

Peterson Family History

Part 4: 1950-2014

A draft of a work in progress

Richard Peterson, Architect

23 May 2013
17,632 words

January 5 1950. Albert Anderson Peterson died aged 73, at Bethesda Intermediate Private Hospital, 30 Erin Street, Richmond, E1. This cost £5/5/-, including a laying out fee of £1/1/-. Medical Benefits paid 16/- towards this. He was only in hospital three days: 3-5 January. He had Bronchopneumonia, was pneumatic, in a coma, then suddenly sat up in bed and thanked Gordon for being a good son. He died soon after. He had been at 20 Russell Street for Christmas in 1949, and held his grandson the baby Stephen in his arms, on the back verandah. (AGP and receipts. Held).

20 March 1950. Gordon requested to fully **discharge the liability on Livingstone Street.** Of £1,053/6/2, of which only £142/17/7/- remained. Once this was paid, Gordon would also be liable for insurance. (Statement from War service Homes Division).

March 1950. Stephen in a basinet in the backyard and also in a pusher on the beach, presumably at Seaford. (Photographs. Held).

Later 1950s holidays were at Blairgowrie.

14 April 1950. Probate was issued on Albert Anderson Peterson's Estate. It consisted of real estate: £720 and personal estate: £454. In his Will dated 8 October 1949, Gordon was named sole beneficiary and Executor. (AGP, Probate, Bethesda Intermediate Private Hospital receipt, press cutting and Family Bible. (All held).

By 1 May 1950, a 'wood and iron woodshed' had been built at Livingstone Street. (*War Service Homes Act 1918-1935. Certificate of Insurance No. V/266. 9 May 1950.* Held).

Undated. Architectural drawing for a proposed Fibro Cement garage at 72 (sic.) Livingstone Street. (Held).

May 1950. Gordon applied to the Registrar of Titles to become the registered proprietor of Vol. 4042 Folio 808212, presumably **8 Knowles Street**, Northcote. (Draft of letter, AGP to the Registrar). He had to make a solemn declaration that his parents had told him they were joint proprietors and that he knew Fanny was dead because he saw her dead body and attended her funeral (Transfer of Land Act, Solemn Declaration Form. Held).

Jean and Gordon could have moved from Livingstone Street to **8 Knowles Street.** But Gordon's Hogg aunt then occupied it. When it was up for sale, she wouldn't let anyone through and it was sold for a song, after disputes with the Hogg relatives. (AGP).

10 June 1950. Jeanie and Walt were married. (Photograph, held).

[25 June 1950. The Korean War began. North Korea invaded South Korea, following provocation and increasingly severe frontier clashes initiated by both countries since 1948].

June 1950. Gordon joined the RACV. He was a member for almost 55 years. Perhaps this was when his **first car**, a fawn and grey Vauxhall was bought. A stylish cream one still survives in Victoria, SFW 208,

October 1950. Essie died (Joan Waddington).

The family only listened to **radio 3DB/3LK**,¹ 'the family station.' **Radio serials** include: *Hop Harrigan and the Riders on the Range*, *Dad and Dave* (1932-52),² and **Daddy and Paddy** with John Stuart (Daddy) and Pat McLean (Paddy) in the 1940s and quiz programmes including: Bob Dyer's *Pick-a-Box* and John Dease's³ the *Quiz Kids* [refer: 1937].⁴ Until c1956, radio dominated Australian home life, for its intimacy and immediacy.

¹ 3DB was owned by the Herald & Weekly Times and broadcast from the its Flinders Lane basement. The antennae survive. 3LK also owned by the Herald, was a regional radio station in Horsham.

² Refer: **Glossary**: 'Snake Gully.'

³ Conly John Paget Dease (1906-1979), was one of the 'Five D's of Australian Radio,' with Jack Davey, Bob Dyer, Terry Dear and Harry Dearth. In 1942 he began *The Quiz Kids*, modelled on a US program, with a panel of five Sydney schoolkids aged 11-15, challenged by questions sent in by listeners, who received cash and sponsors' products if no Quiz Kid answered. A separate panel in Melbourne was used for six weeks each year. Deese played the avuncular quizmaster. In all publicity he and panel members wore academic gowns and mortarboard, including NSW premier Neville Wran, Sue Pearson (mother of Christopher Pearson) and Barry Jones, of the Melbourne panel in 1947-48. Sponsors were Colgate-Palmolive (1942-44) and Johnson & Johnson (1944-58).

⁴ Jane Van Balen, The Australian Radio Series Guide 1930s to 1970s, www.nfsa.gov.au/docs/collectionguide_australianradioseries1930-1970.pdf



[**Twisties** were first made by General Foods, then by Smiths from 1964, now owned by PepsiCo and made in Adelaide and Perth].

[1950. Kraft was the first Australian manufacturer of **rind-less cheese**].

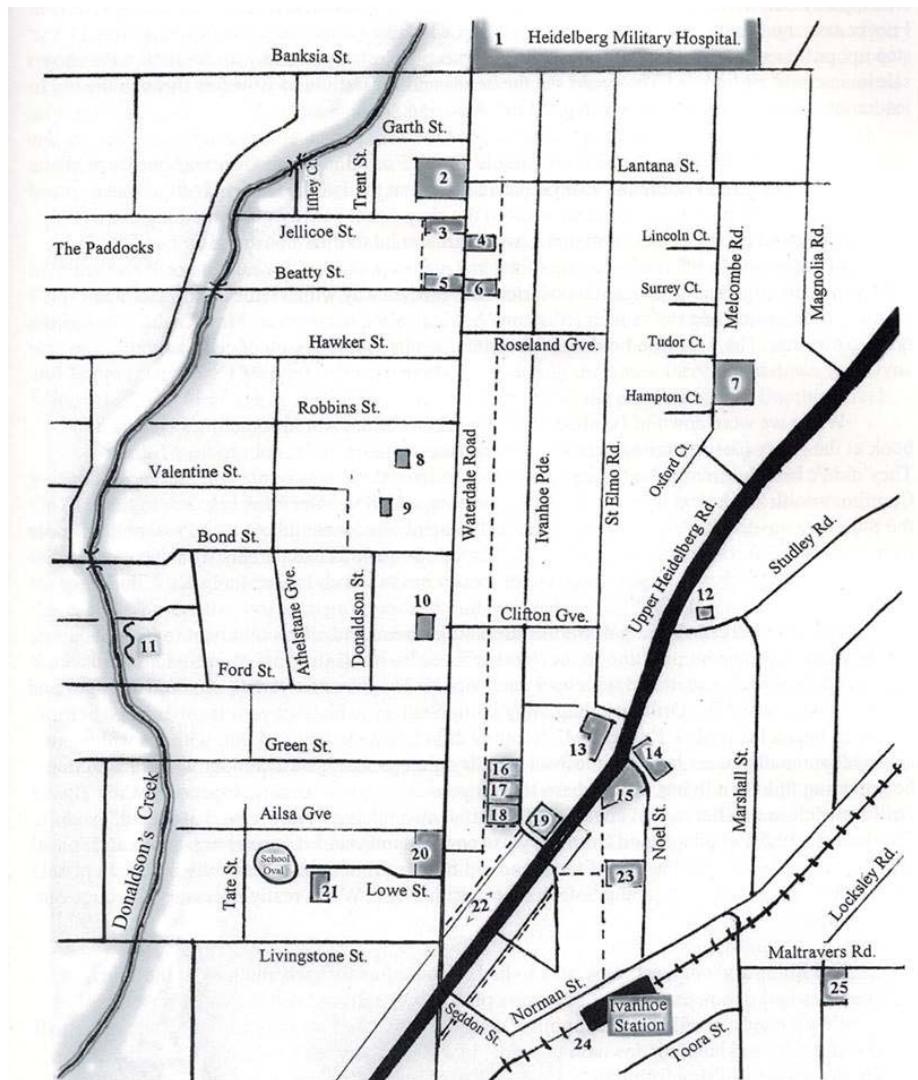
[1950. **Australia's population** was 8.3 million].

1 February 1951. Jack Rudduck (born at Dromana; father: Ernest Rudduck, storekeeper; mother: Theresa Lang, home duties), pastoralist of Tableland, Derby, Western Australia married **Dorothy Joyce Cother** (born at Ivanhoe; typist of 21 Ormond Road, Ivanhoe, later Joyce Peterson; father Edwin Clarence Cother, engineer; mother Dorothy Cother, home duties) at Wesley College Methodist Chapel. (Certificate of Marriage, held).



Ivanhoe Primary School.

2.1951. Ivanhoe Primary School. Richard attended in 1951 only. First in the Infants, then after two weeks promoted to First Grade.





1951. Gordon became a director of each of the three Horsfall companies. (His notebook, held). Refer 1946.

Gordon bought into Horsfall by purchasing a qualifying number of 200 shares for £5,000, which the company actually paid as undistributed profits, a device allowed by the auditors. In a proprietary limited company, all profit couldn't be distributed, but set aside as an undistributed profits fund, which has then to be distributed within a period. (AGP). It is unknown, when this was, possibly when he became a director in 1946 (qv).

When sold in 2004, Gordon's shares were worth 250 times this initial investment.

Later, Gordon bought another £5,000 of Horsfall shares. (AGP).

1951. There is a **Uniform Building Regulations** permit application form for the City of Heidelberg, for the cnr **St Huberts and Hartlands Road**. (Held. Not completed).

Also an Application to The Director, Building Directorate, 232 Flinders Lane, C1, for **Consent to Commence Building Operations**, under the Building Operations and Building Materials Control Acts. Number of occupants, ages and sex, floor area, reason for the work and if the applicant was a war service veteran, had to be given (presumably still due to **post-war materials shortages**). 12½ squares (11.6 sq m, later increased to 14 squares, or 13 sq m) was the maximum size permitted. (Form. Held).

Undated 'Perspective Sketch' of 'Proposed Residence for Mr & Mrs G Peterson of Ivanhoe and two alternative Sketch Plans of Proposed Residence for Mr & Mrs G Peterson. The one more similar to the built design has an area: 1,618 sq ft, porches 65 sq. ft; total: 1,683 sq. ft. The other is 1,600 sq ft. (No author. All held).

24 February 1951. 70 Livingstone Street was sold to Armitage for £2,000 plus costs.

IVANHOE 70 Livingstone Street
ART DECO DISCOVERY WITH ATTRACTIVE OPTIONS
Potential on Livingstone you presume? Explore your options and you'll discover that yes, there is plenty of scope with this Art Deco classic whether you're looking to renovate, rebuild or redevelop (STCA). Central to all of Ivanhoe's lifestyle attractions; stop searching and start planning as this decorative 3BR home stands on an inviting 592m² allotment (approx).
www.70livingstonestreetivanhoe.com

Auction	Saturday 6th December at 11:00am
ESR	\$740,000-\$790,000
Inspection	Wed 2:30-3pm, Sat 1:1-3pm
Land	592m ² approx.
Contact	Gordon Whale 0419 335 459 Damien Carter 0438 850 166
Office	9497 3222 9459 5666

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in 2014, Armitage put on the market, unaltered for £400,000.

March 1951. D X Dunn's blueprint drawing of the Kitchen Details (plan and three elevations) and the Lounge fireplace plan and elevation survives.
(Residence for Mr & Mrs G. Peterson – Details Sheet 1).

David Dunn became a longstanding partner in Stephenson & Turner, the largest firm of architects in Australia.

6 Longstaff Street, East Ivanhoe, built later, is a rather **similar design**, but with a garage under and steel-framed windows. Gordon always said they copied our design. **12 Lochabar Court, Ivanhoe**, is a simpler, but also similar design, as is **151 Grandview Grove, Rosanna**.

On **3 May 1951**, Jean, married woman (so, not working), became **joint proprietor** of Hartlands and St Hubert Roads with Gordon, Accountant, both of 70 Livingstone Street. The rates notices continued to be sent to her alone. (Certificate of Title and Rates notice).

Single-handedly, Gordon **cleared dense boxthorn jungle** of at least 2.5 metres high, which had covered most of the block, through which the driveway to Charterisville wound.

'It was considered 'frivolous, perhaps cowardly, certainly contemptible' for not being 'out there smashing down the bush with one's own bare fists'. (Robin Boyd, in *Australia's Home*. Held).

To be citified was to be sissified. (Humphrey McQueen, Tom Roberts. Held).

There followed a protracted 30-month building period, still scarce building materials and an unreliable builder, R. Hinchcliffe, of 70 Hammond Street, Northcote.

14 May 1951. F. Phillips, Town Clerk of the City of Heidelberg wrote to M/s J. Peterson of 70 Livingstone Street, Ivanhoe that he had been directed to inform her that as tenders received were so much in excess of the estimate submitted to her, Council had decided to **abandon the scheme to construct St Huberts (sic) Road** and Charteris Drive and ordered a new scheme to be prepared for the completion of the first stage of the construction. A cheque was attached for refund of the amount paid by her under the original scheme. (Held).

