

# A CHARTER FOR A CENTRAL REGION

## PART A HUMAN VALUES WORTH SUPPORTING -

### QUALITATIVE GROWTH AND OTHER SPECIAL GROWTH

The items below are presented in the hope they may be useful in the formulation of a Central Region Community Program.

They are the underlined passages - the operative clauses - taken from "A Charter for a Central Region - A Principled Community View", which should be referred to wherever the objective or full meaning of any items are not clear.

"CAD" in the first heading is short for Central Activities District, the new official name for Melbourne's "golden mile" which used previously to be referred to as the "CBD" = Central Business District. "CHA" - a still newer term - is short for "Central Host Areas" - inner areas around the CAD, roughly equivalent to the Central Region in extent, containing all-Melbourne or all-Victorian facilities.

#### 1. GROWTH IN SPECIALISATION OF CAD AND CHA

(1) Keep the existing and any new highly specialist functions located in the CAD and CHA.

(2) Central Region people need to monitor major developments to discourage re-location of specialist functions to the suburbs, and to ensure that in any expansion or new development of large enterprises, the authorities insist that planning rhetoric about support for specialist functions is enforced.

Thus institutional expansion into surrounding residential areas, or car-attracting and space-wasting developments in the CAD or CHA should be resisted

By thus helping to make Melbourne less car-dependent, Central Region people will also be helping, in the longer term, to strengthen public transport patronage which can reduce the number of people bringing their cars to the central areas.

(3) To retain the presently-existing specialist functions of the CAD and CHA does not mean to aim for a stagnant or static condition for the Central Region. On the contrary, Central Region people should also seek growth; but the all-important question is : what sort of growth, and of precisely what elements, how and where ?

What has to be rejected is the "growth for growth's sake" attitude typified by some local Councillors who imagine they are big business tycoons whose functions are the aggrandisement of the Council's status by expanding the rate base through attracting international investment in skyscrapers, rather than meet the real needs of the ratepayers. Equally misplaced are the attitudes of governments which see economic recovery based on a crop of 5-star hotels and expensive entertainment to accommodate wealthy overseas travellers rather than the "ordinary run" of holiday-making visitors.

## 2. GROWTH IN THE QUALITY OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS

- (4) Now what is needed is to re-establish and/or strengthen a firm degree of local social stability by developing networks at neighbourhood level assisted by people being involved in human service delivery and in local cultural, sporting and other activities of their choice.
- (5) Central Region people need to press for full implementation of the reports on human services by State government or local government (such as the 1985 Strategy Plan) as a first instalment of more extensive provisions later (7)  
 (Note: affordable housing for all income groups - also a most important and urgent "human service" - is dealt with below item 5.)  
Not to be overlooked is the socialising cement that can be contributed by the strong development of local crafts, games, cultural efforts and social occasions, such as street parties, festivals and ethnic celebrations.

## 3. GROWTH IN THE QUALITY OF HERITAGE, AND RETENTION OF THE HOUSING STOCK

- (6) Central Region people should
- (a) Where there are reasonable conservation areas and reasonable measures for enforcing the conservation plans - at least up to the standard of the City of Melbourne - press to have them implemented,
  - (b) Where they are satisfied with the conservation areas proclaimed but not with measures for enforcing the plans, press to have more thorough and effective studies and/or measures adopted.
  - (c) Where no conservation areas exist in places people consider there should be, press to have them proclaimed and protected by adequate studies and measures; and press for protection of particular buildings or features that are of heritage value irrespective of their location.
- (7) The vigilance of Central Area people should extend to parks and seashores in the region to prevent them being turned into carparks or marinas, or for the exclusive use of private clubs, and should include consideration of systems of linking open space by linear "landscaped ways" for pedestrians and cyclists
- (8) The retention of basically sound and repairable terrace housing should be supported by Central Region people wherever it occurs, because:-
- (a) It contributes to a reasonable high density of accommodation to help sustain population growth (see item 5 below); and, in many cases, the household floorspace can be expanded without affecting external appearances from the street (See item 5 and ref.(7) (i) below)
  - (b) It gives more opportunities for existing low-income occupants - some of them long-term residents - to remain in the area (See item 5.)
  - (c) Terrace housing (or for that matter row buildings in the form of shops, offices or factories) have a higher thermal performance standard than free-standing building forms; moreover, household energy running costs of heating or cooling can often to be reduced at reasonable cost.

- (9) Central Region groups should be active campaigning for an increase in low-cost housing, and subsidies for those on lower incomes to rehabilitate and restore their houses; and they should oppose the attitude of those who support conservation as a process that brings them private profit. (See items 5 and 7).

#### 4. GROWTH IN LABOR-INTENSIVE EMPLOYMENT

- (10) The 1985 Strategy Plan lays down as a cornerstone of policy on the City's economy that:

"New economic opportunities will add to the employment base of the City over the next decade", and "job opportunities for the unemployed are created". The same broad objectives should be the aim for Central Region people.

The Strategy Plan itself proposes to tackle this problem not on a City basis, but on a regional basis. It proposes an "inner region Economic Development Strategy", and to help implement this a "Central Melbourne Enterprise Board", which, among other functions, would "undertake direct investment in support of the Regional Economic Development Strategy"

Central Region people need to support these perspectives for a regional approach to job creation and for a regional economic strategy in which local government can assist.

- (11) It is suggested, perhaps, that a fruitful field for community groups might be to concentrate on aspects most likely to receive least attention:-

- (a) An emphasis on small and labor-intensive enterprises, since, for a given investment of capital, this is likely to employ the maximum number of people, and also because big corporations more readily command attention for concessions than small firms.
- (b) An emphasis on service employment, whether by private enterprise, by the public sector, or by funded community groups and especially for citizen-involving health culture, education, sports or recreation (as outlined under item 2. above)
- (c) A preference for enterprises of an innovative, unique or high performance character - whether business or community enterprises, that typically start in a small way, but require central locations to maximise their chances of growth.
- (d) A regard for the usefulness of purpose, involvement of the workforce in management, and close attention to heritage, housing and amenity. (as above)

#### 5. GROWTH OF MIXED POPULATION IN MIXED HOUSING

- (12) Central Region people, in most parts of the region, can benefit by a general population increase. For some decades, most parts of the region have been suffering a decline in population

- (13) Neither commercial stagnation nor upmarket pazzaz are helpful in creating thriving local commercial hubs which, used as a location also for community-involving activities can do much to help revive social stability (See item 2 above and 8 below). There is no substitute for an increased local residential population and also, in mixed use areas, a nearby increased workplace population.

- (14) Central Region people enrich themselves as well as the people coming from other nations, the more opportunities are provided to appreciate each other's culture - especially in forms which require no language such as national dishes, music, dancing, crafts and games; the present mixture of nationalities should be welcomed, and they should be provided with an increase in housing commensurate with any general population increase in the region.
- (15) It is in the interests of Central Region people that any population increase contemplated should provide both for a proportion of lower income people, and for more teenagers and young adults, and for more people who prefer to rent rather than own dwellings.
- (16) More housing is required in the Central Region, some of which is affordable by lower income people; and more varied accommodation is required, some for nuclear family needs and some for communal or other types of household, with special consideration of the needs of migrants, elderly people and disabled people.  
(More on this will be found under item 7. below)

## PART B SOCIAL/LAND-USE/TRANSPORT DESIGNS - TO IMPLEMENT CHOSEN HUMAN NEEDS

### 6. WORKPLACE FLOORSPACE

How to Increase High-density Employment for the CAD, and Low-density for Mixed Use Areas to Fully Utilise Public Transport Access.

This issue is expanded most clearly if divided into 2 sections: (1) Inside the Municipality of Melbourne and (2) Outside the Municipality of Melbourne.

(1) Inside the Municipality of Melbourne.

- (17) ....The main thrust of this 1973 strategy is retained in the present strategy adopted by the Council in 1985 and should be supported. Implementation of the 1985 Strategy Plan, and the translation of "precinct objectives", "use intensity", "urban design", and "preferred development types" into the planning scheme ordinance in order to confirm the legal enforceability is urgent.

The effect of doing this would give results that Central Region people should support, namely:

- (a) Future large high-rise towers for offices or major shopping complexes to be developed only within the CAD, preferably within a few minutes walk of the loop stations (rather e.g. than along Collins St. or on the South Bank), and not to be permitted outside the CAD, in the mixed use areas.

17)(con't)

- (b) In the mixed use areas only small office buildings to be permitted, although, if the development includes residential accommodation as part of the same complex as the non-residential uses (and subject to conservation considerations where they apply), somewhat higher densities to be permitted.
- (c) This leaves plenty of scope for increased floorspace to accommodate expanded economic growth both in the CAD and in the mixed use areas, at the same time providing encouragement for increased residential uses.
- (d) It also provides the optimum transport solution, keeping workplace densities low where access by commuters cars will be some three times higher than in the CAD where workplace densities, within short walking distance from loop stations, are the highest.

18) It is not in the interests of existing businesses or residents to have high-rise offices or major shopping complexes built in the mixed use areas, for a number of reasons:-

19) Retention of a mixed use character, wherever a sizeable area of mixed use now exists, should be supported, and, (subject to conservation considerations where they apply and subject to height control \_\_\_\_\_, an increased density for business or light industrial premises should be supported, as should a somewhat greater density than this for incorporation of residential uses (For more see item 7 below).

## (2) Outside the Municipality of Melbourne

(20) In order to protect District Centre(s) and the CAD strategies as well as local interests:-

- (a) Acceptance of the continuation of mixed use areas where they exist, and (where necessary) demarking the areas concerned and applying similar principles to them as to the 1985 Strategy Plan
- (b) Rejection of any high-rise office towers or major shopping complexes in such areas, except for such parts of those areas as may be delineated as part of a district centre.
- (c) The density permitted in district centres for office towers or shopping complexes be considerably less than densities permitted in the CAD.
- (d) Encouragement of more residential uses than non-residential in any redevelopment outside a district centre.

