost forever.'

2012 Letterhead and logo



2012: House Open Day



2012: House Open Day





2017, March: Our Elwood Community Choir



2018: Viv's Intermediate Level English Class

OUR HOUSE TODAY

Today the Elwood and St Kilda Neighbourhood Learning Centre regularly provides skilling up for employment and literacy classes, as well as art therapy and yoga classes. Programs cater to around 150 participants a week which include: ARCS, Work Ready, Art Therapy, Basic Computers, Get That Job: Computer, iPad, Tablets & Smart Phone, English Literacy, English As A Second Language: Beginner, Post-Beginners, Pre-Intermediate, Intermediate, and Conversation, English Literacy, Roomers Magazine outreach program, and 2 Yoga classes.

The House, aka ESNLC also provides a venue for a score of other community, education, health and well-being activities that draw in the vicinity of another 300 regular weekly attendees. These groups include: Book Club, Toy Library, Steiner Playgroup, Child Revive First Aid, J B Fitness & Health, Bones For Life, Galiamble Art, Life Drawing, Watercolour, Good At Art, Alcoholics Anonymous, A A Women Only, Adult Children of Alcoholics, Boomerang Bags, French, Elwood Community Choir, and the Bruno Groewing Circle of Friends. The Walking Group and Poets' Garden are of course also well connected to the House, as are those parents and carers of participants, volunteers, staff and management. The House also serves as a drop-off -pick-up point for donated provisions for asylum seekers.

Our House has also proven to be popular for party, meeting and other event hire purposes. Altogether, a figure of about 600 by-and-large locals frequent our House on a weekly basis.

Our House has a steadily expanding membership that is currently almost 200 in number.



2018: Applied Reception & Customer Service (ARCS) students



2018: David and Karen teaching computer skills to ARCS students



2018: Helena, Simone and Karen presenting Audrey with her ARCS Award



2018: Karen's Computer Class for ARCS students

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

KINGSLEY: OUR HOME & HOUSE was compiled by Isaac Hermann, on behalf of the Committee of Management in July 2019 for our House Story Telling Event of 25 August this year, 2019.

We were honoured to have Alastair Chisholm, a long-time community supporter of our House inscribe the Foreword to this book with insight, kindness and erudition.

The material included in this story came foremost from Mrs. Barbara Watson, who relayed our House's family and municipal history in a thoroughly detailed and devoted manner, never missing a beat – even through a bout of pneumonia, upon her hospital bed, and through her brother John's last days. We are deeply appreciative of all her and her family's efforts, as we are of her dear friends Bonnie Dunn and Angela Durston, whose friendships go back through our House, and for generations, who were also on hand to augment our tale.

Thank you Barbara, for furnishing us with so many precious images and anecdotes. Joan Paige's beautiful oil painting of our house is one example amidst the many images reproduced here.

We were also fortunate to have been contacted by David and Jenny Bond just days before going to print. Their contribution of historical material was also timely and essential to our story.

Vivian Parry, childhood neighbour and current convener of our House indigenous arts workshop was also generous in sharing both her recollections and photographs.

We are grateful to our local history librarians Tobias Nash and Chris Minos for their assistance in trawling through microfilm and fiche and maps, as we are of Heather McRae for providing us with indispensable archival material from the City's property files.

City of Port Phillip Heritage Advisor, David Helms was also of great assistance in providing his expertise, and essential documentation. Sandy Khazam, Arts and Heritage Team Leader also kindly provided us with images from the Port Phillip City Collection.

Heather Arnold, an extraordinary researcher from Cora Lynn, gleaned treasures from our deep history.

Thanks to Wayne Salt for decoding some of the more mysterious elements of personal military history.

Paul Caine was also on hand to expertly redeem visions lost through the fog of time.

Further details and images were also sourced from our National Library's Trove Digitalised Newspapers, and the National Archives of Australia, which are truly remarkable resources, as is the Public Records Office of Victoria.

Simon Hall, long serving Toy Library Co-ordinator, and recent Committee appointee generously contributed his editorial talents in bringing this work to fruition.

Simone Jamieson, our House Manager has been instrumental in safeguarding our own precious records, was a constant support in bringing about this publication and the historic gathering to which it has been dedicated.

Lastly, I would like to sincerely acknowledge the City of Port Phillip for not demolishing this House way back in 1982, for recognising what an amazing place this is, and for supporting us generously ever since.



2013: Kingsley, the Home and our Neighbourhood House and Learning Centre, a Kathy Chambers photograph