25 May 1951. The **Building Contract** between Reginald Pervival Hinchcliffe, of 70 Hammond Street, Thornbury, Essie Jean Peterson and Albert Gordon Peterson for £3,550, was witnessed by W.A. Higgs.

Between **10 July 1951** and **8 September 1952**, £586 was paid to Hinchcliffe; 7 March 1952: £300; 4 May 1952: £600; £740 and £500: 8 September 1952.

9 August, 12 September and 9 October 1951. The City of Heidelberg sent three blue Notices under the Provisions of Section 580 of the Local Government Act 1946 to Essie Jean Peterson of 70 Livingstone Street, Ivanhoe as owner of Lot 143, St Huberts (*sic*) Road to recover £531/3/1 for which she as an owner was liable under a scheme for **construction of a private street** known as St Hubert Road and Charteris Drive from Burke road North to McArthur Road (Held).

12 September 1951. John Stone supplied Oregon timber (£69/6/9, less 2 1/2% discount) to Mrs Jean Peterson. (Invoice. Held).

1951-54. Some of the other **materials** for **28** St Hubert Road seem to have been put through the Wm. Horsfall Pty Ltd or Mintern Products Pty. Ltd. books:

Suppliers for whom receipts exist: Insulwool 75 mm ceiling insulation batts (£44, 7 August 1951); E.L. Yencken & Co. Pty Ltd., 384-396 Little Collins Street (17 & 24 April 1952); Gibbs, Bright & Co., 34 Queen Street (Coral Brent Cistern, 24 September 1952); EGA Pty. Ltd., Sanitaryware, 175-177 King Street (2 October 1952); James McEwan & Co. Pty. Ltd. (Door Furniture: Schlage, Lanes, and Astra, 33 sets, Statement for August, dated 28 October 1952, £18/8/1); William Crosby & Co. Pty. Ltd., 488-490 Collins Street (Clifton 6x6" tiles, liner, shell and TPH, 22 April, 18 June, 3, 22 and 26 September 1952); Dunlop Floorings Pty. Ltd. (supply and lay Sematic decorative tiles 9x9x3/16" colour YE65 with border colour YL485 on Fleximer underlay grade SX135, £29/5/9, 31 December 1952) with brass edging strip in Bathroom); Rogers Sellers & Myhill Pty. Ltd. (6x6" buff tiles, 3 February 1953).

Glen Iris Brick tile & Terra Cotta Company, cnr Clapham and Watt Streets, Thornbury, (Salmons, 1 December 1953 - 3 February 1954), J. McDevitt, Cartage Contractor (Brick sand, 1 March 1954, £11/15/-); Briscoe & Co, Wholesale Ironmongers, West Melbourne (10 bags of cement, 26 March 1953); R.J. Fullbrook, Building and Paving Contractor (Excavating and pouring concrete foundations for additions to **28** St Hubert Road, £31/-/); John Stone Timber Joinery and Hardware Merchant, 155 Napier Street, Fitzroy, N6, 26 April 1954 and 18 June 1954); James Hardie & Coy. Pty. Ltd. (super corrugated sheet, plastic cement and screws, 3 June 1954, £19/17/11); Geneva Paving Co., Northcote (Reinforced rough concrete to front terrace, steps, back porch and 3 1/2 inch concrete floor to garage, reduced for cement supplied by owner, 28 July 1954, £68/14/-); Johnson & Gaston Pty. Ltd. (10 October 1951, 4 January and 9 February 1954; 18 bags of cement, 17 August 1954); R.N. Chenoweth Pty. Ltd, Timber Merchants, Alphington, (13 September 1954);

Undated brochures were obtained for: an APS Whiz-Dry, Rogers Sellers and Myhill Pty. Ltd. tiled fireplaces and Richard's Tiles (not used); Early Kooka Metters KFB Electric Ranges (April 1951); Metters KFB Gas Stoves, porcelain enamelled ware baths and hand basins; Beco lighting, including down lights used in the Kitchen and wall brackets in the Bathroom; Arnold Wrought Iron Gates; Chuck Metal Gates and Fences; Brooks Robinson and Kempthorne Home Lighting; Swing-Easy Garage Door; Arthur Yates & Co. Pty. Ltd. Seed Growers, Seed Merchants and Nurserymen, Sydney and Arnold Rotary Clothes Hoists. Wrought iron was to a design by Caslake.

Undated. The Mayfair Colour Centre prepared a colour scheme for the house. Externally, gutters, windows and doors: Cream to match the bricks. Eaves and Verandah ceiling: Pale Blue. Walls and cupboards were generally China Blue, ceilings: Primrose. Bedroom 1: Pearl Grey walls and Shell Pink ceiling; Bedroom 2: China Blue walls and Primrose ceilings; the boys' Bedroom 3: Shell Pink walls and Soft White ceiling; Bathroom Shell Pink

walls and Gardenia White ceiling and Laundry: Primrose walls and Gardenia White ceiling. (Schedule).

December 1951. A final photograph of Richard and Stephen in their tent behind 70 Livingstone Street, under the fruit tree. (Held).

1951: The eight double-storied solid brick **shops** built by the A V Jennings Construction Company in 253-63 and 271-73 Lower Heidelberg Road, East Ivanhoe were occupied by [blue: 1951; orange: 1974]:⁵

Lower Heidelberg Road, East Ivanhoe
North Side

Linton Street
41. V De Fazio
43. D G Carolane, Chemist
45-53. Russell Court, Catering [former Greengrocer & Grocer]
55. D & K Hocking, Confectioners
M Davis Service Station
Marshall Street
73. Total Service Station
81. Ezio of Rome, Ladies' Hairdresser

South Side

30-50. Ivanhoe Grammar School
Russell Street
52. Dillons of Ivanhoe, Used Motor Cars [Formerly Vacuum Oil Company, petrol pumps]
72. R Foxwell, Butcher
74. R Demir, Confectioner, flat above
76. R J Pound, Typesetters
80. D King's Auto Service Motor Garage
Marshall Street
92. Ampol Service Station

213 Keith Miles, soft furnishings, A K Miles lived above
215 Quentin's Children's Wear
217 Spotless Drycleaners, residence above
219 TAB, residence above
221 Nini's Bazaar Gifts
223 PK Hander Hairdresser
225 C & B Green, Confectioners [Milk Bar]
227 Adelina Florist
229 Rumeur, Ladies Hairdresser
231 State Savings Bank of Victoria
233 Kendon Automotive Service Auto Electricians
235 Rees & Holloway, [Golden Fleece] Service Station
245 Dauphine Reception Rooms
251 L G Knorr, Licensed Grocers
Burton Crescent
253: Oates Banks Fruiterer and Wee Den Library (presumably upstairs).
A & C Courantos, Fruiterers
255: Ramsey and Lucas, Chemist (They had opened their shop in Ivanhoe in 1938, until
2009, Templars Pharmacy).
W H Greaney, Pharmacist
257: Parsonage, Pastry Cooks
A. Moosehead, Mercer
B. Flats
259: A T Hodge, Boot Repairer
A. Jicky, Salon de Coiffure, Hairdresser

⁵ The orange indicates the shops in 1974 [Sands & Mc Dougall Directory, held], the blue in 1951.

- B. Dara-jon, Drycleaners
261: A E Hill
J & I Di Paola, Delicatessen
263: Cyril Penberthy Butcher
A. Ford Meats, Butcher
B. Flats
265. Louantos, Fruiterers
267. R & R Gilligan, Drapers
269. Golden Lantern [Chinese] Restaurant
271: C T Oldmeadow, Library
A. The Toy Box, Toys
B. The Beau-View Library
C. Ivanhoe East Post Office
273: Wakeman, Newsagent (formerly, opposite)
273. L J Gannon, Ladies' Hairdresser
275. Ronwick Fashions. Frocks
277. Edwards & White Travel Service, Tourist Agency
279. Junction Seafoods, Fishmonger
281. Jaqueth, Childrens' Wear
283. Pfeiffen, Confectioners [Milk Bar]
-

295 J W Bayliss

- 216-218. Charteris House [Accountants, consulting engineers, builders, insurance agents, offices, Tainsh's office]
220. F Keating, [Mobilgas] Service Station
228. Dara-jon, Drycleaners [again!]
230. W M & P Giles, Newsagents
232. A. Flats
232. B. May Waterson, Frocks
Wilfred Road
234. J M Tainsh, Grocer
236. Williams & Dare, Estate Agents
238. J Dinan, Butcher
240. G & A Wilcock, Confectioners [Milk Bar]
242. P D Clarke, Dentist
244. R M Jean, Delicatessen
246. Bella Belinda, Ladies' Hairdresser
248. E & M Holt, Hardware
250. The Melody Shop, Music
252-4. W N Giles-Grigg, Chemist
256. Tempo Casuals, Frocks
258. Commonwealth Bank
262. East Ivanhoe Motors, [Shell] Service Station
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Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe, 1974 South Side

- Heidelberg Road
Railway Bridge
40. Valley View Service Station
42. House
48. House
54. House
70. Dilworth & Son P/L, Coolstores
76. Treacey & McMicking, Service Station
76. Kays Rent-a-car Depot
76. E F Holyoake, Motor Engineer
Kiernan Avenue
[90] Ivanhoe Telephone Exchange
92. Ivanhoe Post Office
94. House
96. Howard's Health Foods
98. J & W Lynch, Sporting Goods
100. A R Taylor & Co, Estate Agents

- 102. Flat
- 104. Flat
- 104. D Reid, Hairdresser
- 120. Ivanhoe Hotel
- 120. Flat, Mrs E Ryan
- 124A. Wortley Bros, Butchers
- 126. Vacant
- 130. Ivanhoe Gift Shop
- 130. Spotless Ltd,
- 132-8. J H Chandler P/L, Hardware
- 149. M.U.F.S. Dispensary
- 140A. Flat, B Cheung
- 142. Cheung Shing Café
- 144. grant & Co, Solicitors
- 146. Williams & Co P/L, Estate Agents
- 148. H Milburn, Boot Repairer
- 148. Norman Shoes
 - Waterdale Road
- 154. Commonwealth Banking Corporation
 - Seddon Street
- 158-60. Clive's Menswear P/L, Mercers
- 162. K Ramsay, Chemist.
- 164. Vacant
- 166. Brown-Gouge P/L, Drycleaners
- 166. Flat. Miss F Brogden
- 168. Fawcett Sound Systems radio rental
- 168. Flat
- 172. Flat
- 170-2. D E Shaw, Watchmaker
- 174. Gay Calderone, Ladies' Hairdresser
- 176. Ivanhoe Antiques
- 178. S King, Chemist
- 180. Finlayson's, Mercers
- 182-4. ANZ Banking Group Ltd
 - Westley Avenue
- 186-8. Optical Prescription Spectacle Makers (Ivanhoe) P/L
- 190-2. Melbourne Plant & Floral Supply, Florists
- 194-6. Maher's, Newsagency
- 198. CBC of Sydney Ltd
- 200. United Insurance Co Ltd
- 202. Mrs J Morris, Hosery
- 204. G F Walker, Dentist
- 206. Thomas Carlyle P/L, Printers
- 208-10. Heaver & Sons, Electricians
- 216. Bank of NSW
- 218. Opportunity Shop
- 220. Newman's Jewelers
- 222. Ivanhoe Pet Shop
- 222. Flat
- 224. Bebs Fashions & Sportswear
 - Ivanhoe Parade
- 228-30. Heidelberg City Council Car Park
- 232. Coffee House Lounge
- 232A. TAB of Victoria
- 232. Singer Sewing Centre
- 234. Music Inn, Musical Instruments
- 236. Vacant
- 238. Ivanhoe Card & Party Shop
- 240. Mother's Treasure Children's Wear
- 242. R Knape, Menswear, Mercers
- 244. C Yates Shoes
- 246. G Ansell, Soft Furnishings
- 248. La Balsa, Bistro
- 250. Ivanhoe Tavern, Restaurant
- St James' Kindergarten

St James' Church of England
Noel Street
270-. Houses

**Upper Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe, 1974
North Side**

1 April 1952. Fitz Geralds treated the hardwood framing timbers at St Hubert Road (Letter. Held).

5 August 1952. The **Specification** for Erection of a Brick Veneer Residence at St Huberts Road, East Ivanhoe for Mr And Mrs Gordon Peterson was initialled by 'R. Hinchcliff' on every page and signed by he and Gordon on the last page. No author is mentioned. (Specification).

1952. Within a year of joining Horsfall's, when **old Horsfall** died, Gordon was the only one who understood all of the personal and business arrangements. Even his family didn't. Keith and Leslie Horsfall, directors by appointment had no shares and Barnes, Bill's early partner had only preference shares. Keith inherited 50% Leslie was a daughter Bill was most fond of. Keith never liked Gordon, who was appointed by his father.

Keith has since died, but **Leslie** may still be alive. William K Horsfall became Managing Director and other directors were Leslie G Horsfall, Albert G Peterson and Herbert J. Genn. 'The company is one of Melbourne's oldest canister manufacturers.' (AGP and undated press cutting).