Item (c) above is quite important. There are moves to encourage growth of Prahran as the centre of the metropolis. This could make some sense if the metropolis were entirely car-based and it was desired to keep it that way. But it is not. The proposition would increase car-dependence, and runs counter to the strategy of basing the CAD on the maximum accessibility which is provided by the public transport centrality centred in the present CAD.

## 7. HOUSING FLOORSPACE

### How and Where to Retain, Adapt and Increase

- (21) (a) In each municipality in the Central Region what is required (if it has not already been done) is a careful assessment of the different types of housing needs, including measures for concessions or subsidies from central or local government so that low-income people can afford Central Region accommodation; and an assessment of a target rate of supply of new dwellings.
- (b) In the meantime, to "stop the rot" of encroachment of non-residential uses to displace existing houses, changing zoning (where necessary), and provisions (by Interim Development Orders, if necessary) to prevent such practices and to prevent demolition and/or ripping out internal domestic lay-out (such as kitchens, bathrooms), or adding fire-escapes to make dwellings difficult to re-convert to residential use.
- (c) A monitoring system should be set up which keeps a running record of all land or buildings becoming vacant, derelict or under-utilised with a view to its suitability for housing, for example, like the proposed "Lynch's Bridge" project, or Southbank land, but also smaller sites anywhere in the Central Region; and Councils should actively canvas the possibility of attracting private or public investment to develop particular sites.
- (d) To otherwise protect, adapt and increase housing floorspace by any of the means suggested by the 1985 Strategy Plan:
- (22) - The Council will encourage other inner urban Councils to take a regional approach to housing policy development (p.201)
- Encouragement for including housing in multi-use buildings in "multi-use" precincts (pp.130-131 - also see reference (17))
- Use of upper floors over shops as dwellings (p.188-189)
- Demonstration, with Council involvement, of various housing schemes (p.184) :-
- + jointly between Council and private sector giving stimulus for a variety of types:
    - recycling project from non-residential to residential
    - mixed residential/commercial project
    - innovative residences to new standards suitable for inner areas (not MMPS or Uniform Building standards)
  - + jointly between Council and Ministry of Housing a project on Council land for lower-cost housing.
- Prohibit conversion of residential to non-residential use. (p.115)
- Plot ratio bonuses (pp.119 & 190) and 5-year rate concessions (p.191) to encourage housing in mixed use areas.
- Council support for tenant management on MOH estates; MOH preferences for local residents or workers; and Council/MOH provision for elderly citizens accommodation (pp.196-7,201). (these measures should also help to stabilise community).
- Where redevelopment in a multi-use area requires demolition of some housing, new residential units of an equal number and at similar costs to be provided elsewhere (p.191)
- To assist long standing residents to remain, the interests of any established tenants are to be respected in any redevelopment or strata title proposals (p.193)
- Aim to maintain the stock of private rooming and boarding houses (p.193)
- Council will not permit or support major institutions or enterprises to expand in a manner which results in any loss of housing stock (p.198)

- Support for agencies for establishing housing for people of limited means; for relief/emergency housing; to relieve homelessness; to assist vulnerable people and elderly with maintenance (pp.202/3)
- Increase the supply and availability of housing for the elderly (p.201).
- Promotion of self-help home improvements, including energy-efficient measures, and with "tool libraries" to help; assistance for the elderly to adapt their homes for old age (p.203)
- The Council will support legislation and regulations proposed by other authorities that are likely to lead to an increase in housing stock and housing diversity in the City (p.187)

(23) To these ideas, two more are suggested, not spelt out by the Strategy Plan:-

- Local Councils should act as advocates for adequate housing finance from State and Federal governments and from financial institutions to ensure a diversion of funds for new housing from greenacre new estates to housing in the Central Region, as well as district centres and local centres.
- Using the sun for heating in the winter, and insulation and orientation of windows to keep the house cool in the summer are ways of cutting running costs of a house, once the capital expense of alterations is repaid; cheap loans and/or provision of skilled people to effect alterations could help; and improvements in thermal performance can be made even in conservation areas without affecting streetscapes (10).

Bearing in mind the problem of providing a sufficient range of housing types, with enough of them sufficiently low cost to be affordable by lower and middle income people, and bearing in mind the many-sided nature of measures (such as those above) that can be useful nevertheless, it is important not to lose sight of the fact that an elementary pre-condition for any significant increase in the variety of housing types and range of costs lies in increasing the overall floorspace available for housing. It is useful to see the possibilities in three categories:-

Expanding floorspace:

- (1) in residential-only areas.
- (2) in mixed use areas.
- (3) on derelict land or in recycled buildings

(1) Expanding floorspace in residential-only areas

(24) In the case of new buildings,

In residential-only areas that are not conservation areas, the 1985 Strategy Plan says that the objective is to "promote the maintenance and enhancement of existing residential buildings", but judges that these areas "will have greater potential for multi-unit development, particularly in the case of vacant or derelict land. High density low rise housing accommodation will be actively promoted" (p.135).

(25) In the case of extensions to existing buildings.

In the process of rehabilitation of terrace houses by those who can afford it, some have pulled down the ramshackle additions built onto the rear of the original building, and rebuilt and extended the ~~the~~ rooms at the rear, often also opening them up to an indoor-outdoor access to a back garden. Some have even built 2-storeys in this back portion of the house.

With architect's advice on the use of clerestorey windows or skylights, light and sun can often be brought into rear rooms without overlooking problems - and yet with the extensions not altering the exterior appearance of the building from the street.

(26) (2) Increasing floorspace in mixed use areas

In these areas, the innovative method of giving economic incentives (such as density bonuses or rate holidays) to non-residential redevelopments that incorporate residential accommodation (17) has never really been tried. First proposed by the 1973 Strategy Plan, these aspects were dropped. They have been revived by the 1985 Strategy Plan.

(27) (3) Increasing floorspace on derelict or vacant land or in recycled buildings.

The conversion of neglected factories or warehouses to meet human needs should be welcomed.

The upper floors of far too many older buildings (in the CAD, but also elsewhere) have had to be abandoned and are vacant because of fire prevention regulations. It is to be hoped that practical and cheaper fire control performance standards can be devised, so that these older buildings can contribute valuable floorspace.

Regarding derelict land, off-street car parking at ground level ought to qualify for this category, and should be phased out. Truck depots, commuter's parking lots and used car saleyards should have no place on the valuable land of the inner areas.

## 8. HUBS AND HAPPENINGS

(28) Local hubs are needed in the Central Region to give practical access to a mixture of 3 types of function:-

- (a) Commercial functions (buying and selling goods and services)
- (b) Human Services (receiving help and mutual neighbourhood networks)
- (c) Community and Cultural Activities (leisure time pursuits and local happenings)

(a) Commercial Functions.(29) Re-vitalisation of declining local shopping centres is urgent; and this involves varied measures such as increased nearby residents and workers, more floorspace for a bigger range of enterprises that can attract local customers, and clustering human services and community arts, cultural and social events in the hub.(b) Human Services.(30) The recognition of the need to cluster human services ushers in a change from the trend planning of the past. It can provide the the physical conditions to facilitate six important social developments (1) responsiveness to the community, (2) public participation, (3) decentralised management, (4) cultural relevance, (5) co-ordination of services and (6) universality.(31) The shedding of State government powers to local government and regional organisations should not be unnecessarily delayed owing to the present controversies over restructuring local government and the delineation of regional status and boundaries.

- (32) It is important to emphasise that any devolution of responsibility from Federal, State to local government, or to regional or neighbourhood organisations must be accompanied by adequate accountability.

If part of this local government accountability is further devolution to neighbourhoods, or sharing with regions, this should be done in such a way that the accountability of the local government is not in any way diminished; rather it should result in even greater accountability.

(c) Community Activities and Cultural Events

- (33) There are obvious advantages in holding community events and smaller scale activities in the hubs of neighbourhoods. Shy, lonely or "non-joining" people do not have to make a deliberate decision to go to the event, and people who unaware of the range of activities and facilities in which they can participate if they wish, can be pleasantly informed or reminded of these activities and facilities, if they are held in the hub which they frequently visit for other purposes.

- (34) Where libraries are not sited in the hubs, special efforts should be made, either to re-locate them there, or, at the very least, in the meantime, ensure that their community-involving potential can be directed in some form or another towards enlivening the life of the hub, such as, with shop-front auxiliary libraries or information and resource centres.

- (35) An essential feature of an urban hub is that some of its spaces, either indoor or outdoor, are not privately owned. Such public space can only become "attractive" if it has some objects or people to whom those living or working nearby can relate. Thus this reversal of trend not only depends on social and physical planning measures, but also on the employment of people to make involvement possible.

- (36) There is a need for planners to help the community to prepare community action plans; for community librarians (and librarians for ethnic services, local history collections etc.); for information and resource workers; for community artists (painters, writers, musicians, dramatists and so on); and many other such new areas of employment where people have the responsibility of creating condition for participation.

- (37) There also needs to be measures to locate some of the local government employees, who are responsible for human services and recreational needs in the hubs so that human and cultural services are accessible to the users through direct human relationships rather than through some bureaucratic office in a central location.

## 9. ACCESS SYSTEMS

- (38) A narrow parochialism where each area tries to push the traffic into an adjoining area to relieve its own condition offers no overall solution, and the narrower the parochialism (such as those in one street trying to push the traffic into the next), the more bitter the conflict engendered and the more impossible it becomes to solve the basic problem. So:

The basic problem is to reduce the number of peak-hour cars entering the Central Region.

(39) Increasing the patronage of public transport cannot, therefore, be solved within the Central Region itself, but depends on the development of a "cluster and connect" policy (3), especially for the middle and outer suburbs: there must be buses or mini-buses plying frequently from where people live to the station or tram stop.

Although this remedy lies outside the Central Region, it is in the interests of Central Region people to see that:

Cluster and connect principles of designing land-use to favour public transport should be supported because they can halt and reverse the ever-increasing all-Melbourne dependence on cars, which is the bane of the inner areas.

(40) A ceiling on road capacity and a ceiling on commuter off-street parking in the Central Region should be declared and enforced.