1952: James Connor died. (Joan Waddington).

[**1952. Barry Humphries**, born 1934 in Kew, multi-talented actor, satirist, artist and author, began his stage career in the revue, *Call Me Madman*, at the Union Theatre, University of Melbourne].

27 March 1952. Settlement date on **85 Clauscen Street, North Fitzroy sold** by **W.A. Higgs** to J.P.Grace for £1,950.00 (W.A. Prendergast & Robinson, Solicitors. Adjustment Statement. Held). So although by 24 February 1939. The **Higgs** family paid off their new house, at 20 Russell-street, they still owned Clauscen Street and presumably leased it out as an investment.

On **8 April 1952**, the property was **mortgaged** to the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. This was paid off and discharged on 22 January 1953 (Certificate of Title. Held).

5 and 25 August 1952. Brief schedules were received from **R. Hinchcliff**, Builder and Contractor of additional work and rise and fall. Extras were £172/5/- Rise was £782/5/-, not mentioned in Gordon's records. (Letters, held).

16 September 1952. H S Edwards, Superintendent, Telephone Branch of the Commonwealth of Australia Postmaster-General's Department, General Post Office, Melbourne, wrote to A.G. Peterson at Cnr St Huberts & Hartlands Roads, Ivanhoe N.21, agreeing to Gordon's application to remove the telephone service JX 3016 from 70 Livingstone Street to Cnr St Huberts & Hartlands Roads. Gordon was warned that the Department reserved the right to connect more than one subscriber to the line if necessary, that is, on a Duplex Private Telephone Service basis. This would reduce the line rental from 65/- to 40/- per annum. (Letter, held).

7 November 1952. 33 house blocks and 5 river paddocks on the Artists Hill section of the Charteris Estate were advertised to be auctioned by Edward Haughton Pty. Ltd. on 29 November. (*The Herald*, 7 November 1952, held).

10 November 1952. Robyn Louise Peterson was born at the Mercy Hospital.

21 November 1952. £500 deposit (less £121/10/- commission) was paid to Gordon on the **sale of 70 Livingstone Street**, Ivanhoe, sold for £4,075/- through John H. Blackall, Real Estate & Business Agent, 346 Swanston Street. (Letter from Agent, held).

11 December 1952. Settlement occurred on the purchase of 70 Livingstone Street by Mr T. and Mrs I.M.C. Gleeson from Mr A.G. Peterson. The price was £4,075, over 20 days, less £500 deposit. Council rates were £10/16/- and MMBW rates were £7/12/- (*Statement of Purchase Money and Adjustments as at 11/12/52*, held).

December 1952. The five Petersons left Livingstone Street and **moved into 28 St Hubert Road**,

Hugh Stretton (b1924-, Australian historian and urban economist) observed that australians longed for a **city** (qv, c/f) with a crowded centre, a residential base. 'The great cities are the ones the people live in.' ...set against 'the urban intellectual's stereotype of **suburban** non-life.' Then, he demolished this aspiration by describing the secret diversity of suburbs.

Stretton then described the secret diversity of suburban life. He contended that a house on a generous-sized **block**, can produce remarkably rich forms of life. A potentially infinite variety of indoor and outdoor areas, colour and mood, provides opportunities for self expression, and a mix of community and privacy. People can keep animals, tinker in sheds, paint, or pursue hobbies. Children have time and space to play and to dream, neither too far from their parents nor under their feet. However hard it is to measure the benefits of suburbs 'they are obviously important in the structure and spirit of Australian society.'⁶

This was long before its completion. Both front and back terrace were incomplete, so access was difficult. The architect for its design was David Dunn, who was for many years a partner in Stephenson and Turner, the largest firm of architects in Australia. The works were not finally completed until **1954** (qv). (AGP).

Neighbours at St Hubert Road were Nance and Lindsay Sampson and their sons Paul, Leigh, Phillip and John at 2 Withers Street; Alan and Ethel (?) Simpson and their children Sid and Possie at 5 Hartlands Road; Alfred and (?) Cattanach and their children John, Mary, Margaret and Camille; Don and Mary Witsed and their children Peter and Helen; the Garnets; the Parkers; the Bradburys and their sons John, (?) and Noel; the Ballantynes; the Buchanans; Mrs Craythorne and her sons Sid and (?); etc.

At East Ivanhoe, **Jean's friends** were Mavis and Mal Brentnall, Else and Cyril Jewell, Mary and Don Whitsed; Mitch and Jean Hughes; Lillian Lancaster, Joyce Oldmeadow, Anne and Glyn Lewis, Vera and Ern Cohen, Jim and Jill Carter, who worked in the doctor's surgery (two daughters) and Nance and Lindsay Sampson.

Did she flirt, perhaps earlier, with **Moral Re-Armament**, via Lillian Lancaster, whose eldest son, Jonathan, my Carey contemporary, still (?) heads it in Melbourne.

The family doctors were **Dr Littlejohn**, **Dr Galbraith** and also later **Dr Andrew Fraser** (1916-08), in ascending level of iciness. In 1950 Fraser joined the practice that in 1960 became Ivanhoe Medical Clinic for 46 years, retiring from there, but not from medical practice, after 46 years in 1996.⁷

⁶ James Button, 'Hard Truths,' *The Monthly*, February 2013, pp 44-46, on Robert Manne & Chris Feik, editors, *The Words that Made Australia*, Black Inc, 2013.

⁷ William Darvall, 'Dogged in the best Scottish tradition, GP a stickler for highest standards. Andrew Noel Fraser Doctor, 10.4.1916-1.5.08, Obituary,' *The Age*, 3 July 2008.

[36 Russell Street, NW corner Pine Street was occupied by the owner who left in 2009, 57 years later].

1953-75. Ruby had shares in General Motors Acceptance Corporation Australia, Industrial Acceptance Corporation Limited United Dominions Corporation (Australia) Limited, Mercantile Credits Ltd the Equity Trustees and Agwency Company Ltd., FNCB Waltons Credit Corp Ltd, Reid Murray Acceptance, Motor Spares Ltd, H.G.Palmer (Consolidated) Limited, Alliance Holdings Ltd and Australian Equity. Her brokers were R A Rowe & Co, Wallace H Smith & Co and J E Martin, Head & Co.

R A Rowe & Co, stockbrokers, may have been Arnold (Arnie) Rowe, whose daughter was **Nancy Rowe**, who gave Richard his first book, First Things, for Christmas 1948 or 1949. They were though of as being wealthy and lived in a mansion at Orrong Road, Toorak, which still exists. Their connection to our family is unknown.

22 January 1953. The **mortgage** on 85 Clauscen Street, North Fitzroy was paid off to the Higgs and discharged. (Certificate of Title, held).

27 March 1953. Hinchcliff's (sometimes spelt, even by him, Hinchcliffe) accounts seem to have been going through solicitors, W.A. Prendergast & Robinson, Solicitors, presumably due to a dispute over payment. There are various lists by Gordon of unfinished or unsatisfactory work, with 36 deletions and 18 items purchased by owner. (Held).

Another of **Gordon's undated schedules** lists 37 deductions and omissions from the job. Some of these were unfortunate, such as 'window not built in passage, no steel reinforcing rods in footings, no steel lintols over two rear windows, rainwater downpipes 3" instead of 4", paint only two oil coats externally, sashes not 21 ounce glass, glazed shower screen, vent to shower, stormwater drains under porch, etc. (Held).

The Contract **price** was £3,550, less £290 deletions, additions of £162/15/-, less purchases by owner £203/5/2, leaving an amount finally paid by the owner of £3,626/0/0. (Gordon's Schedules, Notes and a Note from the Solicitors. Held).

31 March 1953. The Commonwealth Bank of Australia returned their (loan, presumably) copy of the Specification and Drawings of **28 St Huberts Road, East Ivanhoe**. (Specification held. No copy of the plans is known to survive).

13 May 1953. The **MMBW Inspection** from their Depot in Barkly Place, Heidelberg, found only two minor defects. (Letter, held).

1 June 1953. Associated Nurseries Pty. Ltd., of 366 St Kilda Road prepared a 'Suggested **Planting Scheme**' for cr St Huberts & Hartlands Roads. It included 74 trees and bushes, 48 perennials and 47 other plantings in the 'rockery'. A hand-drawn **layout plan** was also provided, which is generally as was implemented. Gordon kept press cuttings on planting almond trees and feijoas. (List, plan and cuttings held).

August 1953. Architectural drawings were prepared for [a] 'Garage and Alterations to [the] Residence of Gordon Peterson, St Hubert's Rd, Ivanhoe.' The included: a front concrete slab terrace and a stair of eight risers (both 4" thick on fill, to detail by A.R.C.) and a balustrade (to later detail); a Garage (then only single width of 11' 6" x 25' 0"); and a rear concrete slab terrace on fill (3" slab also to detail by A.R.C.), Store and WC, with a brickwork flower box, a glazed screen added to the existing porch and a new concrete path.

The flower box was later deleted, the store combined with the WC to allow inclusion of a shower, and the Garage widened to allow a workshop to be included. 'The architect' is referred to, but is not named on the drawing. There is a second sheet of a perspective view of the 'Rear Terrace, WC and Conservatory' additions to the house. (Both sheets held).

10 November 1953. The drawing was stamped No 7860, as approved by A G Howard, Building Surveyor. Presumably, this work proceeded during the first part of 1954.

9 December 1953. Wor. Bro. Gordon was installed as Worshipful Master of his Masonic Lodge Normanby No 523 of the Antient (*sic.*) Free and Accepted Masons of Victoria, at the Bastings Street Temple, Northcote for **1953-54**. Founded in 1937, the Lodge celebrated its 200th meeting in September during Gordon's term of office. It had 142 members. (Installation Ceremony Programme, held).

After Word war II, **Masonic Lodge membership** in Victoria started to climb, peaking at 100,000 members by the late 1960s. By 2010, it had dwindled to about 13,500 and there was recurring talk of demolishing the Grand Lodge, the Dallas Brookes Hall, to raise money.

I remember only **one party** ever held at St Hubert Road, presumably at about this time and probably of lodge people. It was one of only three ever held at the house, two of them by Richard.

Gordon had been a **member** of that Lodge for 16 years. Other Past Masters were Ern Cohen and Fred G Capp (who was also a Heidelberg City Councillor and who lived diagonally opposite, at 1 Withers Street) and David Prosser held the office of Inner Guard. Lodge meetings were held monthly, on Wednesdays at 7.15 pm.

Lodge Social Committee meetings were held at the residence of the Wor. Master and card nights were organised. Gordon also initiated a **monthly newssheet** written by 'a secret roving reporter'. (Copies held).

There was also a **Ladies' Auxiliary** of which Jean was President, which held 'afternoons'. On **28 April** 'the W.M's wife, Mrs Peterson' organised for a speaker from the CWA 'to speak and instruct the ladies in craftwork, such as the making of artificial flowers, raffia hats, baskets and the like, to help the ladies to balance the budget'. A picture night was held at the Majestic and a cabaret dance (later described as a 'ball') at the Dauphine, East Ivanhoe that made a net profit of £25. (AGP and folio size portrait photograph, taken at the end of his term as Master of the Lodge, dated 10.11.54 and signed by many other Masters and Past Masters and bound Order of Ceremony booklet, held).

17 December 1953. Ruby Grace Higgs paid £3/3/- annually to The Pacific Insurance Company to insure the buildings at **20 Russell Street** for £2,800.00 plus £8/8/- costs. (Letter dated 24 February from Prendergast and Robinson, dated 24 February 1951, held).



2 Central Street, Ivanhoe.

In **February 1954** the **newssheet** reported that the Worshipful Master had killed a sizeable **snake** in his own backyard (it was a tiger snake, killed with a shovel) and that the **roads remained unmade** by the council. (*Lodge Normanby's Monthly News Sheet*. Held).

In **June** it reported that the Wor. Master had had a brush with the law in trying to beat the lights over Preston way. He was let off with a warning. (*Lodge Normanby's Monthly News Sheet*. Held).

May 1954. The Horsfall company auditor, E.C.Candy of E. C. Candy & Co gave **Gordon** an exemplary reference: Gordon controlled all office staff, accounting and complicated financial records. He had leadership, initiative, ambition and open to new ideas, was absolutely trustworthy and of exemplary character (Reference. Held).

In **June** the News Sheet reported that the Wor. Master had had a brush with the law in trying to beat the lights 'over Preston way'. He was let off with a warning. (*Lodge Normanby's Monthly News Shee*. Held).

4 August 1954. Richard's partner **Geoffrey Peterson-Wright** was born in London.

September 1954. The Petersons acquired a baby Kelpie **dog**, Poochie. (*Lodge Normanby's Monthly News Sheet*. Held).

16 October 1954. During Gordon's term as Master of his Lodge, the United Grand Lodge of Victoria published a proposal for the 'Erection of a **new Masonic Headquarters**'. Its 100,000 Members were asked to each contribute £1 per annum for each of ten years towards its cost. (Leaflet, held).