This holding position is the very least the government, the transport authorities, and the Central Region local Councils should implement if they are at all earnest about increasing public transport patronage.

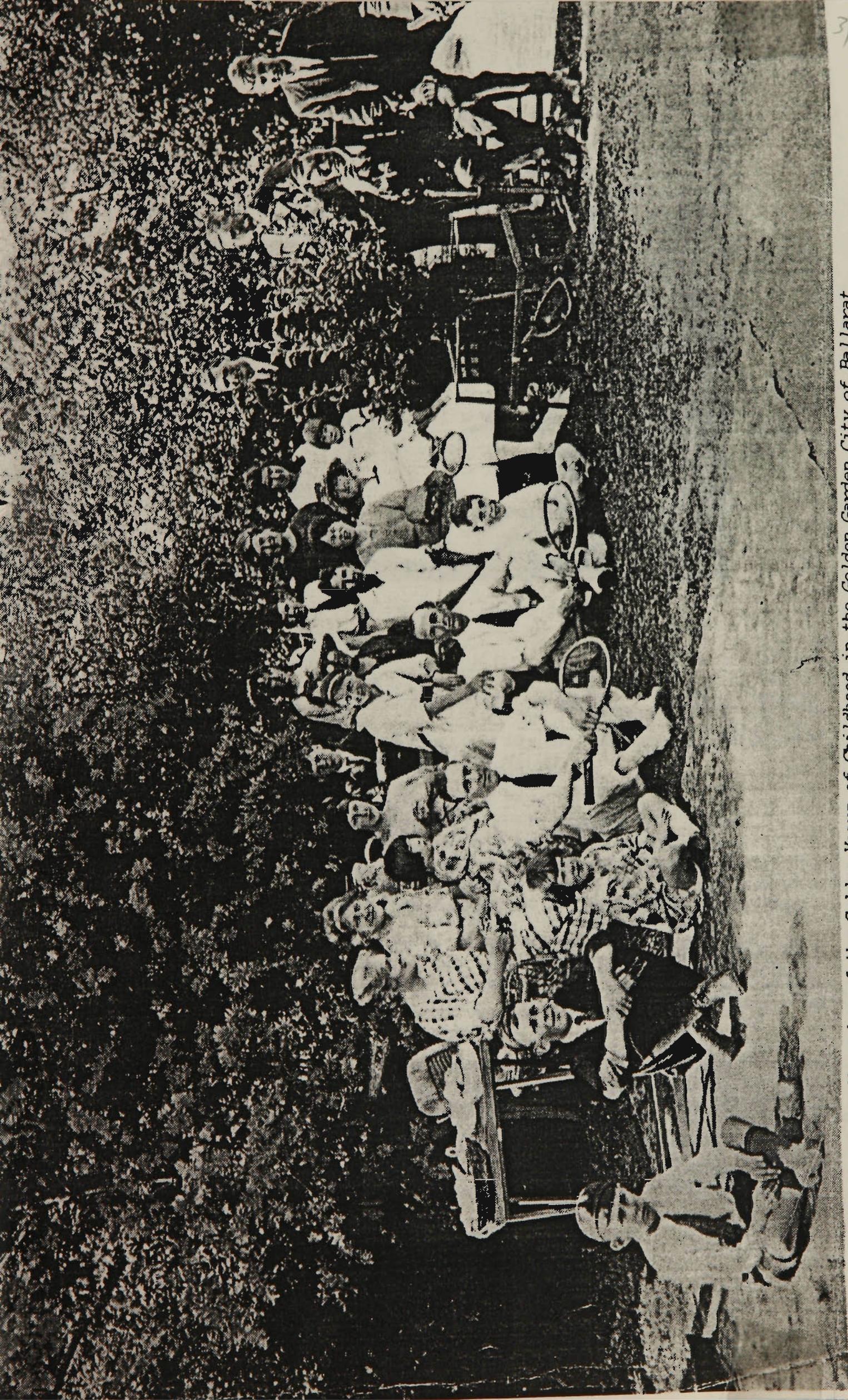
(41) Central Region people should oppose all forms of ring road - either "inner" ring roads or "outer" ring roads.

The case against an inner ring road is that it is simply an effective device to increase the road capacity of the inner area. There is a temptation to perceive an outer ring road as a salvation for inner area traffic problems; but this is a mistake.

The case against an outer ring is that a metropolis-wide effort should be made to establish investment in growth centres along the radial railway line system in order to favour rail transport rather than circumferential road connections which favour car trips and which operate to spread sprawl ever further outwards which also favours cars.

(42) Measures to avoid through traffic going through residential areas or hubs in which it has no business is sensible provided the total traffic capacity is not thereby increased.

(43) Outer suburban freight depots where freight could be transferred from rail to road, nearer to its destination, should be supported by Central Region people.



*Memories of the Golden Years of Childhood in the Golden Garden City of Ballarat.  
Told by the Little Girl in the foreground of the Photo.*



Ruth Crow (Miller) in the 1980s

Tennis party at "Rossie" 802 Mair Street Ballarat in the early 1920s.

The little girl sitting cross legged in the foreground wrote these memories in 1989. Her name, then, was Ruth Miller.

Others in the immediate family circle were from left :-

Aunty Anna, mother. (sister) Winifred leaning on mother's knee, (cousin) Alice with dark headband. (brother) Forbes. standing behind seat, (cousin) Betty with hand on knee, other cousins and friends; then on far right near small tree. Aunty Rue with raquet and (sister) Betty leaning on her, Uncle Matt behind tree, the men partly hidden by tree were probably uncles.

From left seated on ground :- Two cross-legged boys were sons of my mothers "best" friend, we called her "Aunty Flo" (she is holding her hat and sitting next to Auntie Rue); then Ruth (gathering her golden memories), Uncle Roy, (cousin) Dudley and (brother) Ken sitting cross legged far right.

Most of the unidentified people are probably relations I think the only people who were not related are the two boys in the foreground and their mother, (such an intimate family friend that we called her "Aunty") the seated woman, holding a hat.

The photo was taken by father using a camera with a glass plate. He developed and printed the photo in his home dark room, probably with one or two children watching.

Our home in Ballarat was called "Rossie" after the Rossie flour mills in Montrose Scotland. (see attachments)

Memories of the Golden Years of Childhood  
In the Golden Garden City of Ballarat  
Told by the Little Girl in the Foreground of the Photo

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*This document has been prepared for June Factor in appreciation of the contribution to Australian history and culture by the European migrants who came to Australia because of Hitler's oppression.*

*This is a draft document and thus contains some typing mistakes and other errors. No part of the document can be republished without permission of Ruth Crow (328.2345).*

*This document has been prepared entirely from memory, but of course the way the facts are presented is from hind-sight. There may be a few inaccuracies in detail but these do not change the facts.*

*For serious students oral anecdotes to illustrate the facts are available if interviews are arranged by phoning Ruth Crow 328.2345.*

June 1989

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Memories from the Golden Years of Childhood  
in  
The Golden Garden City of Ballarat  
Introduction

My parents were first generation Australian born; my father, Dougald Forbes Stalker Miller, and my mother, Winifred Maud Miller (nee Coutts) were born in Ballarat in the 1870s.

They were both born into large, prosperous, Scottish migrant families which arrived in Australia in the wake of the gold rush and established businesses. One grandfather was an importer of tea and had a grocery shop and the other a tailoring establishment.

My parents would have been brought up accepting a strong protestant ethic (see Afterword) They would have moved in the same social circle which would have had the "Kirk" at its centre.

This first generation born in Australia included several who continued the family businesses but also some who studied to become professionals. For example, my father was a dentist and my mother, before her marriage, was a teacher. I had uncles who were solicitors, and one who was an architect, some of my aunts were trained nurses until they were married.

My childhood home was at 802 Mair Street, Ballarat and it was the home in which my mother had been born.

It was an old rambling two storey house which my grandfather would have bought before 1870. It was one of the first substantial houses to be built in Ballarat and the original building can be seen in the sketch in Wither's "History of Ballarat". It was demolished in the 1940s or 1950s.

I was born at home, as were my brothers and sisters. My mother would have had Sister Allen, a midwife and friend, living in the home for a few days before and for several weeks after my birth. Also she would have had her closest sister, Anna, staying in our home to give her support. The housework and cooking would have been the responsibility of Effie and Maggie (the two "maids" who worked for the family for a number of years).

As well, my grandfather would have been living at our home. So at my birth there would have been quite a large household.

There were five children in our family: (two boys and then 3 girls) all born within eight years.

As I am the second youngest, I have no recollection of any of my mother's pregnancies. My sister, Betty, is two and a half years younger than I am.

We all were very healthy and most of us (parents and children) rarely had to see a doctor. If he was needed he came to the house. His name was Dr Robert Scott. He was a family friend as well as our general practitioner. As a staunch Presbyterian he moved in the same social circle as we did.

The 1920s were truly Golden Years for me: my brothers and sisters and our parents had good health, we wanted for nothing in food and clothing, we had a great sense of belonging to the neighbourhood and town, plenty of room to play at home both outdoor and indoor, a wide circle of friends, neighbours and relations (see charts attached), plenty of comings and goings of other adults and children (living in the "family home" we were the place relations and friends stayed at when they came to Ballarat), plenty of opportunity for sharing and caring with children of various ages (listen to tape "Another Time, Another Place" and see charts attached), we had plenty of books and enough toys.

We knew "where we were" (or thought we did) in relation to how to behave at home and abroad.

We were reasonably secure in our everyday social relations with members of the family, with neighbours, friends, school teachers and others who peopled our world.

My father's "outside" interests included the Caledonian Society, the Fish Acclimatisation Society and the Workers Education Association. He was very much instrumental in introducing science lectures through the WEA and the lecturers from Melbourne often stopped over at our home (WEA was the forerunner of the Adult Education at CAE).

My mother's "outside" interests included the Old Collegians Association of Queens College (later this school in Ballarat was called Ballarat Girls Grammar), the Baby Health Centre Association, the National Council of Women, the Ladies Guild of St Andrews Church and the Victoria League.

My brothers' "outside" interest was scouting.