10 November 1954. End of Gordon's term as Master of the Lodge Normanby. (Folio size portrait photograph, taken at the end of his term as Master of the Lodge, dated 10.11.54 and signed by many other Masters and Past Masters and bound Order of Ceremony booklet, held).

8 December 1954. Gordon was presented with the elaborate gold 1953-1954 Lodge Normanby No. 523 **medal** on a pale blue ribbon 'by his brethren as a token of esteem'. (Held).

Gordon also received a gold **medal** on pale blue ribbon inscribed '**Life Governor**' and A. G. Peterson' on the reverse, undated. (Held). He never mentioned it.

?1954. 'Grandma Goodman' (our maternal great-grandmother) died, aged 89. (Joan Waddington).

We may have acquired a set of the brown-covered *Universal Standard Encyclopedia* (1954) 1955.

[**Henry Bolte** became premier of Victoria 1955-72].

[**1954.** Kraft first retailed mayonnaise (10oz), Cheddar Portions and Cracker Barrel Cheese].

There was no attempt at an overall-plan proposal for the metropolis of Melbourne until the **Board of Works Metropolitan Plan** of 1954. The population just kept pushing further out, often without thought of adequate services or transport, in order to savour a freedom they had never before experienced. But the price of unplanned space, no matter how desirable in itself, would soon begin to present unanticipated difficulties as the population virtually doubled itself in the ensuing ten years.

27 January - September 28 1955. Seven **dental** appointments with Dr Clifford C. Sharpe, H.C. Morris and J.C. Craigie, of the T & G Building, 147 Collins Street; for Mrs (3, from May until 28 September), Mr (1), Richard (2) and Stephen Peterson (1). (Invoice, for £14/3/6 held).

[**12 March 1955.** The first **Moomba** procession: we all watched in Swanston Street Beverley Stewart was Moomba Queen in a billowing white ball-gown and the crushing crowds were very oppressive. Moomba replaced the Labour Day processions, with their floats and banners in Swanston Street, over 1879–1952, which celebrated and the 8-hour working day on Labour Day. Refer: June 1955].

11 May 1955. Oddly, at such a crucial time, **Gordon applied for another job** as a general manager. Commercial references were obtained from John Withers & Son Pty Ltd and E.C. Candy & Co. (Horsfall's Auditors). Private referees were I.F. McLaren and N.L. McFadden. (His notebook, held).

28 May 1955. Ruby (aged 63) was granted the **pension** of 29/- per fortnight. (*Notice of Grant of Pension*, held).

June 1955. Jean first became **ill**. Gordon blamed her illness on Moomba, three months earlier, that she had never been the same since the crush of those crowds. (AGP). Sign of a small **superstitious** streak in Gordon, as with the number **28**.

28 November 1955 - 6 January and 7 - 9 February 1956. Jean received home visits from an unidentified doctor (probably Fraser), from the practice of Drs Littlejohn and Simpson and Associates, (Drs C.W.B. Littlejohn, E.I. Littlejohn, George Simpson, H.H. Appleby, Ian Galbraith, E.I. Skelton, Andrew Fraser, C. Napier and W.E.I. Littlejohn, of Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe. (Receipts for £21/2/6, held).

c30 November 1955. Stephen was farmed out to stay with **Gwen and Thor Dyring** in Flora Grove, Ivanhoe, who had a television receiver and Richard with **Winn**, with her teen-age daughters: Pam and Katherine at Parkdale, then with **Madge and Jack Ellis** around the corner in The Boulevard. At Richard's 10 the birthday, he blew the chocolate cake bits across the room to the amusement of all.⁸

From 23 December 1955. Gordon paid £8/8/- to the City of Heidelberg Emergency **Housekeeper** service, for the services of an emergency housekeeper for two weeks. (Receipt, held).

[Bourke Street, Melbourne's **double-decker busses** (1940-55), which had replaced Melbourne's last **cable trams**, were replaced by **electric trams**].

6 January. Gordon paid £2/2/- to **Victorian Ambulance Service**, to take **Jean to hospital**. (Receipt held, dated 19 April 1956). She was taken by stretcher over the still-incomplete front terrace.

On the same day, a receipt was issued by the City of Heidelberg in her name for general **rates** of £33/5/- on St Hubert Road, whose Unimproved Capital Value was £840/-, Improved Capital Value, £4,240/- and Net Annual Value £212/--. (Held).

From 11 January 1956. Gordon again paid £9/- to the City of Heidelberg Emergency **Housekeeper** service for the services of an emergency housekeeper for two weeks. (Receipt held).

No records are held of the nine months of **illness**, that **Jean** endured. She was admitted to the Jessie MacPherson Hospital, in Little Lonsdale Street, where Richard can remember Gordon taking him to visit her at least once and later she was moved to the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

⁸ For the great aunts, refer also: 28 March 1956.

Latterly, the cancer spread to affect **her sanity** (of which circumstance, like that of Virginia Woolf, she was fully aware) and Gordon was deeply shocked by her utterly uncharacteristic outbursts of obscenity and accusations of his infidelity. But she did get week-end release to stay at **20 Russell Street** with her parents, which the three children were kept well away from, and Gordon remembers one such occasion when she said: 'I think you're going to have a sane wife this weekend, Dad' (Gordon).

28 January 1956. **Gordon's car** was a fawn and grey 1947 J model Vauxhall, registration no KW435. It had a full service at the Golden Fleece Service Station, 235 Lower Heidelberg Road, East Ivanhoe, A R Lee, Lessee, which cost 16/-. (Receipt held).

4 February 1956 (only 52 days before Jean died on **28 March 1956**). **Jack Ruddock** (1920-56) and his daughter Helen (1944-56) **died** in an air crash, leaving his wife, Joyce Ruddock a widow. Refer: **1967**.

21 March 1956. **Finky** (Miss Frances Ethelberta Watts, 1906-1996) came to us, as housekeeper (1956-67).

Miss Watts, always known as 'Finky' (later she wrote it as: 'Finki') arrived at St Hubert Road as our more permanent housekeeper. She had a flat at 101 Hawdon Street, Heidelberg, a location that suited her previous position as the housekeeper at the Austin Hospital, under direction of the remarkable Matron **Vivian Bullwinkel**, AO, MBE, ARRC, ED, FNM, FRCNA (1915-2000) nurse, servicewoman and health administrator.

From 1955 Bullwinkel was Assistant Matron at Heidelberg (Austin) Hospital, 1956-60 was Assistant Matron of the Repatriation General Hospital, and 1961-77, Matron of the Fairfield Hospital.⁹

Finky was born on 12 June in 1906 'at nearly midnight,' so she was 15 in London when the war ended, with not many able-bodied men around.¹⁰ She described herself as a 'cultivated **cockney**', and proud of being born 'in the heart of London' and within the sound of **Bow Bells**.

Samuel Rowlands, in his satire *The Letting of Humours Blood in the Head-Vaine*, referred to 'a Bowe-bell Cockney'. Traveller and writer Fynes Moryson stated in his work *An Itinerary* that "Londoners, and all within the sound of Bow Bells, are in reproach called Cockneys." [7] John Minsheu (or Minshev) was the first lexicographer to define the word in this sense, in his *Ductor in Linguis* (1617), where he referred to 'A Cockney or Cockny, applied only to one born within the sound of Bow bell, that is in the City of London'.

The C11 church of St Mary-le-Bow was destroyed in 1666 by the Great Fire of London and rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren in 1670-80 over the original crypt and a Roman gravel roadway, with the finest and first of his steeples, at 68 m. In The Blitz, the bells crashed down were destroyed again in 1941, and before they were replaced in 1961, there was a period when no 'Bow-bell' Cockneys could be born, and the noise of the area since the 1830s makes it unlikely that many people would be born within earshot of the bells, although Guy's Hospital and St Thomas' Hospital are both within the bells area, suggesting that South London Cockneys continue to qualify.

⁹ www.cas.awm.gov.au/heraldry/REL25572 The ABC film *Vivian Bullwinkel: An Australian Heroine* was made about her life, over 2002-07: www.vivianbullwinkel.com/Production.html

¹⁰ A letter in a card, 28 June 1994, from Finki at '29 Knebworth Avenue, W'stow E17,' to 'Geoff and Richard' [filed in: Box 143, 'Personal Correspondence, 4.2004-4.2007]. Also refer to: **1918**. The total number of casualties in World War I, both military and civilian, was about 37 million: 16 million deaths and 21 million wounded, including 9.7 million military personnel and 6.8 million civilians. The Entente Powers (Allies) lost about 5.7 million soldiers. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland: 45.4 million population; 885,138 military deaths; 109,000 civilian deaths; 994,138 total deaths; 2.19% deaths as a percentage of the population; plus 1,663,435 military wounded.

A study carried out by the City in 2000 to see how far the Bow Bells could be heard, estimated that the bells would have been heard six miles to the east, five miles to the north, three miles to the south, and four miles to the west. Thus while all East Enders are Cockneys, not all Cockneys are East Enders.

The traditional East End districts are Bethnal Green, Whitechapel, Spitalfields, Stepney, Wapping, Limehouse, Poplar, Millwall, Hackney, Hoxton, Shoreditch, Bow and Mile End. 'The Borough,' south of Waterloo, the City of London and Tower Bridge were also considered Cockney before redevelopment extinguished their working class areas, and now Bermondsey is the only Cockney area south of the Thames, though Pearly Kings and Queens can be found from as far as Peckham and Penge.

Later, early in 1974 when Richard came to live in Lee, the differing accents of my friends, including Norman, his girlfriend, Martin, Geoff and Richard, mixing Cockney with distinctively different Southeast London and Kent, with in Richard's case residual Welsh, continued to fascinate me.¹¹

Finky may then have been born at Guy's, or St Thomas' Hospital. Her mother was 'connected with the theatre.' She was the eldest of four children. Her father 'spent some years in Africa, and was one of the original defenders of Ladysmith.' She 'had hopes of a musical career' and was 'due to 'go to the Music Conservatorium, but on the death of [her] mother [she] kept house for [her] father.' He was a policeman in the City of London force, in his final illness at their house at 29 Knebworth Avenue, Walthamstowe, where her sister and brother-in-law continued to live and with whom Richard stayed in 1973. She gave two of the trophies he won for pistol shooting, to Geoff and Richard and we wore on our neck-chains for several years.

She had cared for her father, a policeman in the City of London force, in his final illness at their house at 29 Knebworth Avenue, Walthamstowe, where her sister and brother-in-law continued to live and with whom Richard stayed in 1973. She said she had 'had four proposals of marriage from different men and refused them all.'

'Walthamstowe was fertile Labour territory then. It had taken a big working class exodus from the East End of London and a new rail commuter population – the political front line. ...a Labour stronghold, a safe enough seat for Clement Attlee,¹² who'd put Churchill out in as prime minister in 1945 and who was MP for Walthamstowe in the 1950s.'¹³

We are not aware of any of our family who served in any war before Gordon and Jean in 1943.

Finky was 15 in London when the war ended, with not many able-bodied men around.¹⁴

She mentioned once being engaged, but I do not know of her having any other relationship.

¹¹ Cockney, in *Wikipedia*, accessed 27 September 2010.

¹² The Right Honourable Clement Richard Attlee, 1st Earl Attlee, KG, OM, CH, PC (1883-1967) was a British politician, who served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1945-51, and leader of the Labour Party from 1935-55. He was the first Labour Prime Minister to serve a full Parliamentary term, and the first to command a Labour majority in Parliament. He was Member of Parliament for Limehouse 1922-50, then for Walthamstow West 1950-56.

¹³ Keith Richards, with James Fox, *Life*, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London 2010, p 41.

¹⁴ Refer: 1918. The total number of casualties in World War I, both military and civilian, was about 37 million: 16 million deaths and 21 million wounded, including 9.7 million military personnel and 6.8 million civilians. The Entente Powers (Allies) lost about 5.7 million soldiers. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland: 45.4 million population; 885,138 military deaths; 109,000 civilian deaths; 994,138 total deaths; 2.19% deaths as a percentage of the population; plus 1,663,435 military wounded.

But the aftermath of the **Great War** constrained numerous women to spinsterhood and many shocked hollow men to dazed moping. Many such women devoted themselves to good works, including caring for others.¹⁵ The patriarchal family turned women into spinsters, as in Finky's case ministering to an ageing parent, but otherwise to husbands around which the family must revolve and with every kind of obligation to aunts and cousins beyond their own children.

It did not allow the privacy of a room of ones own, no honest talk because so many subjects were unsuitable for women and children, hypocrisy about sex, and no mention of unorthodox relationships. This was her training in the only skill she ever knew, that of housekeeping, at which she excelled.¹⁶

She also lived in London during World War II, and the **London Blitz** made a strong impression on her as on all Londoners who lived through it. She often talked about it and it stirred her imagination. For Patrick White who also lived through the Blitz, the bombing of London was one of the great imaginative events of his life, in which he formed a new and deeper attachment to the city....immensely stimulated by the fire raining from the sky.¹⁷ Never before had a war come so close to civilian life in London: the Great War had occurred far away. This time the home front was at times more dangerous than the battle front.