My sisters and I also had an "outside" interest. We were in the Girls Order of the Covenant. This was a club for Presbyterian girls where we learnt about the Scottish covenanters. Our pass word was "Pentland" and our oath was "I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my god than to dwell in the tents of wickedness for ever".

I was educated during my very early years at Clarendon College Kindergarten, I then attended Pleasant Street State School and later Ballarat Church of England Girls Grammar School.

It may be wondered why I did not go to (Presbyterian) Clarendon; the reason was that my mother had been a pupil at the fore-runner to Grammar. Originally it was not a church school. It used to be called Queens and I think it may once again be using that name.

My mother's name was on the Dux Board of Queens (Grammar). She was very very active in the Queens Old Collegians.

My brothers were educated at Pleasant Street School and Ballarat College. a Presbyterian school. My father had been a student at one of the fore-runners to Ballarat College and was dux there.

My parents scholastic successes were a great spur to me to study and do well. By attending these secondary schools we really felt we were carrying on a family tradition.

My mother believed that the State Schools "gave you a good grounding". She was absolutely right ! I was really shocked at the low standard of education I was given at Grammar.

To give you an example. The State School teachers were very strict on the use of the word "got". We always had to say "I do not have' not "I have not got". Imagine my utter surprise, when, soon after starting at Grammar I said to a teacher "I do not have a locker" and she said "Have 'nt you got one yet ?" I was humiliated for her sake.

This may seem trivial but it was not so at the time for me: in any case. I remember the insecurity I felt when I did not have full confidence in my teachers.

For a number of reasons I did not find my years at Grammar as challenging as my educational experiences at Pleasant Street School.

Of course there were other reasons for my insecurity during my secondary schooling, but as this is about the Golden Years of Childhood they are not included.

My childhood ended when we left Ballarat soon after my father died in 1931. He left us penniless even after the house and his practice were sold. Some facts about that period of my life are on the tape "Another Time, Another Place".

Brothers and Sisters in 1918



*Ruth 2+, Ken 6, Winifred 4, Forbes 8.*

*Summer 1919*



*Ruth 3, Winifred 4+ and Baby Betty.*

*Christmas 1925*



*Tylers and Millers :- Ruth, Peggy T., Aunty Rae,  
Forbes, Betty, Gwen T., Winifred, Bobbie T. and Ken.  
The Tylers lived next door.*



## Childhood Memories

Ruth Crow

June 1989

My grandmama is very old, she sits in her armchair,  
She wears a shawl and a white lace cap to cover her snow white  
hair.

She knits a little now and then, or sits just thinking there.

I think it must be very dull to spend one's daytime so,  
But, when I mention it to her my grandmama says "No !  
"I think of all the pleasant things that happened long ago."

"Remember you are making now, your memories," she said.  
"So have some very pleasant ones to store up in your head.  
Or else you will be sighing and regretting them instead."

Now, when I grow to be quite old and sit in my arm chair  
And wear a shawl and a white lace cap to cover my snow white  
hair

I mean to have the nicest things to think of when I am there.

That was one of the poems I recited at birthday parties when I was a  
child. Perhaps my memories of childhood have been shaped by my ambition  
"to have the nicest things to think of" in my armchair. (See attachments)

### "Shades of Sweetness and Anguish"

There are some who believe that children who really had a happy  
childhood only remember the unhappy events and vice-versa: whether this is  
true or not, in writing down my memories, I am not aiming at only recording  
events. My intention is to describe the relationships between our family  
and society in the 1920s.

I am not attempting to analyse relationships in the family. Willa  
Cather, an American writer early this century explains that Katharine  
Mansfield had a gift for showing

"the many kinds of personal relations which exist in an everyday  
'happy family' who are merely going on living their daily lives, with  
no crisis or shocks or bewildering complications to try them. Yet  
every individual in that household (even the children) is clinging  
passionately to his (/her) individual soul, is in terror of losing  
it in the general family flavour.... One realises that even in  
harmonious families there is this double life : the group life which  
is the one we can observe, in our neighbours household, and  
underneath another - secret, and passionate and intense - which is  
the real life that stamps the faces and gives character to the voices  
of our friends... One realises that human relationships are the  
tragic necessity of human life; that they can never be wholly  
satisfactory, that every ego is half the time greedily seeking them,  
and half the time pulling away from them. In those simple  
relationships of loving husband and wife, affectionate sisters,  
children and grandparents there are innumerable shades of sweetness  
and anguish which make up the pattern of our lives day by day,  
though they are not down in the list of subjects from which  
conventional novelist works."

2. When on holiday at Point Lonsdale I discovered a whole window full of holiday greeting cards. Most of them ended up with the words "I wish you were here !", but not really meaning it. They were very garish, the words were simple to read and I puzzled over the double meanings. I was fascinated.

I think it was the first time I realised that men and women could be antagonistic to each other. I can't remember any particular jokes but some of them were about women having short hair, particularly the "Eton crop". This was probably the first time I read something that was not provided by my parents or school teachers.

3. In our bookcases there was quite a number of books on anatomy but despite giving us the "Cradleship" to read and more or less supporting Dr Button's public instruction, my parents were not prepared for us to learn the details of sexual organs from diagrams and photographs in these books. In all the anatomy books the lower part of the diagrams were carefully pasted over with thick brown paper.

4. In the early part of this century my mother taught physiology at private boarding schools. She would encourage us to be modest in the words we used by saying "When I first had to teach the girls about their bodies I would blush when using the word stomach so I used to turn my back and say it as I wrote it on the board."

5. I also learnt a little (very little) about sex from the Bible; but not from the children's Bible. My sister and I tried to discover what the word "womb" in the bible meant and found the dictionary stated that it was a "hole or cavity". This was difficult to envisage. The word "begat" was also a puzzler and we looked that up and found it meant to "get" or some such word that did not describe what we really wanted to know.

"Be careful Crossing the Roads and Don't Speak to Any Men" (Street Life)

This saying was always part of our goodbye ritual and we carried it out very conscientiously; especially on our way to and from school.

1. We walked about half a mile to school and came back for dinner each midday. I think the midday break was called "dinner time" not "lunch time" Nearly all the teachers and children at our school went home for the main meal of the day. The dinner break was about an hour and a half or at least an hour and a quarter. I remember when it was shortened.

2. I remember our walk to school as always being pleasant as if there was no bleak winter in Ballarat ! There was plenty to do on the walk, such as; looking after another younger child, racing to catch up with friends, skipping with a rope, whipping tops (I was a real champion at this and could keep a top running for about a quarter of a mile.. that is if my memory serves me correctly), bouncing balls, boat races with sticks floating in the gutter, running a stick along the fences to hear the noises, particularly on the iron railings and the corrugated iron.

3. Every Friday was "Bull Day" when herds of cattle and sheep were driven down our street to the stock market which was really very close to the city centre. We would never wear any red on Fridays.

4. We had our "time keepers" on the way. These were men and women walking towards the city (in the opposite direction to our school). You could tell how late you were by where you passed a time keeper.

Very few children had watches and this is one example of how we could check on time. We also had factory whistles to inform us about the passing of time, especially the time to get up at the 7.30 am whistle.

5. We met neighbours of all ages on our way to school, mums saying goodbye at the gate, toddlers watching for us and so on.

6. We made up all sorts of stories about the houses we past imagining the lives of the people living in them. There was a "haunted house" on our way. This was a house we could not find a clue to let us know who lived there. The windows were curtained but we never saw anybody about the house or front garden and none of our acquaintances knew who lived there. It was probably not deserted, but it was a mystery house as all the other houses we passed had some special personality about them as between us (our mates who walked the same way) we knew a bit about who lived in them.

"What Did You Learn at School Today ?" (Playing and Learning at School)

I think this universal saying really shows how fascinated parents are in the whole process of how their offspring is learning.

Our family folk-lore includes a story about my first days at school and how for days and days my answer to this welcoming query was "Nothing" until one day I came in breathless to pant out "I learnt something ! I learnt something today !" only to be immediately downcast when my mother asked me "Well what did you learn ?" because my answer was "Oh I forgot !" I don't remember the incident so it is not actually a memory; but it is good start to this section on what I did do at school.

1. My favourite summer game was making pine-needle houses under the tall pine trees in a far corner of the school ground. We made the houses by drawing lines with the pine needles; that is doing a ground-plan of a house, leaving gaps for doors and windows but placing sticks for window ledges. We made pine needle beds and used sticks for other furniture and made armchairs in the knotted roots.

There were about six old pines so about a dozen children would play day after day in this remote corner. Each tree had a house and each house had two or more occupants.

It seems remarkable that our dwellings were not destroyed by other children. I think a contributing reason would be that the boys were strictly segregated from the girls and these particular pines were well away from the boys' yard.

2. One of my favourite winter games was playing chasey in the shelter shed when the seats were "home". There would be lots of different chasey games going on at the one time, the noise was deafening and that was part of the fun. The girls and boys shelter sheds had adjoining walls and thus the shoutings from both sheds were mingled. I know many schools don't have large shelter sheds now and this popular past time is dying out.

Another favourite game developed from the fact that the school had buttresses, which are not now an architectural feature of most schools

About a dozen girls would push and shove each other in a line against the buttress wall with the object of getting the girl in the corner "out".

In the girls' playground there were three buttresses and thus about twenty or so girls could play at the one time. As there was a great deal of coming and going in the game the groups would keep changing so lots of children did have a "go" in the shoving game.

I am not sure what we called the game it was some such as "shovey" or "squashy" or "squeezezy": anyhow, it did get the blood circulating !

3. In summer "Fly Catcher" was the name of the monitor who stood at the school door and used a clean handkerchief to swish the flies from the children's backs as they marched into school.

4. In Winter our first lesson after the singing of "Father We Thank You" was "handkerchief drill".

...5...

We produced handkerchiefs or were sent out to stand in the freezing corridor. Not all children's dresses had pockets.

Some children had their hankies attached to their dress with a safety pin, others had them stuffed in their bloomers or up their sleeves. My mother did not approve of these practices so we had little pockets on the outside of our bloomers which we found very practical.