The winter of 1945 was the harshest in 50 years, Londoners were living in debased and primitive conditions with severe shortages, long food queues and treks to emergency dumps for a meagre coal supply and women lost the independence the War had given them.¹⁸

But adventurously, just after her father died, she **immigrated by ship to Australia** (c1950, just as Atlee became her MP, but the actual date is unknown). She was appointed to the position of housekeeper at **Yarralumla**, Government House, Canberra, then a remote, isolated and presumably lonely residence in open paddocks, which had been remodelled in 1928.

It is not known if she had applied for the job in London, or if she just came to Australia and then looked for work, presumably the former.

Yarralumla is the three-storied residence of the Governor General in Canberra. It was designed by Frederick Campbell in 1891, around an earlier single-storied homestead of 1835, surviving within the south wing, then enlarged with a second 3-storied wing to the south by John Smith Murdoch in 1927, with landscaping by the chief horticulturalist, for \$140,000. Ruth Lane Poole designed and supervised the interior decoration, linen, china, reproduction glass and silver, and Australian craftsmen made furniture with local hardwoods. 150 paintings and drawings were loaned. It was tiny and domestic in relation to Government House Melbourne where the governors general had previously lived.

A previous occupant of Yarralumla (during 1944-47, as Governor General's wife) had been Princess Alice, who described Canberra's primitive conditions then in her autobiography, *Memories of Ninety Years* (1991), including: the dirt roads and the residence infested (*sic*) with rats, mice, spiders and silverfish. It is hard to imagine Finky tolerating **that!**

The vice-regal household flew around, including to Admiralty House in Sydney.

¹⁵ John Sheppard, 'Aunty May's Footsteps,' *Slightly Foxed*, No 25, Spring 2010, pp 48-54.

¹⁶ Noël Annan, *Our Age: Portrait of a Generation*, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London 1990, p 117.

¹⁷ Marr, David, 'Patrick White's London,' in Robert Drewe, editor, *The Best Australian Essays, 2010*, Black Inc, Melbourne 2010, pp 24-42.

¹⁸ Maureen Waller, *London 1945. Life in the debris of war*, John Murray, London 2005. [Held].

Jean had already been stationed at HMAS Harman **near Canberra** from 9 August 1944 until 2 June 1945, just five years before Finky, and during Princess Alice's time there.

Canberra was still described as: 'The best sheep paddocks in Australia.' And bureaucracy had steadily chipped away at Walter Burley Griffin's visionary plan. A Senate Select Committee reported that: '...after 40 years of development, the important planned areas stand out, not as monumental regions symbolising the character of the national capital, but more as graveyards where departed spirits await a resurrection of national pride.'

Frank Moorhouse's creation Edith Campbell Berry also arrived in Canberra c1950 and 'Everything in Canberra seemed prefab' and '...she was glad of their company in a place [Canberra] where that was so rare.' '[There was] a sense of exclusion, but strangely the world of Canberra did form a sort of cosmopolitan colony. The intellectuals and the former British and new arrivals – Fabian socialists, Bloomsbury types, even homosexuals – together with people from the diplomatic and journalistic world and the public service had all washed up in Canberra. None had been born there.' Canberra in the 50s as offered '...the privileges and discomforts of three modes of living in one place – the capital, the rural life and exile'.¹⁹

Another of Moorhouse's observations is relevant to Finky:

She realised that people in the married world wanted to see the alone, unloved person as seriously deficient, deserving of pity expressed or not expressed. Behind the back of this pity for the spinster and the old maid, married people paraded the superiority of those who possessed love, or who, at least, appeared to possess love by the act of marriage, the acting out of marriage.

And there was pity for the woman who had no children.²⁰

Dame Pattie Menzies implored her husband, then the prime minister: 'Bob, the footpaths are a disgrace ...you try pushing a pram.' Menzies said in his autobiography *The Measure of the Years* (1970): 'I can't say I like Canberra very much, it was to me a place of exile...'²¹ A typically supine response: as if he were not in a position to transform that!

As the housekeeper of Yarralumla, Finky was in the service of the Governor-General, Major General Sir William Slim and Lady Slim, who held her in high regard and continued to send her Christmas cards for many years after she left their service. Had she applied for this position from London, or obtained it once she arrived in Melbourne?

Field Marshal William Joseph (Bill) Slim, 1st Viscount Slim, KG, GCB, GCMG, GCVO, GBE, DSO, MC, KStJ (1891-1970)²² was a British military commander and 13th Governor-General of Australia from 8 May 1953. He fought in both the First World War and the Second World War and was wounded in action three times. Slim has been described as '...perhaps the Greatest Commander of the 20th Century,' which his "self-deprecating style" did not promote. A statue to Slim is on Whitehall, outside the Ministry of Defence, was unveiled by Queen Elizabeth II in 1990. Designed by Ivor Roberts-Jones, the statue is one of three of British Second World War Field Marshals (the others being Alanbrooke and Montgomery).

As Governor-General, he was a popular choice as an authentic war hero who had fought with the Anzacs at Gallipoli and in the Middle East. In January

¹⁹ Frank Moorhouse, *Cold Light*, Vintage Books, North Sydney 2011, pp 127, 298 and 341.

²⁰ Frank Moorhouse, *Cold Light*, Vintage Books, North Sydney 2011, p 580.

²¹ John Overall, *Canberra. Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow*, Federal Capital Press, Canberra, 1995, pp 25-31, with photographs, c1948-55.

²² Wikipedia, accessed 24 November 2009.

1953, he was appointed a Knight of the Order of St. John [KstJ] and in 1954 he was able to welcome Queen Elizabeth II on the first visit by a reigning monarch to Australia. So, Finky was probably housekeeping Yarralumla during the Queen's stay there.

Slim saw Ray Lawler's *Summer of the Seventeenth Doll* when it transferred from Melbourne to Canberra, before the cast took it to success in London and New York in 1957. Slim was discouraging. He said he would rather see a play about the Royal Flying Doctor Service as representing the country. Probably Finky would not have approved either of the coarse types and sensuality it represented.

For his services to the Queen during the tour, he was appointed a Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order (GCVO) on 27 April 1954. He retired as Governor General in 1959 and returned to Britain. He was created Viscount Slim of Yarralumla and Bishopscourt (Bristol) in 1960 and was appointed Constable and Governor of Windsor Castle.

The Liberal leader Robert Menzies was prime minister throughout Slim's time in Australia and his Official Secretary throughout his term was Murray Tyrrell.

Sir Murray Louis Tyrrell KCVO CBE (1913-94)²³ was the Official Secretary to the Governor-General of Australia for a record term of 26 years, from 1947-73, in which time he served six governors-general. He lived with his wife and three children at 11 Blundell Street, Queanbeyan, in an old 'heritage' cottage still called Sir Murray Tyrrell's Cottage. He would probably have been Finky's immediate boss.²⁴

Slim's duties as Governor-General were entirely ceremonial and there were no controversies. However, during his tenure he was patron of the Fairbridge Farms child migration homes in Australia and posthumously in May 2007, he was publicly accused in allegations made by three former residents, that as young boys Slim had sexually assaulted them during his visits to the farms, by fondling their genitalia, after he had asked them to ride with him in his vice-regal limousine. It is beyond belief to imagine what Finky would have made of that!!

The allegations were aired again on ABC television in the program *The Long Journey Home*, broadcast on 17 November 2009, the day after the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's second parliamentary apology, that to the 'Forgotten Australians.'²⁵

Finky played piano, loved music and had a small bust of Beethoven on her chest of drawers, with a small Buddha, whose tummy she regularly rubbed; and she carried with her a small volume of Horace (65-8 BC), the leading ancient Roman lyric poet during the time of the emperor Augustus, possibly it was the *Odes* (23-13 BC). Horace is known for having coined many Latin phrases that remain in use today. She also subscribed to the British *Argosy*,²⁶ a paperback-sized short story magazine (1957-62), with stories and serials by leading authors, plus page-filler of ostensibly amusing quotations, excerpts and cartoons, and she kept the copies. She also had a red-covered copy of *Pear's Cyclopaedia* and a dictionary for reference.

Pears Soap launched it in December 1897 and the most recent is the 120th edition, 2011. Each edition has an atlas, a gazetteer, a list of prominent people, a miniature general encyclopedia, a chronology of events, and 12 or more sections on specialist subjects, eg: cookery, classical mythology, or gardening. Finky herself actually preferred Cussons Imperial Leather soap to Pears, though Nana used Pears.

²³ Wikipedia, accessed 24 November 2009.

²⁴ Wikipedia, accessed 20 June 2010.

²⁵ Also refer: 30 November 1956.

²⁶ Wikipedia, accessed 24 November 2009.

She would amuse herself by playing the solitary card game, **Patience**. Probably she was bored.

She and her special friend Mrs Beer used to have regular saunas in the city at the **Oasis**,²⁷ then on to tea at the **Willow Tearooms**, established 1892, the **Wild Cherry**, the **Wattle Tearoom**, Collins Street, various **Gibby's Coffee Cafés**, **Elizabeth Collins**, or **Russell Collins**. We were not invited (refer: 1955).



She regaled us with stories of **London in the Blitz**, which stayed fixed in Richard's memory.

²⁷ The *IN Guide. International Guide to Interesting Institutions*, New York 1966, listed the Oasis Baths, 13 George Parade, off Collins Street for potential gay pick-ups. In Sands & McDougall it's called "Oasis Figure Form, medical baths" - listed at least 1961-64. The building next door with the sign 'MCC' is listed in S&M as MCC (Sub station). The photograph is from: <http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/48397>

At first she commuted to St Hubert Road on the green bus from her flat in Hawdon Street, Heidelberg, then she moved in to Robyn's room. Gordon was very worried that the neighbours would think he and she had a relationship, as she was older than he, but on reflection, that may not have been such a bad thing, had it occurred.

Finky's Summer salads were presumably her own invention, healthy and most memorable: lettuce, grated carrot, canned pineapple rings, canned beetroot, dried sultanas and currents, sliced apple, Kraft Chedder cheese and sliced corned beef.

Her deserts included jelly, bought icecream (Jean had always made her own) with Cottee's flavoured topping and tinned fruit. She made honey joy (cupcakes of cornflakes in honey), chocolate Ricebubble cupcakes, lamingtons, Anzacs, ginger nuts, rock cakes, melting moments (now known as yo-yos), a white slice with carnation milk and dried fruit, hedgehog slice, Swiss roll, fairy bread with hundreds and thousands and silver balls, iced sponges and pavlovas for special occasions, all home-made, except the ice-cream, which we were shocked that she bought, as Jean had always made her own..

Finky's inimitable expressions, often spoken in a cockney posh accent, often Franglais, included:

'An elegant sufficiency.'

'*Au contraire*'=on the contrary.

'Between you me and the bedpost'=between ourselves.

'Cat got your tongue?'= you're quiet.

'*Distingué*' = having a distinguished air, characteristics, or manners.

'*Faux-pas*'=fuck-up.

'Full up to pussy's bow.'

Hoi polloi=ordinary people.

'*Je ne sais quoi*.'

'My giddy aunt!' = I'm amazed!

'*Outré*'

Reservoir pronounced as 'reservwaar,' rather than 'rez-er-vor.'

'Shhh... get away with you!'

(Shudders)'...someone just walked over my grave.'

Soupçon

'Tout suite!' (*tout de suite*) = hurry up!

Finky's myths included: that her age was 105, and that she was a scary witch who flew through the night on her broomstick.²⁸

²⁸ Accounts of witchcraft may be traced to classical, mainly Roman texts. Increasingly from the C16 treatises on witchcraft emphasised its connection with female intimacy, citing women's belief that they had travelled in a night amongst Diana's nymphs, or in other all-female groups. The common belief that witches fly on broomsticks may be traced to these texts, where descriptions of groups of women riding oiled sticks 'to their pleasure' allude to communal masturbation. Johan Weyer's 1563 medical book is explicit that witches become 'inflamed with love just as young men are for girls.' Christopher Reed, *Art and Homosexuality. A History of Ideas*, OUP, Oxford 2011, p 53.



Finky's stories included: descriptions of daily life in the exciting London Blitz and of her father's experiences as a City of London policeman.

Finky remained with us, with a couple of breaks, for the next 12 years. She was a faithful housekeeper of the old school, which Gordon perhaps never quite appreciated, as certainly Richard did.

28 March 1956. Jean died aged 38, at the **Royal Melbourne Hospital**, due to 'Reticule Sarcoma.'

There are even more 28s. Both he and Jean he entered the armed forces on the **28th**, he was married on the **28th**, they moved into their first house on the **28th**, Jean first became sick and the doctor home-visited her on the **28th**.

A Sarcoma is a malignant tumour in connective tissue. What is recticule? Rectum is anus.