After waving our hankies we then were shown how to put one corner on the bridge of the nose and fluff out the rest of the hankie, hold it to the nostrils, to snort both nostrils, then, snort each nostril separately, and to wipe our nose after each snort.

5. I was in a class of 60 when I was eight years old. Every now and again our teacher would ask us to fold our arms on the desk and put our head down for a rest (on reflection it was probably for a rest for her). She used to say we had to be so quiet that she should be able to hear a pindrop. She had a pin-monitor who would collect a pin from the teacher's desk and go to the back of the room to drop it. I always listened for the drop and always believed that the teacher did hear it even if I did not.

6. On thinking about what I actually learnt in the class room I am interested to find out that the lessons where I really knew I did learn something.... really ticked over.... were lessons given by student teachers. I can vividly remember what I learnt from them. Perhaps we took our classroom teachers very much for granted as we took our parents.

7. I did learn out of the classroom and a particular project I thoroughly enjoyed was when I was in the 5th grade and the teacher organised a project about Lake Wendouree.

Each week we studied a bird, a tree or some water life and we had nature study books in which we drew and described what we studied.

8. At our school the only musical instruments we had were a drum and a kettle drum. These were used for marching into school.

There was a piano in the Higher Elementary part of the school. Each teacher had a tuning fork and we started each song with "Doh. Ray Me...".

The school had no gramophone and of course wireless was still at the cat's whiskers stage or not much better. So we really had only singing for music.

Mothers Clubs were just starting when I was at the State School and I think even in the 1950s "luxuries" such as pianos were bought by money raised from the Mothers Club.

11. All the children in my grades at school were either Australian born or migrants from Great Britain except for one Italian girl. Her father was Mr La Gruta, the conductor of the Ballarat Regent Picture Theatre Symphony Orchestra. In the days of silent films in the best theatres there were whole orchestras. I think some La Grutas are still involved in orchestras in Australia.

Mr La Gruta introduced us to classical music when he played at some of the school concerts. I remember how the rowdy hall settled down to quietness when he played. It was really miraculous.

9. At most of the Ballarat State Schools drawing was taught by a visiting teacher who was not on the Department's roll. His name was Mr Foster and he was very old (possibly a retired unqualified teacher). We called him "Daddy Foster" and we paid a penny a week towards his wages.

He taught drawing in four inch squares and 3 inch radius circles with various designs through shading. We had the same type of lesson week after week for at least three years and then in the sixth grade we sometimes graduated to drawing in perspective, sighting along our pencils at a flower pot. We had no free hand drawing from grade four to grade six.

10. We had drill (by an ex-army captain) in the school yard at least once each day but no sport was organised except for scholars in the Higher Elementary section of the school.

We played sport which we organised ourselves: for example rounders was a game which involved quite a crowd of girls and of course the boys kicked paper footballs. No balls or other sports equipment was provided by the schools. to my knowledge.

The gravelled playground lent it self to drawing a great variety of outlines for games, for example hoppy. I think that asphalted playgrounds are very sterile with their permanent markings for games which are seldom played. We also enjoyed playing hoppy over the gutters and jumping the school yard puddles I think the conditions for such "adventure play" has been reduced in most school yards.

"I Love A Sunburnt Country" (England and Scotland still "Home")

Despite the fact that my parents had lived their whole life in Australia there was little evidence of any deep regard for anything Australian.

1. Our large garden had one gum tree and two wattles. I think all the other trees, shrubs and flowers were exotics.

2. In the Spring my mother would take us for a picnic to Victoria Park where we picked buttercups, daisies and harbingers of spring. These grew under the shady elms and oaks. We did not go on picnics to see the wattle in the spring.

3. My father usually gave the oration on Robbie Burns's birthday but we did not celebrate Adam Lindsay Gordon's birthday even though he had had some association with Ballarat.

4. I learnt all the names of the exotic trees around the lake and in the streets. We did not go to the bush to learn the names of the plants.

5. Our bookcases were full of English and Scottish poetry but I don't think we had one book of an Australian poet or even a collection of poetry by a number of Australian poets.

6. All the periodicals we subscribed to were from overseas (see later).

7. Our bookshelves had plenty of books from England on biology and botany, particularly on fresh water biology and field botany. Thus we could read about fish and other water life in the rivers and streams in England and Scotland, and about the flowers that could be gathered on the moors of Scotland and beside the lakes in England. We knew nothing about alpine daisies at Mount Hotham or the heaths at Wyperfeld.

8. A dried sprig of Scottish heather was a prized bookmark in the family Bible. Although we pressed flowers in large heavy books I do not remember ever collecting native blooms or leaves for this purpose.

9. As president of the Fish Acclimatisation Society, my father had an abiding interest in acclimatising trout into the streams and lakes in Victoria. He took no interest whatever in what waterlife existed in the streams and lakes before white settlement.

10. On reflection, I think the School Readers and the School Newspapers did have quite a bit about Australia but I don't remember discussing any of the poems or stories with my parents.

11. The poems in the School Readers we were encouraged by our parents to "learn by heart" for school were all from the traditional British poets. Wordsworth, Shelley and Keats were our parents favourites. This is understandable as these poets described the English countryside my parents still envisaged despite the fact that they were born in Australia.

Read only Good Books You May not Have a Chance to Read Them Later."

I think this is from one of Thoreau's essays, but who ever wrote it, it was a saying well heeded in our home. Here is some information on the books we read and where they came from.

1. Our school had no library what so ever. In each classroom there was a cupboard about the size of a wardrobe, but narrower. This was used for storing chalk, the strap, the books and any other teaching aid. I don't think any teacher had more than a couple dozen books in the cupboard.

2. Most Friday afternoons, after recess, we had free reading time when we brought our favourite book to school to read and sometimes to swap with another child.

3. I used to greatly envy children who brought Annuals. My parents did not believe in such "trashy" literature for children. The sort of books I took to school were not valued for swapping so I rarely saw the inside of one of these big colourful books.

4. Our home was the headquarters for all the relations and whenever a household shifted they used our place to store their odds and ends. We were frequently storing books. Many of these books were children's books so we had lots of books to choose from at home, but quite a few were old fashioned.

5. I loved the "What Katy did " books, the "Anne of Avonleigh" series. We were encouraged to read Dickens, Robbie Louis Stevenson, George Elliott and Victor Hugo and probably did read parts or all of some of their novels but possibly we also read versions written for children. I really can't remember but I do remember the plots.

6. Our playroom bookshelves did include a few novels by Australian writers for example Mary Grant Bruce ("Norah of the Billabong" series) and Ethel Turner ("The Seven Little Australians" series). We greatly prized a book by Mary Rentoul Outhwaite (I think that is how her name was spelt) who was an Australian but did not write about life in Australia.

7. Our bookcases in the dining room reached from floor to ceiling and were packed tight with scientific reference books and novels. Here also were stored the dictionaries, encyclopias and Bibles. We had the Australian Encyclopaedia, Castles Books of Knowledge (8 of them) and Howard's Art of Reckoning; all of which I used for school study.

My father had some really valuable books such as "Ingleby's Legends" with wood cuts. These used to scare the day lights out of me. Also a very big copy of Danti's "Inferno" with wonderful woodcuts which were also very scary and a copy of Rabelais "Gargantua" and "Pantagruel". He had whole shelves of books in French which he really enjoyed reading.

8. We had the old family Bibles from both sides of the family. These were huge books and inside them was information on the births, deaths and marriages of the relations. For some reason these family pages were securely hidden from prying eyes by having brown paper pasted over them.

It was probably because of some mock modesty. This may have been because my mother was well into her thirties when she began her family and was (if my guesses are correct) conceiving in her early forties. She may have been concerned about what her children would think of this as they grew up.

9. A regular Sunday ritual was sitting around my mother's knee listening to stories from "The Children's Bible". I think these were written by Arthur Mee (or some such named person).

10. My father subscribed to a number of publications including the French "L'Illustration" and the English "Sphere" an art magazine (the name of which escapes me) edited by Orpen (I think). It was all about European art. He also subscribed to popular scientific journals, published in England. So we had lots of browsing material in these periodicals.

I can't remember any publication my mother received regularly and of course she did enjoy the above publications. She did not read French as well as my father but there were plenty of beautiful pictures in the L'Illustration so that even those who knew no French at all could really enjoy it. I loved the pictures of the French streets with their trees.

I also loved the "Sphere" which was a pictorial type of magazine. I can remember the pictures of the English Police Strike or some such rather fierce street demonstration in the early nineteen twenties and the photographs of the Royal Princesses when they were babies.

Our parents subscribed to "My Magazine" for the children. I think this was edited by Arthur Mee. It had some poems by Robbie Louis Stevenson in each issue and I really enjoyed them, particularly because of the graceful line drawings on the same page as the poems.

#### The Flower People in the 1920s (Games I Played with My Sisters)

We had a large rambling garden with a considerable variety of flowers blooming all through the summer months. We (the children) made great use of these both for decoration and for play. We were allowed to pick the flowers almost any time we liked.

1. Each of the girls had a flower vase to fill with fresh flowers for the dining room.

2. We invented a game with the flowers. For example :-

Flower Families in which the mother in her crinolin would be a rose. the father in his velvet suit would be a large pansy. the children would be fuchsias, or delphiniums, or whatever pleased us.

Little school children were lobelias or wattle or some other prolific flower such as phlox; delphiniums were useful for larger school children, and hollyhocks were just right for ballet dancers.

We would make moss houses in the roots of the hawthorn hedge, use hydrangea leaves for areoplanes and so on and on.

We would begin the game with "I bag the ... prettiest family... or the richest family... or the happiest family". (I like to think that I always bagged being the "happiest"; but have no way of verifying this). We then played a type of dolls house game, visiting each other and generally playing out home-making.

Dressing Flowers was a variation of this game but we would use the flowers to dress up a large rose hip or iceland poppy head. This was popular when the petunias were plentiful and we could put several flowers on the stem to make petticoats and dress. Men's and boy's clothing could be made out of canterbury bells, or fox gloves. We used lobelia petals for eyes and red geranium petals for mouths. pressing the petals well in.