Dr Andrew Fraser, told me he recalled **cause of death** as Cancer of the Liver and my recollection of her is being yellow with Jaundice. **Jill Carter**, who claimed to have nursed her then, told me that she had died at 20 Russell Street, in her old bedroom, but both of these recollections **do not match** the documents, held.

Gordon's one superstition was of the number 28: both his mother and Jean died on the **28th** and we lived at **28** St Hubert Road, which he always addressed as cnr St Hubert and Hartlands Roads, though he never explained why that was unlucky.

Her body was removed from the Royal Melbourne, to the Chapel of E. Taylor & Son, Funeral Directors, 81 Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe. It was then taken by one 'floral car' to be cremated at **Springvale Crematorium**. So, a third memorial 'stone' was added to those of Gordon's parents at the foot of their vermillion rose tree, number G3/5-42. Gordon's own stone is now the fourth. A fifth is available.

There were **death notices** placed in the *Sun*, the *Argus* and the *Age* by both Ruby and Bert Higgs and another by Gwen Dyring, Bill Goodman, Vern Hill, Madge Ellis, Jean Pett and Win Wills together. It concluded with the text: 'Thy will be done'.

The **cremation** cost £14/16/-. The total cost of removal, mortuary, funeral car, funeral, cremation, cremation certificate and press notices was £82/18/5. Richard Stephen and Robyn were kept in the care of Finky and not taken to

the Funeral. (Death Certificate and Invoice dated 30 April 1956, from the Funeral Directors, all held).

Jean was ‘very down to earth’, she was ‘very caring’, she ‘had a very dry sense of humour’, she was ‘very dedicated to whatever she did’ and ‘she got on very well with Gordon’. (Ruth Rothery, telephone conversation with RP, 31 January 2005).

This is for me, clearly the **third of the three questions** about his life. What if Jean had recovered and they lived on together for almost another 50 years into the twenty first century?

Each of the sisters seemed to live in comfortable, interesting and even sophisticated circumstances. Unusually for Melbourne, two were living in flats.

By then, **Gwen and Thor Dyring** were living at Flora Grove, Ivanhoe, but later lived in a light-filled spacious flat at **Ardoch**, 226-236 Dandenong Road, St Kilda East, which I can remember visiting.

I recall in the late 1950s them there: the comfortable and spacious rooms, the naturally-lit interiors with natural timbers and overlooking over a village green, verdant and secluded behind its stone garden wall and gates.

At Ardoch, each building has its own identity within the tradition of the English Garden Suburb movement and the English Arts and Crafts architectural style from 1922-49, blocks B1, B4, B6, B7, B8 and B9. B1 had two large and a small flat on each floor, bay windows and octagonal corner towers. There were three separately owned bungalows in Pilley Street. The architects were variously R McDonald, A Clissold and Harry N Winbush.

Ardoch was the first time in Melbourne that the grounds of a large nineteenth century house, Dulquhurn, 1864, two-storied Italianate house, possibly designed by William Wardell, which had been enlarged and colonised by apartment buildings, with a caretaker’s house, the predecessor of the process so familiar today.²⁹

The Dyrings later moved to a house in Old Warrandyte Road Donvale, east of Springvale Road, then later in the 1970s to a villa unit in Edgevale Road, Kew where Frances and Richard had lived, but nearer to Cotham Road.

Thor, who had a very visible gummy leg, had his watchmaker’s shop in Sydney Road, Preston.

Winn was already divorced and living in Parkdale, **Jean** and Walt were in a flat in Windsor, **Walt** worked at General Motors in Dandenong, **Madge** and **?** and **Vern** and **Jack (Johnson) Hill**³⁰ (Sales Manager), had lived at 36 Russell Street, Ivanhoe, then on the corner of Wilfred Road and the Boulevard, East Ivanhoe.³¹ They did have a hobby farm at rural Broadmeadows, that Richard remembers visiting his first farm animals.

6 August 1956. The date of the day after her first birthday after her death was the date of the *The Herald* Newspaper found lining the Dining Room Sideboard drawers. (Held).

We rarely saw Jean’s **relatives** again after Jean’s death and Gordon’s relatives, who we barely knew existed, not ever. As a child, I was always aware from that moment that because we had no immediate relatives, if Gordon died, or abandoned us, we would be placed in an **orphanage**, or

²⁹ Peterson, Richard, *A Place of Sensuous Resort. Buildings of St Kilda and their People*, St Kilda Historical Series Number Six, St Kilda Historical Society, Balaclava 2004, p 165.

³⁰ Also refer: 10 August 1945, for Jack’s purchase of 28 St Hubert Road.

³¹ For the great aunts, refer also: **1890**.

home such as Tally Ho at Burwood, or Menzies at Olivers Hill where children were cruelly treated.

As Professor Bernard Smith (1916-2011), who was himself fostered out and raised by a caring family, warned: 'A state ward can't expect much.'

On the one hand we relied on **Gordon's** capacity and sense of responsibility towards us for which I am grateful, but on the other he often threatened to send us to a 'naughty boys home' for bad behaviour. 500,000 children were sent to homes from 1930s-1970s and frequently abused there, for which Prime Minister Kevin Rudd publicly apologised on 16 November 2009.³²

Even in 2010, 42% of all children in residential state care did not attend school, 42% of children on youth justice orders were under child protection and 42% of homeless young people have been in state care. Refer also:³³ In state care, our futures would have been grim.

Stephen's comment on this was:

Sometimes it's not so difficult for a parent to lash out a bit verbally (and many do physically too, of course) when a child appears to be misbehaving, and considering all the pressures and frustrations Dad faced as a parent and adult, I can understand the use of this kind of threat, from time to time, which I can also recall. One of Dad's biggest weaknesses was his inability to show affection and make any real efforts to get close to his children, certainly his sons anyway, which was his loss as well as ours. Had he been able to do so, this would have gone some way to balancing out harsh threat such as sending us to the naughty boys' home.

On the other hand, he did work hard to do the proper and decent thing to provide us with a comfortable and supporting home environment and good education. Overall, the good definitely outweighed the bad, in my view. I rarely think of it these days though - if I do, it's probably as a result of something that has arisen within my own family environment, especially how open our home now is to visitors, compared to East Ivanhoe. I'm sure my children's social skills as teenagers and young adults will be far superior to mine at that age, as a result, luckily for them.³⁴

Richard, and to a lesser extent Stephen, experienced frequent disparagement and taunting by Gordon (this taken up and perpetuated by Robyn), cataloguing my failings, rarely support: 'You'll never count for anything.' Even: 'You'll never fight.'

'...he remained quite aloof, seemingly unable to have an adult conversation with us.'³⁵

If he did feel love for us, it was entirely suppressed. Never physical contact; never tenderness. Once leaving at Tullamarine for Japan, he placed his hand on my shoulder: I never forget that.

In her autobiography, Shirley Williams recalls: 'My father gave me the single greatest gift with which a child can be endowed, self-confidence.'³⁶ Gordon saw his role as opposite to that: his role was to cut us down.

He was a *padre padrone*. But always the wasteful poignancy of remoteness hung in the air.

³² Christine Kenneally, 'The Forgotten Ones,' *The Monthly*, August 2012, pp 30-36.

³³ Department of Human Services statistics, 2010.

³⁴ Stephen email to Richard, 18 November 2009 and ABC television in the program *The Long Journey Home*, broadcast on 17 November 2009, the day after the parliamentary apology to the Forgotten Australians.

³⁵ Stephen msg to Richard, 2 December 2014.

³⁶ Shirley Williams, *Climbing the Bookshelves*, Virago, 2009, p 3.

30 November 1956. Richard spent two days at the **Olympic Games XVI** Olympiad at MCG with Gordon on Jean's ticket. Betty Cuthbert won 200 metres, from Shirley Strickland. Michael Leunig also remembers he was there that day and we both watched Emil Zatopek in the Marathon.

Bruce McBrien's family attended the Opening Ceremony, but their tickets to the Closing Ceremony, were not used due to a sharp deterioration in his father, Likely McBrien's health. He died a few days later. Bruce also experienced a sharp falling away of his father's friends, when they might have helped the family after his death.³⁷

[**1956. Philadelphia Cheese**, was the first cream cheese to be produced commercially in Australia].

[**1956.** The last 40 **W-Class trams** were built at the Preston workshops. The first had run from 1923. From 1975, they began to be replaced by the ineffectual and complex Swedish Z-Class trams, which they still out-lived. After the early 2000s W-Class trams only ran on the 78 and 79 routes, St Kilda to Victoria Street, North Richmond, City Circle and Restaurant Trams. From early 2000s, low-floor Siemens and Alstrom articulated trams began operation].

8 March 1957. Gordon is noted on the title as the sole surviving proprietor of the East Ivanhoe property. (Certificate of Title, held).

[**27 September 1957. Television** (and TV ads) arrived in Australia, in Victoria firstly on GTV9, at 4.30 pm, introduced by former 3DB radio announcer, Geoff Corke, when the Governor Sir Dallas Brookes drove onto the set in his black vice-regal Humber Super Snipe. Brands were: Astor, HMV, AWA, Kreisler and Stromberg-Carlson].

[**Bert Newton**, celebrity identity, first appeared on television].

[**In Melbourne Tonight** with Graham Kennedy, began on Channel 9 at 9.30 pm. It ran: 1957-69].

[**1957.** Kraft first produced **Coon Cheddar Cheese**].

[**1957. 489 The Boulevard**, cnr McArthur Rd was built, in cream brick, something like **28 St Hubert Road**].

1958. Mrs Hazel Amos left from working at St Hubert Road, doing housework and ironing. Her mother **Mrs Mott** had helped her sometimes. Every year from 1958-2003 (when she was 85), Gordon continued to send her a Christmas card. He had told her in his last card that he was 90. (Letter from her to Richard, dated 4 January 2005. Held).

February 1958. Richard **aged 11 began at Carey Baptist Grammar School.** In 1956, the fees were quoted at £23-35 per term. (*Carey Prospectus* held. Refer: Janet McCalman, *Journeyings*).

7 February 1958. William Albert John (**Bert**) **Higgs**, clerk **died**, only 20 months after his daughter. (**His age?** Born: 1881-85; *Inventory of Contents of the State Savings Bank of Victoria Safe Deposit Box*, Held).

Ruby took in paying **borders** for income. Best remembered of these was **Lloyd**, who was very tall, athletic and good-natured.

9 May 1958. A very handsome studio photograph of himself, inscribed to Mrs Higgs for Mothers' Day from '**Lloyd**' in OATB uniform. (Photo, held).

³⁷ Bruce McBrien, *Marvellous Melbourne and Me. Living in Melbourne in the Twentieth Century*, Melbourne Books, Melbourne 2010, p 242.

28 May 1958. The fee for (Section1) Compartment F, Niche 49 in the Garden of Remembrance (3), in the New Melbourne General Cemetery and Crematorium, **Fawknor** was (finally) paid. (For Bert Higgs. Receipt held). There is a bronze plaque inscribed: 'William A Higgs, (which he was never known as) 9-2-1958'. No 50 must have then been reserved for Ruby.

This is in the south-west corner of the Park, set in a dog-leg end (probably the earliest section) on the southernmost of four extremely ugly brick walls, facing west towards a stand of eucalypts, screening the setting sun. Ironically the ensemble is entered from the east through two mature cypresses, just as is his home on earth at 20 Russell Street, Ivanhoe.

[**1958. East Ivanhoe Pre-School**, cnr King Street and Lower Heidelberg Road, opened].³⁸

[**1958.** The Melbourne **telephone directory** split into two: alphabetical and classified, both on white paper. The Yellow Pages began in 1975].

[**1958.** Dr David Warren invented the **black box flight recorder**, in Melbourne].

15 April 1959. **Bert's Probate** was declared 'Not Dutiable'. It included £2,000.00 in Commonwealth Treasury Bonds. (Letter from W.A. Prendergast, Barristers & Solicitors to Mrs R.G. Higgs, held).

[**1959.** Many cars had lap belts from the 1920s, but Nils Bohlin at Volvo invented the first **three-point front seatbelts**, fastenable with one hand, said to be one of the eight patents of the greatest significance for humanity in the past century, for enabling a 40% survivor-rate improvement in crashes. Volvo and Benz the other safety leaders make their patents available free of charge. Refer: 1970 for Victorian legislation].³⁹

1959. *My Fair Lady*, Lerner & Lowe London Cast Rex Harrison, Julie Andrews, Stereo, Gold LP cover. The white cover mono recording had been released in 1956. Our first LP acquired with our new **HMV portable stereo gramophone** player [still held]. The second LP was Rogers & Hammerstein *South Pacific*, Mitzi Gaynor & Enzio Pinza Original film soundtrack then the *The Sound of Music*. Refer: **1961**. Original Australian cast June Bronhill, Peter Graves. I think many families did the same.