Face painting was also popular. Flowers were used as make-up for concerts (usually performed to each other in the garden). We would use geranium for both lipstick and rouge and the blue bag from the laundry for eye shadow.

The Button Game was the winter version of the flower game. We used different buttons for different members of the family and constructed houses out of blocks or cards or used some corner in the room or the space under a chair as territory for our button family.

The button games were not as absorbing as the flower games which continued for several days, particularly when we had moss houses to build.

Mostly, we each had our own flower families or schools or whatever, but if we had a friend we may have played two girls playing with the one family. I can't remember involving any boys in the game.

The Flowers That Bloom in the Spring (Birthday Celebrations)

I used to cry when my father sang "Oh Bother the Flowers which Bloom in the Spring". I was the only member of the family with a birthday in the spring and I thought he was singing about me.

My birthday happened to be on the same day as a very dear friend of the family who was a widower with two sons the same age as my brothers. So the two families always celebrated the birthdays together.

This friend had a really enormous garden and was a grower of prize winning daffodils.

On my birthday he would arrive in a horse drawn cab which was full of spring blossoms, white cherry-plum branches, pink blossom and buckets of daffodils.

1. At our birthday parties when we were little we played : "singing games" (Green Gravels, Oranges and Lemons, the Thread follows the Needle, and others such).

2. When we were older we played "parlour games" such as the Priest in the Parish has Lost His Considering Cap, Family Coach and Consequences as well as charades. We did not have competition games and prizes.

3. At most parties each guest would present an item. During this concert part of the party the adults would crowd around so that your recitation, song or dance was given for the adults as much as for the children. At some parties a small gift would be given to those who performed, but this was not always the case.

"The Melbourne Trains in !" (Train Travelling in the 1920s)

At eight o'clock each night we would hear the horses trotting past pulling the cabs from the station and we would call out to each other "The Melbourne train is in !".

1. Sometimes this would inspire my oldest sister to tell us about "Going to Melbourne". We loved this story. she really described the whole trip. What she saw out the window, the stations the train stopped at and the farewells and greetings.

It would go like this "Mr Billings is here with the cab. come on lets get in. Gig jog, gig jog.....(that would be repeated for some considerable time with snatches of conversation that could take place in the cab). Then she would describe what took place at the station goodbyes and then off on the trip and all the way she would tell us what she saw out the window interspersing this with calling out the names of the stations.

Then the arrival in Melbourne and being met by our aunt. then riding on the tram. going under the railway lines at Flinders Street Station, then the electric train and so on.

The parts I liked best was when she would see the big electricity poles (near Melton) and then, fairly soon after reaching Sunshine, the excitement of seeing a yellow cab from the train window (we had no yellow cabs in Ballarat) and also the way she described the tunnel near Jolimont with all the lights in its walls.

This story could go on night after night, mostly to Melbourne, but sometimes to other places one or the other of us had had holidays.

2. By the way there were still horse drawn cabs in Ballarat in 1939 and Mr Billings was the name of the cabbie who usually took us to the station.

3. The cabbies had their shelters in various parts of the city, for example there was one near us on the corner of Sturt and Drummond Streets, near the Hospital.

4. When my sister was telling the story we all held our noses as the imaginary trip took us through Footscray. It is impossible to imagine the terrible smells that used to be part of that district with all its meat works.

"A Modest Dress, Neat but not Gaudy" (What we Wore)

I think this is one of Samuel Wesley's admonitions. In any case it was a touchstone for my mother in choosing our garments.

1. In winter we wore navy tunics and white blouses to school. velvet dresses on Sunday and knitted dresses on Saturday and in the holidays.

2. In summer we wore checked gingham or flowered trabolco dresses to school, on Saturday and during the holidays and on Sunday we would wear crepe de Chine dresses or voile dresses.

3. Most of our clothes were made at home, not by my mother but by a dressmaker who came in for several days to mend and make new clothes.

4. We rarely went shopping for clothes and I don't remember ever going window shopping with my mother.

5. Even when buying shoes and hats for us, my mother would make a choice from advertisements and then have the several pairs of shoes or several styles of hats sent home so we could try them on at home. This was called "buying on apro." I think "apro" meant "approval". The shop let you have the goods without paying until you had made your choice.

6. My mother bought most of her dresses at the wholesale part of the Lucas Clothing Factory and she also bought some of our ready made best dresses there. she was able to do this because of her friendship with the management.

"Some Have Meat and Cannot Eat and Some have None That Want It" (Meals)

"But we have meat and we can eat, and so the Lord be thanked."

These are the words of Robbie Burns' Grace. We said this Grace at meals.

1. We ate the traditional three meals a day. Porridge for breakfast, two course meal at midday and soup, or savoury or salad for the evening meal. The family all ate together.

2. All the food we ate was delivered to the house.

3. Milk, meat and bread was delivered daily, groceries once a week or when ordered special deliveries would be made, vegetables twice weekly.

4. All the trademen came in horse drawn vehicles.

5. Often there were home-made cake or biscuits in the pantry.

The End



Golden Years of childhood

In the Golden Garden City of Ballarat

Attachments

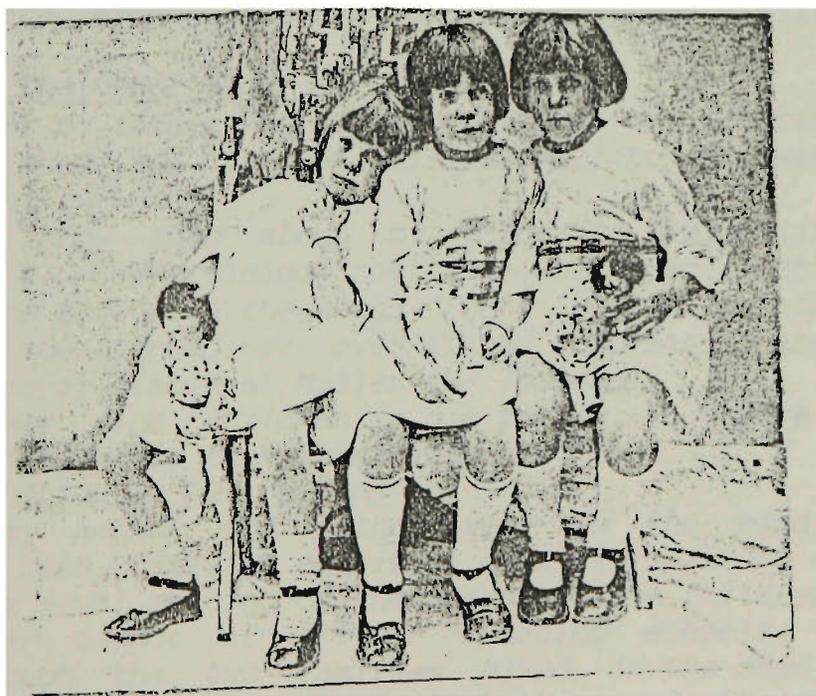
Afterword *Facts About the Migrant Generation and First Generation.*

Verses *Poetry Learnt "at my Mother's Knee".*

Curios *About Great Grandparents.*

Time Span *Three Generations*

Networks *Relations. Friends and Nearness to home.*



*Betty, Winifred and Ruth  
c. 1926*

Afterword

Memories from the Golden Years of Childhood

The migrant Generation

All four of my grandparents migrated as children with their their parents from Scotland to Australia and settled in Ballarat in the 1850s.

One of my mother's grandfather was a Presbyterian minister and the other was a baker. (see attachments).

I do not have information on the way my great grandparents on my father's side earned their living in Australia, but I think it was through some kind of business based on the expanding gold rush population.

"I Don't Say It Boastingly Mind You But...."

My mother's father was a grocer and a tea merchant. He sold his own brand of tea called "Coutts's Celestial Tea" My mother used to sing a little ditty that was used to advertize it but I cannot recall the words.

I can barely remember my grandfather but I remember quite a few stories about him and one of his sayings was often repeated, mostly in a mocking way. It was :-

"I don't say it boastingly mind you. Indeed I thank God for it ! But when I was your age I ..... had a business of my own..... or.... had bought my own home.....had an importing business earning x-pounds a year"..... or some other fact that he regarded as showing how successful he was as compared to the off-spring he was reprimanding.

There were eight children in his family and all lived very healthy long lives.

"Don't Look on the Other Side !"

My father's father was a tailor with a very flourishing business at his Ballarat shop and through his travelling salesmen throughout the Western District.

I don't know much about my father's family life. I do remember finding some old advertising postcards which had a rather corny picture and joke on one side with the words "Don't look on the other side" written on it. When you turned it over it had information about the suits and other men's wear available at Miller the Tailors.

There were nine children in his family. They were all very healthy but they all died before they were sixty.

The First Generation of Australians

Both my mother and father were in the middle of their large families and both families consisted of a fair mixture of girls and boys all with fairly equal spacing of the years between children.

My mother taught at private boarding schools. My father was a dentist. Although the two families mixed in the same social circle in Ballarat my parents did not marry until both were in their early thirties.

The Second Generation of Australians

My parents had five children (two boys and three girls) in eight years. The last two were probably born when they were both over forty.

The two boys were the eldest. There was a two year gap between each birth except between me and my sisters. There was a year and half between my older sister and me and two and a half years between me and the youngest in the family. The three "girls" are still living, one in Ballarat and the other two in Melbourne.

To Mother

A childhood Poem by Ken Miller

I know so many little girls,  
Eyes like diamonds, teeth like pearls,  
Valda, Marion and many another  
But none of them I love like Mother

My mother's a darling !  
My mother's a pet !  
She is so worried if I do fret.

She watches me carefully lest I should fall  
Or knock my head against a brick wall.

One day the Minister shall call  
"Do you love this woman better than all ?"  
My truthful answer will be "Sir !"  
I love my mother better than 'er !"

Golden Memories of Childhood

For good measure I thought I would write out some of the poems I learnt "at my mother's knee," and recited to adults at children's parties

Pa's Darling

"I wish I were a boy", said little Anne.  
"Oh don't say that !" said Ma.  
"What was it that Pa said last night ?  
"My own little darling has been here.  
"I know for the room is so bright."

Little Boy Blue and Little Bopeep

Little Boy Blue was weeping out in the fields alone  
For Little Bopeep, who he loved so well, away to the Court had flown.  
With powder and pearls and patches and bows on each dainty shoe  
She was queen of them all as she danced in the hall  
Forgetting her Little Boy Blue.

But at night when her heart was aching, her jewels she laid aside.  
She passed through the palace weeping into the dark night tide.  
THERE stood her true love awaiting. THERE stood her Little Boy Blue  
And she CRIED "Take me home I am wanting nobody else but YOU !

Ten Little Steps and Stairs

(It is a little garbled).

Sorry I cannot remember all the words but it was my favourite poem.  
When I recited it the adults used to cry. I think it was written by the  
Australian Irish priest who wrote the stories in "Around the Bourrie Log"

There were ten little steps and stairs  
... Missing a line or lines here...  
Coming in through the kitchen door  
With the vine like pattern of their naked feet  
Marking the polished floor.  
.....lines I can't recall....  
In their home made frocks and Sunday suits.  
Up through the church with their squeaky boots  
While the folk went astray in their prayers.  
There were ten little steps and stairs

There were ten little steps and stairs,  
But the years have shuffled them all about  
Has made them thin and straightened them out  
With the weight of a hundred cares  
With a gap in the line and break. Ah well.  
There were ten little steps and stairs.

A Farmer's Life

(This was my encore recitation)

Its hard to be a farmer I think I ought to know.  
The folks in our house laugh and laugh, but do you think it fun ?  
I planted a whole handful of feathers and not a chicken not one.

Duncan Fraser

Alison

David Coutts

George

Winifred...Dougald Miller

Ruth

*Flash Back in History*

The Rev Duncan Fraser referred to in this article is Ruth Crow's great-grandfather. Her mother's mother's father.

Ruth and Marie have been active in urban organisations for a number of years but have never addressed 1000 people!

Age May 4 1987

**100 YEARS AGO**

**100 YEARS AGO**

A public meeting was held last evening in the Collingwood town hall to advocate the claims of the northern suburbs to direct communication with Melbourne. The hall was crowded, about 1000 persons being present, and great interest was manifested in the proceedings. The mayor of Collingwood (Mr. Aitken) presided. The Rev. Duncan Fraser spoke to the first resolution, which affirmed "that this meeting, recognising the great injustice under which the northern suburbs are now laboring in the matter of direct railway communication with Melbourne, considers the time has arrived when the most strenuous exertions should be made to obtain the same privileges as are now enjoyed by the southern districts, to the securing of which inhabitants of the northern districts have hitherto so largely contributed by taxation."

—'The Age', 4 May 1887

...13...

David Coutts

George Coutts

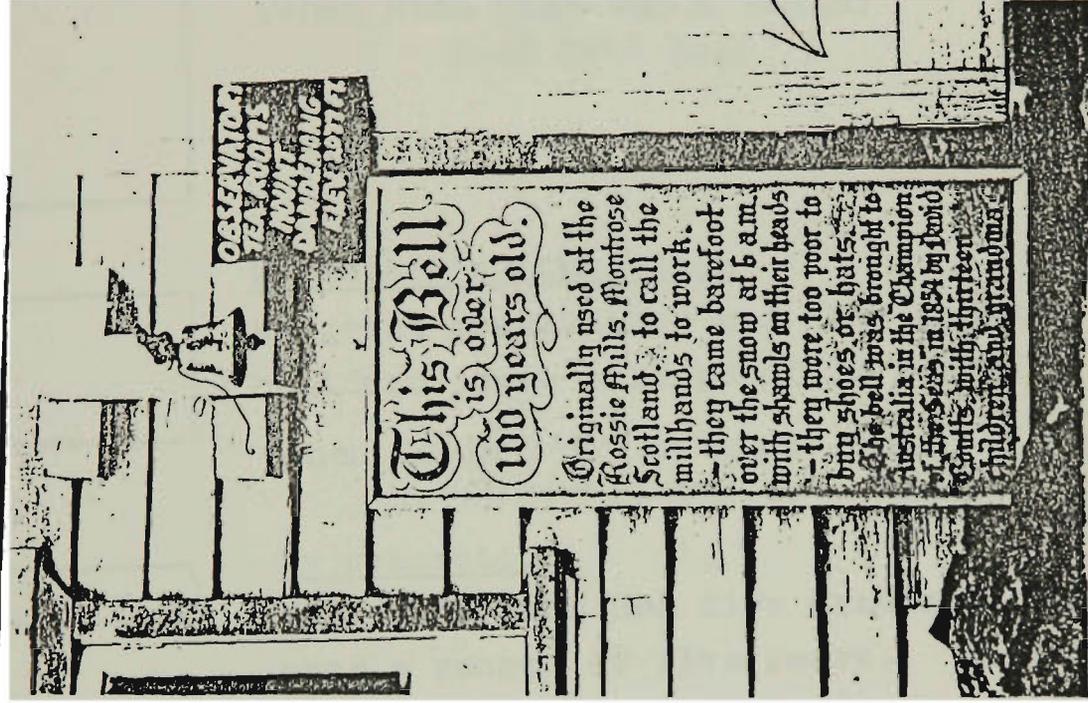
M. Alison Fraser

Winifred Coutts

Mr. Dougald Miller

Ruth Miller

AN 11 111110 11111



PHOTOGRAPHED AT OBSERVATORY TEA ROOMS, MT. DANDENONG, VIC.

Chart Prepared for a Grandchild's School Project

Time Span Showing Number of Cousins and Age Range of Cousins

I900  
I910  
I920  
I930

My grandmother's generation

My great, great grandmother had 29 grandchildren over a range of 32 years.  
(When Ruth Crow was a child)  
*Ruth born 1916*

I940  
I950

My mother's generation

My great grandmother had ten grandchildren over a range of 12 years.  
(When Julie O'Brien was a child)  
*Julie (Crow) born 1942*

I960  
I970

My generation

My grandmother had five grandchildren over a range of five years.

I980

(When Kylie O'Brien was a child)  
*Kylie born 1967*

.....  
The above diagram shows the relations on the maternal side. The generations that can be traced on the paternal side show a similar pattern; but the interviews showed that paternal relations were not involved in supportive networks.

.....  
Great, Great Grand Parents Alison / George Coutts  
Eight Children one of whom was Winifred Coutts  
Great Grandparents Winifred Coutts / Doug Miller  
Five Children one of whom was Ruth Miller --  
Grandparents Ruth Miller / Maurie Crow  
Two children one of whom was Julie Crow  
Parents Julie Crow / Lindsay O'Brien  
.....

.....  
Appendix 2 and 3 have been prepared by Ruth Crow for Kylie O'Brien in response to her questionnaire on extended families and supportive networks.  
.....

Chart Prepared for a Grandchild's School Project

by Ruth Crow

Nearness of Relations and Friends to Family Home

Code.... R = Relation..... I = Intimate Friend, (like a relation to famil:  
F = Friend of one parent ..... (H) = Home..... K = Kilometers  
Distance from home to circumferences = 5 kilometers.

Diagram 1. In 1920's When My Granmother was a Child  
(Friends not included)