[**1959-61. Famine in China**, caused by ruthless modernisation of **The Great Leap Forward**, as was that of the Soviet Union in both 1932-3 and 1946-7].⁴⁰

[**1950s.** Michele Ferrero of Alba, Piedmont, Italy took over the family sweet firm Ferrero Rocher and developed it into a continental market-leader with by 2010 a turnover of €6.2 billion, inventing **Nutella**, **Kinder eggs** and **Tic Tacs**].

29 March 1960. An agreement was signed between (Mrs) R.G. Higgs and the MMBW to extend the **sewer** to 18 Russell Street, as a combined drain. (Agreement, held).

3 May 1960. 18 Russell Street was built (?), on what had previously been an orchard. The sewer was extended by the MMBW through the rear of 20 Russell Street, 24'0" (7.3 m) in from rear boundary, not in an easement. (MMBW Agreement and Plan, held).

17 May - 10 August 1960. **Gordon** travelled on his **first trip overseas**. He was away for **almost three months** (86 days) and the three children were

³⁸ www.eastivanhoepreschool.com.au

³⁹ Paul Glover, Securing driving safety,' *Herald Sun*, 14 August 2009.

⁴⁰ Corma O Grada, *Famine: A Short History*, Princeton, 2009.

left in the care of Finky. (AGP Passport and BOAC, QANTAS and Alitalia airline tickets, all held).

Gordon travelled from Melbourne to Singapore: May 18; Singapore to Rome: May 21; Rome to Dusseldorf: Dusseldorf to Hamburg: 25 May; Hamburg to London: 30 May; (Group photograph); France; 18 July: Switzerland; 25 July: London to New York, New York to Chicago 1 August; Chicago to Seattle: 3 August: Seattle to Vancouver; Vancouver to San Francisco: 6 August; San Francisco to Honolulu: 8 August; Honolulu to Sydney. Sydney to Melbourne. 9 August. (Gordon's Passport, his BOAC, QANTAS and Alitalia airline tickets. All held).

On 10 August Gordon received a certificate from King Neptune for crossing the Equator in QANTAS Empire Airways aircraft the City of Brisbane. (QANTAS Empire Airways Limited certificate, held)

9 June 1960. The Petersons acquired a **television**. It was an HMV M1-A7 purchased from the Major 8 store, Fitzroy. (Label, held).

16 September 1960. In a typed circular to parents, S (Stuart) L Hickman, Headmaster of Carey Baptist Grammar School expressed the concern of his colleagues and himself at the numerous interruptions to their work by boys absenting themselves from school to attend the **Royal Show**. (Circular, held).

[1960. **Chadstone Shopping Centre** opened].

[1960. **Melbourne's population** reached two million].

[1960. **France** relinquished all its 13 sub-Saharan **African** colonies, Ia Françafríque; Guinea had earlier in 1958. 250,000 African soldiers had fought the Reich for a largely ungrateful Ia France Libre and reinvigorated French grandeur].

[1960s. Most people now **owned a car**.⁴¹

1961. Gordon replaced his two-tone grey and fawn **Vauxhall Velox** with a **Vauxhall Cresta**, in smart two-tone cream and tan, with leather upholstery. That model was designed by Harley J Earl, the father of sleek USA car design, who died in 1969. Gordon kept the car until December 1968, when it went to Stephen to replace my 1949 Austin A40.

27 July 1961. Ruby Grace (aged 69) began (?) to receive the **pension** of £1/12/- per fortnight. (Notice of Grant of Pension. Held. But refer: **28 May 1955**).

1961. East Ivanhoe Methodist Church was built by Roly Hooper, designed by architects Bates Smart & McCutcheon. The artist Alan Sumner (1911-94) was commissioned to design the large memorial stained glass windows, now classified by the National Trust.⁴²

October 1961. Finky took us to see June Bronhill in **The Sound of Music** at the Princess' Theatre. The Australian production opened at the Princess and ran there for 3 years 1961-64, directed by Charles Hickman, with musical numbers staged by Ernest Parham. The cast included June Bronhill as Maria, Peter Graves as Captain von Trapp, Rosina Raisbeck as Mother Abbess, Lola Brooks as Elsa Schraeder, Eric Reiman as Max Detweiler, Julie Day as Liesl, and Tony Jenkins as Rolf. A touring company then played for years, with Vanessa Lee (Graves' wife) in the role of Maria. The LP recording

⁴¹ Geoffrey Blainey, *Herald Sun*, 27 December 2007.

⁴² Stephanie Berry, *Through Many Coloured Glass. A History of the stained Glass Windows in the East Ivanhoe Uniting Church*, March 2007, p 15. Refer: 1941.

made in 1961 was the first time a major overseas production featuring Australian artists was transferred to disc.

16 July 1962. Yoko Nishijima, Stephen's future second wife and mother of their two children, was born in Fukuoka, Japan.

Gordon employed other **unsatisfactory housekeepers** when Finky returned to London to visit her family, or otherwise walked out. They are remembered as very difficult and incompetent, cause of domestic traumas and affecting Richard's performance at school. One was 'Jay' a huge smelly woman who somehow drove a miniature 3-weeler Goggomobile (similar to the 3-weeler Messerschmitt Cabin Scooter) and lived in Hawdon Street, Heidelberg near to where Finky had lived.

1 August 1962 and 16 March 1964. **Mintern Products** Pty Ltd, of 42 Lexton Road, Box Hill, Retail and Wholesale **Price Lists** survive for these years. They list: hand cultivators, deck scrapers, seven types of forks (border, digging, hay, manure, multi-time, potato and weed), boxed garden sets, 'all types' of hoes, hose supports, potato drags, drag and also nail and seed rakes, scratchers, shovels, spades, border spades, tree pruners, trowels, fern trowels, turf edgers and weeders.

Their main competitor was Cyclone Forgings Pty Ltd. The company was a member of the Tool Manufacturers Panel, of the Victorian Chamber of Manufacturers. Also surviving are comparative turnover analysis figures for Mintern Products Pty Ltd for 1962, 1963 and 1964, which are broken down according to each of the 167 customers. There was a total increase from £19,176 to £ 25,643, from 1962-63 to 1963-64. (All held).

20 February 1963. Gordon negotiated the sale of the Horsfall Group to Containers Limited. An agreement was signed between William Keith Horsfall of 7 Palm Grove, Deepdene (20,334 shares held, or 75%) and AGP (5,200 shares, or 25%) to **sell William Horsfall** Pty Ltd of 98-100 Coppin Street/Mary Street and its two subsidiary companies: Mintern Products Pty Ltd and William Horsfall Collapsible Tubes Pty Ltd, to Containers Limited of 265-275 Franklin Street, by its purchasing all of the shares for £80,432.00 cash and 102,136 Containers Limited shares. The total assets of Horsfall then were calculated to be £230,390.00.

That is, **Gordon received** £57,597/10/-, consisting of £20,108.00 in cash and 25,534 Containers Limited shares, then worth £37,489/10/-, or \$74,979.00). When Gordon died 41 years later in 2004, these shares were worth 15.3 times this value: \$1,147,070.00. (Agreement document, Blake & Riggall, Solicitors, held).

Accordingly, **Carr & Elliott** Pty Ltd was no longer the Horsfall Group's Distributing Agents throughout Australia. (Letter, also another letter from Carr & Elliott).

The year before it was sold to Containers Ltd, the Horsfall Group made a 47% dividend, but under Containers, Horsfall's Can-making operation alone lost £5,000 a month. Later, Containers itself was taken over by Amcor Ltd.

March 1963. A photograph of the showpiece front garden at **28 St Hubert Road** was published in *The Australian Home Beautiful*. (March 1963, p 39. Held).

1 August 1963. Mintern's product range of garden tools, shovels, spades, forks, and light agricultural implements became absorbed within that of its former rival **Kelso Manufacturing Co Pty Ltd**, which was already part of Containers Limited, and who manufactured barrows, industrial trucks, clothes-hoists and ladders as **Kelso-Mintern Sales**, of Settlement Road, Thomastown. (Letter dated 22 July, 1963 to all customers from

A G Peterson, Director and an art photograph of the **Mintern promotional stand**, displaying hand garden tools, including: long-handled shovels in three shapes, shovel, two spades, fork, rakes, wheel-edger, forked hoes, trowels, weeders, etc. Held).

1963. Aristoc Industries released its **Delma chairs** and table designed by **Grant Featherston**. Both, in black painted steel and gold fabric were later specified by Richard for the enlarged 28 St Hubert Road kitchen. Their materials were steel tube, plywood, sarmprene foam and upholstery fabric. The range included: dining chair, tables, stools, tea trolley and 250,000 were sold.⁴³



1964. The name of the Horsfall Group was changed to '**Containers Richmond**'. (AGP. 'Personal Details.' Held).

About this time, my friend and former student Bodhan Kuzyc (b 1962) was growing up in a house at 206 Coppin Street, nearer to Swan Street.

October 1965. Gordon drove the Petersons in the Vauxhall Velox to holiday at sleepy Mermaid Beach, 3 km south of Surfers Paradise, **Queensland**.

29 October 1965. Darrell Colin Harley Dear was born in Te Koperu, New Zealand.

December 1965 - January 1966. Presumably on the proceeds of the sale of the Horsfall Group, Gordon took Richard (19), Stephen (16) and Robyn (13) on the P & O-Orient Lines, **Orsova** travelling **First Class**, over Christmas and New Year, to **Perth**. (P & O-Orient Lines, Orsova, notepaper, held).

⁴³ www.featherston.com.au/1067/1963-delma-range

The Orient Line **Orsova** was built for the Tilbury-Sydney run and had her maiden voyage to Australia in 1954, the first large liner without masts, and first with an all-welded hull, 26 knots, 220.3 x 27.5 m 28,790 tonnage gross, 681 first class and 813 tourist class passengers and 620 crew. In 1960, it was refitted, including air conditioning and that year Orient Line was absorbed by P & O.

It retained its corn coloured hull till 1964, when it was repainted white. In 1965 it was transferred to P & O, just before we boarded. In the 1970s it was used mainly for cruises. By 1973 (the year Richard travelled by the *Galileo Galilei* to Europe) it had been replaced by the larger *Canberra* and in 1974, still in good condition under its own power, was sold to ship-breakers in Taiwan.⁴⁴

In Perth we stayed in the **Palace Hotel**, St George's Terrace (then⁴⁵ unknown to us, was in the 1950s and 60s, the gay centre of Perth)⁴⁶ (post-card and note-paper held). King's Park had been laid out only four years earlier, no wonder it looked sparse to us. We returned to Melbourne over 2½ days on the **Indian Pacific Transcontinental Railway** train, via Adelaide.

6 December 1966. Rubie Grace's final last Will and Testament, appointing Gordon as trustee and dividing her assets, once all converted to cash and her property at 20 Russell Street between Richard, Stephen and Robyn. (Will, held). Both Stephen and Robyn live briefly at 20 Russell Street, then leased.

In 1966, the **de Castellas** moved out of **Charterisville** to Barkers Road, Kew, where Richard interviewed them for his research on the estate. Charterisville remained vacant for a time and deteriorated.

1967. Gordon (aged 54) met **(Dorothy) Joyce Ruddock** (né **Joy Cother**) through the East Ivanhoe Methodist Church.

Her first husband had been the late Jack Ruddock (1920-56). He became head of house at Wesley College in 1936 and 1937 and Senior Prefect in 1937. His parents had been 'original' settlers of Dromana. After they married, he became Manager and Shareholder of the **Tableland Station**, on the Little Fitzroy River, just north of the Fitzroy River, directly east of Derby, near the highest point of the Kimberley at 983 m, at 127° longitude and 17° latitude (now Yulumbu Aboriginal Corporation Tablelands Station, Mount Hardman, WA, 6765), in Western Australia, mustering wild cattle.

Later he took over two adjoining stations, adding 1.5 million acres (6,070 sq km). Three white stockmen and 50 aborigines assisted him; and Joyce and Jack raised their family, John, Mark and Helen. It is very hot in the Kimberley, the rugged north-west coast of Western Australia. It has only two seasons, the wet and the dry, though Aboriginal people say it has six.

On 04 February 1956, when baby Helen became gravely ill, the Royal Flying Doctor Service flew a mercy flight to take Helen and Jack to their base at Derby on the coast, 320 km away. Tragically, the aircraft was lost in a violent electrical tropical storm of unprecedented violence.

On 4 February 1956, VH-MMG, an Avro Anson aircraft registered to MacRobertson-Miller Aviation Co Ltd 04/49 & named RMA 'De Grey' crashed at about 8 pm, on Hawkestone Peak, on the western slopes of King Leopold

⁴⁴ *The Monthly*, December 2010/January 2011, p 50 has a colour promotional illustration of the first class swimming pool on the **Oriana**, by Kenneth Browne, from the Stapleton Collection/Corbis and Peter Plowman, *Australian Migrant Ships. 1946-1977*, Rosenberg, Sydney (2006) 2008, p 104. (Both held).

⁴⁵ Post-card and notepaper held.

⁴⁶ JH, ALGA interview with Barry McKay, August 2000, CD 10, log only.