*likely to be  
in a different age  
group from para*

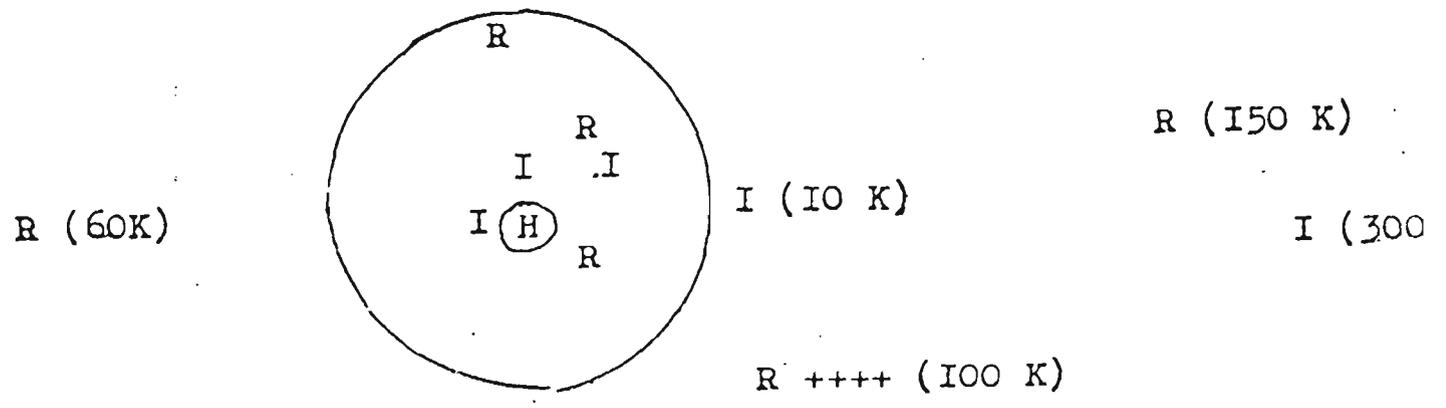


Diagram 2. In 1940s When My Mother was Child

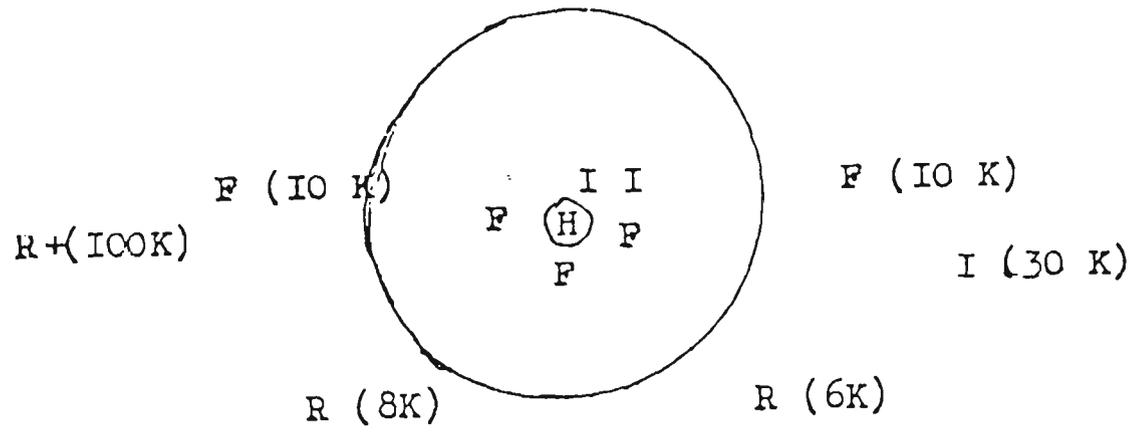
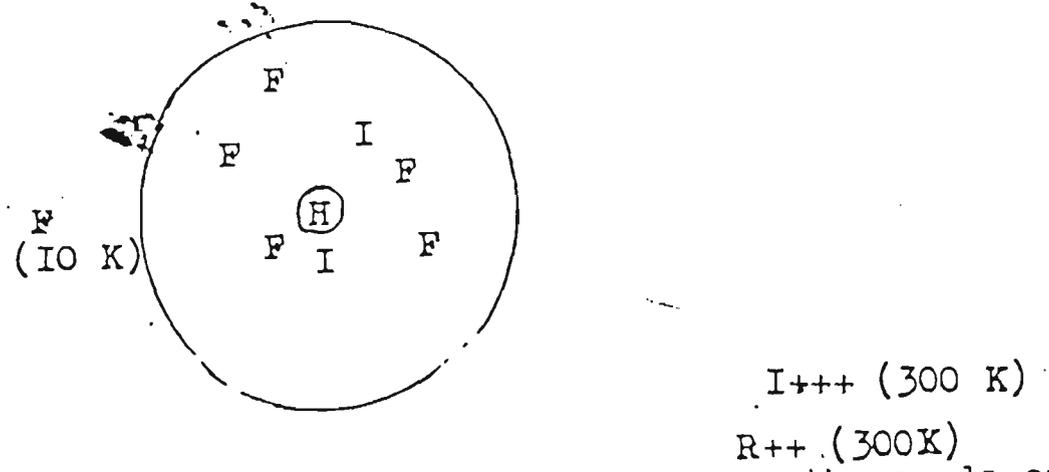
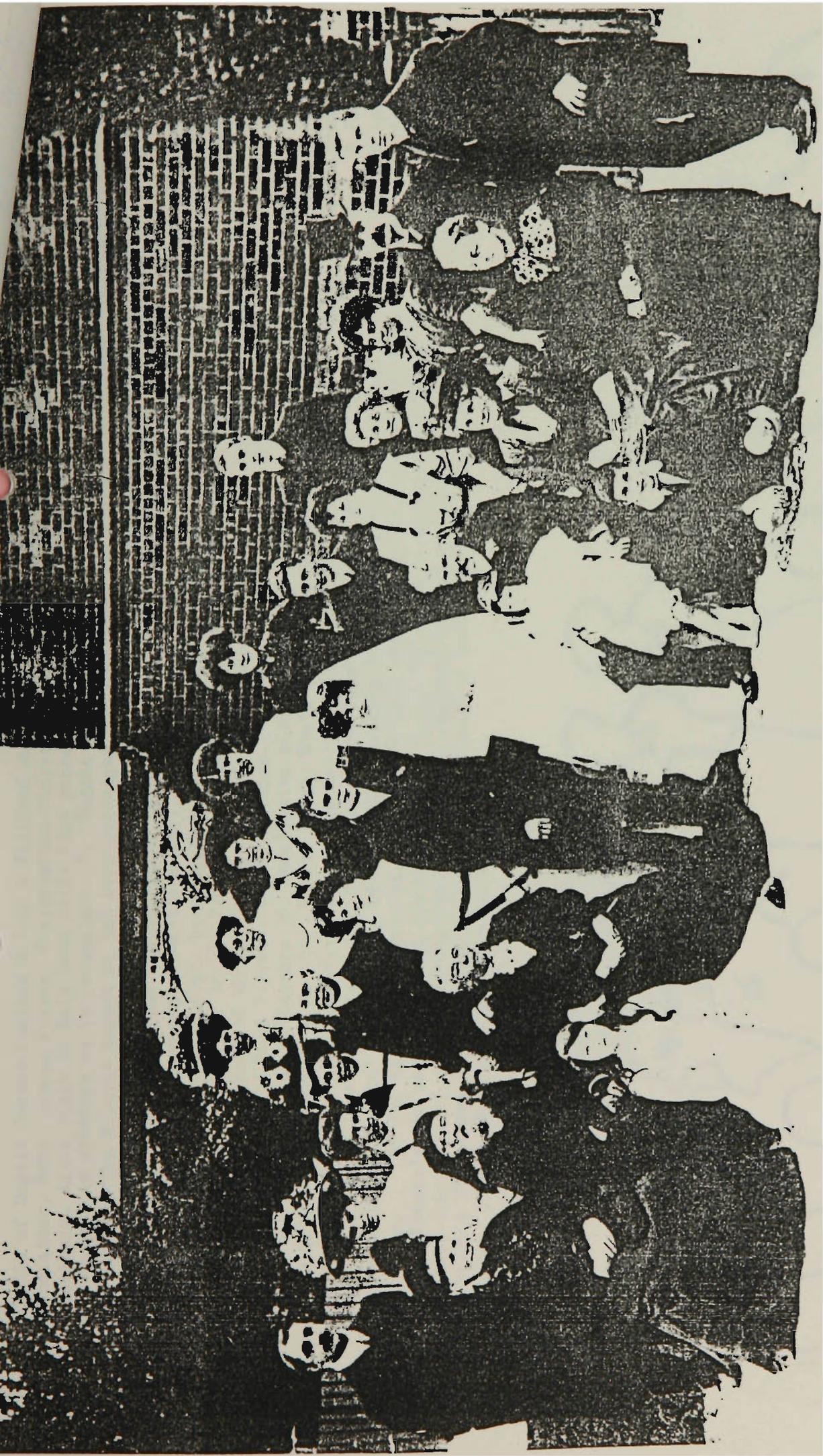


Diagram 3. In the 1970s When I was a Child



Comment : For three years the nearest relations were thousands of kilometers away as the family lived in Canada.

.....  
Note 1920s mixture of relations and intimate friends within walking distance and some relations and friends in various parts of Victoria  
1940s ... friends and intimate friends within walking distance, relations within half hour public transport.  
1970s... Relations 300 K. many friends, few intimate friends near home  
*(with intimate friends same as in parents)*



Wedding in the Early Years of the Twentieth Century

Bride, Winifred Coutts; groom, Dougal Miller; officiating minister, Rev Duncan Fraser (bride's grandfather). Names of wedding guests are on the back of photo.

The house in background was the Heidelberg Presbyterian Manse. It was built with a flat roof like the houses in Palestine.

WEDDING of Dugald Forbes Stalker Miller & Winifred Maud Coutts (probably 1908, not later). Married by the grandfather, Revd. Duncan Fraser, Presbyterian Minister, Heidelberg, Vict. Photo taken at his house in Banksia St. Heidelberg. After visit to Holy Land built flat roofed house seen in background as thought ideally suited for sitting out on roof in evenings as in Jerusalem. 1. Maggie May, elder daughter of Rev. D. Fraser by 1st marriage - it is said she hid the Welcome Nugget in her oven overnight for the digger who found it. 2. Revd. Duncan Fraser. 3. unknown child. 4. 2nd Mrs D. Fraser (bride descended from Alice his first wife), 5. D.F.S. Miller 6. W.M. Coutts 7. Alice daughter of Ethel (nee Coutts, sister of bride) and Hugh Baird 8. Clyde, bro. of Alice. 9. Margaret Miller nee Craig, widow, born Rutherglen Scotland 1843, to Australia on 'The Ocean Chief' 1859, went to Ballarat where in 1865 she married Alexander Miller, born Falkirk Scotland 1841. Came out on same boat trip as Margaret. Home: "Craigie" Soldiers Hill, Ballarat. 10. Bessie Fraser, crippled daughter of Revd. D. Fraser, 2nd marriage. 11. Bert Smith, ? head of Art Dept. School of Mines. 12. Bert's wife Florence, great friend of bride. 13? Lottie Fraser who married Somers Dobbyn - dtr. of Revd F. Fraser's 2nd marriage. 14. Jean Miller wife of bridegroom's bro. Billy. 15. Tom Miller batchelor bro. of bridegroom 16. Anna (Coutts sister of bride) 2nd wife of Hugh Baird & stepmother of her sister Ethel's children, 7 & 8. 17. Mathew Baird, State Member for Ballarat West, Minister of Education & Chief Secretary in Argyll or Peacock Govt. 18. George Keith Coutts, father of bride, born Rossie Mills, Montrose, Scotland about 1840, to Ballarat with family in "Champion of the Seas" 1854 & married Alice Fraser daughter of Revd. D. Fraser's 1st wife. Home, "Rossie" 802 Mair St. Ballarat. 19? Possibly Ethel Baird (nee Coutts) Hugh's 1st wife. If this is Ethel then Anna, No 16, was still unmarried, she married Hugh after Ethel was drowned. 20? Francis Fraser unmarried dtr. Revd. D. Fraser's 2nd marriage. Head teacher (female) P.L.C. Melbourne - taught Henry Handel Richardson. 21. Lizzie Campbell (nee Miller) sister of bridegroom. 22. Charlie Campbell husband of Lizzie. 23. Billy Miller, bro. of bridegroom. 24, 25, 26 & 27 unknown. 28. Ruby Baird (nee Coutts, sister of bride) wife of Mathew Baird. 29. Roy Coutts youngest bro. of bride, flew in Royal Flying Corps 1st world war.