Ranges, WA, west of Mt House Station. It was on an emergency Royal Flying Doctor Service ambulance flight from Tablelands Station to Derby. The crash killed the pilot (Peter J van Emmerik), two Derby-based nurses (Frances Day (20) & Margaret Newman (19)), the 12-year-old patient (Helen Rudduck) and her father (Jack Rudduck).



After the aircraft had arrived at Tablelands, the weather had deteriorated. But, because the patient was seriously ill, van Emmerick decided to make the 344 km flight to Derby anyway and took off at 6.30 pm and was reported as still being on course at 7.30. It was due at Derby at 9.42 pm, but the last reported location was some 16 km from Mt House Station.

Despite an extensive (38,850 square-kilometre) search, by some 16 aircraft (including 2 MMA DC-3s), the crash site, submerged in floodwater, was not located until 22 February 1956 and was reached the next day, after crossing some 27 km of swamp.

The aircraft and its occupants had been almost completely destroyed. Although the coroner's report was inconclusive, it was generally thought that the aircraft had become uncontrollable in the severe electrical storm and hit the ground at an angle of some 78°. There were no survivors.⁴⁷

The Resurrection window, by Alan Sumner at **East Ivanhoe Uniting Church** and a plaque at Derby Airport RFDS Base commemorate the tragic incident.⁴⁸

Under the Yulmbu agreement, the Tableland Pastoral Station, covering 310,000 hectares of the central Kimberley, was subleased to AWC (or Australian Wildlife Conservancy) for more than 45 years. The property will be managed collaboratively by AWC and Yulmbu to meet performance targets for conservation of its natural assets.

The Yulmbu Aboriginal Corporation comprises indigenous families that live in the communities of Yulmbu (Tableland) and Tirralintji (Mornington). They are traditional owners of the area covered by the Tableland Pastoral Lease and have remained on the land throughout the pastoral era. Many of the older people were renowned stockmen and worked for pastoralists as leases changed hands and property boundaries were re-aligned. Through the Yulmbu Aboriginal Corporation, **they eventually acquired the Tableland Pastoral Lease in 1994**. However, ownership of the pastoral lease has, to date, failed to generate substantial benefits for the community.⁴⁹

Finky soon left, deeply slighted and feeling rejected, after being with us for 11 years and 9 months. She found a (rather demeaning) housekeeper's job at the Windsor Hotel, where she lived in the Little Collins Street Annexe. There she enjoyed looking after Sir Robert Helpmann and retailed stories of his colourful lifestyle and untidy personal habits.

From the Windsor, **Finky** left to housekeep for wealthy elderly **Mr Ross**, Studley Park Road, Kew, the entrepreneur and owner of Ross Cosmetics, manufacturers of many generic brands, whose grandson was Max Ross of the

⁴⁷ <http://aviation-safety.net/wikibase/wiki.php?id=27101> 27 September 2008, ASN archive, and revised on 05 January 2011 by Fred Niven, historian for the Ansett Group for some 35 years.

⁴⁸ His name and that address are in his copy of the *Kontiki Expedition* book. Refer: Memorial window East Ivanhoe Uniting Church, and 1 February 1951 and Stephanie Berry, *Through Many Coloured Glass. A History of the stained Glass Windows in the East Ivanhoe Uniting Church*, March 2007, p 19.

⁴⁹ www.australianwildlife.org/images/file/2012%20Autumn.pdf

Groop, a popular music group. Later Gordon did much business with Ross, dealing with Mr Ross's son. Later, Finky worked for a wealthy **lady in Toorak Road**, opposite Toorak Uniting Church.

Later still in c1977, she **returned to London**, initially staying with her sister in Walthamstowe. She got a job housekeeping for an aristocratic family on the **Isle of Skye**, after which she retired to a first floor flat, rented from Mr Wheedon, at 29 Pendlestone Road, off Hoe Street, **Walthamstowe**.

Friday 1 December 1967. Richard's spectacular **21st Birthday** 'Coming of Age' was held at Banksia Court, 111 Banksia Street, Heidelberg. Formal. 120 guests. The Dennis Farrington Trio played middle-of-the-road music. Glyn Lewis made a loyal toast to HM The Queen (to sniggers and guffaws from Richard's peers). At Richard's request, the Rev Norman Pask made a speech.

30 December 1967. Joyce at her family beach house at McCrae, sent three **love letters** to Gordon. (Held).

December 1968. Gordon's two-tone cream and tan **Vauxhall Cresta** sedan motor car went to Stephen to replace my 1949 Austin A40, which was sadly jettisoned.

Late 1967- March 1968. There was a major **extension to the house**, designed by Richard in 4th Year Architecture and built by two carpenter brothers. (AGP).

30 March 1968. Gordon and Joyce **married** at the East Ivanhoe Methodist Church. **Richard** was best man. (Decree *Nisi* and two wedding photographs).

1968. M D Berkley and H Berkeley of 13 Marshall Street, cunningly **appropriated** 24 feet depth (7.3 m) of **20 Russell Street**, for themselves without payment to Nana. (Agreement, dated 14 February 1968, held).

1969. Joyce and her sons **left** and she and Gordon separated. She returned to live with her parents Dorothy and Ted Cother, at 47 Ormond Road, Eaglemont. (AGP and Decree *Nisi*, held).

1970. Richard was engaged to **Frances Ann West**, on 7 March. She organised a party held in a marquee in the back garden of St Hubert Road, initially without Gordon's knowledge.

1970. Richard and Frances were living at 25 Edgevale Road, Kew and were **married**, on 9 May, at St John's Church of England, Heidelberg. Stephen Peterson was best man and David Wheeler and Ian Hall were pageboys.

1971. Gordon attended Containers Limited, 25 Years and Over Club. His name is on the invitation list. (Card held).

15 January 1971. A large photo and an article on Frances appeared in *The Sun* newspaper, p 3. (Held).

8 June 1971. Dusan wrote to Gordon that he had been approached by Containers Limited to set up a joint company in Melbourne. If this happened he wanted Gordon to join him in it, 'as previously discussed' (Lajovic letter, held).

1971. Gordon remained at Horsfall (then Containers Richmond) from 1945 for 26 years until 1971, when he became commercially associated with **Dusan Sava Lajovic** of Sydney, whose company, Impact International Pty Ltd, cnr Victoria & O'Connell Streets, Smithfield, Sydney 2164 had purchased the collapsible tube plant of Containers Limited. This plant was later transferred to a **new factory**, which was built on land, which Gordon had purchased at 12-18 Wentworth Court, off Settlement Road, Thomastown 3074. (AGP. 'Personal Details').

1971. Gordon left Containers Ltd and for a few months worked as an insurance salesman for the Prudential. At this time he established relatively substantial annuity insurance policies for Stephen, Richard and presumably Robyn.

4 August 1971. Richard graduated as Bachelor of Architecture at the University of Melbourne. He was the first member of the family known to achieve a university degree. (Certificate and photographs, held).

15 August 1971. Gordon aged 58, commenced a new job as 'General Manager of Impact International's Victorian operations' on a salary of \$8,000.00 per annum, plus a 'suitable bonus scheme based on the profits of the Victorian operation' to be 'devised in the near future'. All running costs (including for private use), 'including servicing, petrol and tyres for your car' was to be paid for by the company.

He established **Impact Extrusions (Vic) Pty Ltd**, with Dusan S. Lajovic. Gordon became a the **general manager and a director** of Impact Extrusions, which operated the plant, producing collapsible aluminium tubes and extruded aluminium cans at Wentworth Court, off Settlement Road, Thomastown.

Although the company owned its land, Gordon himself bought **the block next door**. It is unknown when he sold it, but it was not in his estate.

Gordon managed the **move** of plant and equipment from Coppin Street, a place he had been associated with for 25 years, since 1946.

Bruce Jennings was the factory manager. The business employed over 100 staff and operated on shifts over 24 hours. After **12 years**, Gordon retired. He kept his age secret. (AGP. 'Personal Details').

The **design and drawings** for the factory and offices were completed by **Richard** and built by **Consulaire Pty Ltd**. Later the same designer and builder **doubled** the building in size. [In mid 1973, I was receiving \$2,300.00 per annum]. He was to be responsible to Dusan, or in his absence to Mr R.J. Harper, Financial Director. (Letter from Dusan S. Lajovic dated 11 August 1971. Held).

14 October 1971. The profit of **Impact** International Pty. Limited in Victoria was \$102,000, on sales of tubes (\$200,000) and of rigid cans (\$250,000), a total of \$450,000, yielding a profit of 30% and 35% respectively. They were Colgate's (toothpaste) major supplier. Unilever (toothpaste) was their second biggest customer.

Other **customers** were Bosch, Vulcan, Lucas (all were supplied regulator covers, coil housings and flasher covers), Kodak (film cans), Nestles, Tongala (coffee mix and condensed milk tubes), May and Baker and Faulding (pharmaceuticals). With the exception of G.E.Crane who made their own, Impact was the sole supplier of metal slugs in Victoria. (Report to Mr W. Berry, Alcoa of Australia Limited. Held).

Later after 1971 and the business had moved to Thomastown, the Containers Richmond (formerly Horsfall) factory, from Coppin Street through to Mary Street, presumably vacant, was entirely **burnt down and destroyed in a major fire**. The City of Richmond bought the Coppin Street block and converted it into the present **Dame Nellie Melba Park**.

It was not the first fire to destroy the Mintern factory. Refer: **1946**.

Though this was not the first time. A newspaper report of a fire: *The Argus* (Melbourne, Tuesday 5 July 1938, p 1".

Richmond Blaze... £13,000 FIRE IN FACTORY. Most of the factory of Mintern's Pty. Ltd., in Bridge Road, Richmond, was destroyed last night by fire. Refer: **8 May 1946.**⁵⁰

10 June 1973. Richard travelled overseas and stayed away in London until late 1978.

11 July 1973. Frances wrote to Gordon on behalf of Richard, with his apologies for not being at Robyn's wedding. (Card held).

Robyn married **Bill Witchell**, a plumber.

19 July 1973. Gordon's objection to Amendment Nos 3 & 21 to the Melbourne Metropolitan Planning Scheme in relation to the proposed reservation to the Hume Freeway was heard at the MMBW, 425 Collins Street, Melbourne. The reservation affected the Settlement Road, Thomastown property of Impact Extrusions. (Notice, dated 26 June 1973. Held).

[From October 1972-July 1973, the NLF in UK doubled its membership. Refer: **August 1977**].

6 August 1973, Monday, 5.30 pm. Robyn married **William John (Bill) Witchell** at St John's Church of England, Burgundy Street, Heidelberg. The reception was at Eugenie and Lucien, 422 Toorak Road, Toorak at 6.45 pm. (Invitation Held).

7 July 1974. Gordon travelled overseas (second trip) to: Denmark, Belgium, France and Great Britain.

19-26 August 1974: Gordon travelled to Malaysia. (Third trip).

5 October 1974. Ruby was admitted to **Heatherleigh Private Hospital**, 759 Burwood Road, East Hawthorn 3123. Gordon paid between \$75-85.00 per fortnight for this (\$19.70 per day for 14 days: \$275.92 less \$91.00 Commonwealth Benefits and less \$102.90 Fund Benefits. She was there until **2 June 1975** when the daily cost was still \$19.70. There were other minor charges for laundry and chemist. (Invoices, held).

2 June 1975. Ruby was discharged from Heatherleigh **Private Hospital**, presumably as there are no more invoices^(?).

[**1975.** The Melbourne classified telephone directory, previously on white paper, became the **Yellow Pages**].

1-4 January 1976. Curiously, Mrs J. Peterson of **28 St Hubert Road** paid \$15.00 deposit on accommodation at **Cumberland House, Lorne**. Was this an attempted rapprochement? (Letter and receipt dated 10 December 1975 addressed to her at **28 St Hubert Road**, held).

15 September 1976. Richard was divorced *nisi* from Frances.

December 1976. Parents without Partners in Australia. Victorian Region. Gordon Prepares Budget. (Letter of thanks from State Secretary. Held).

1977. Gordon established a friendship with **June Raw** that lasted for 27 years, almost three times as long as his marriage to Jean (Born: 27 June, year?).

⁵⁰ www.ozwrenches.com/mintern.htm for all of the Mintern history, which uses: various S & M Directories (Victorian), excerpts from "The Argus" from <http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/> and family history courtesy of Douglas Mintern Ellis, grandson of Richard Albert Mintern. Used with permission.

1977. Finky returned to live in **London**. (Perhaps as a result of the above?).

30 March 1977. Gordon travelled overseas by QANTAS (his fourth trip), to London to stay with Richard, then and on 21 April, British Airways to **Athens**, 23-24 April to Delphi, 25 April on the Stella Solaris for seven day cruise of the islands (Heraklion, Santorini, Rhodes, Ephesus, Istanbul (Topkapi), Delos and Mykinos, returned to Athens 2 May, then 3 May QANTAS from Athens to Melbourne. (CBA Travel Itinerary and Passport, held. RP greetings card to AGP, held).

August 1977. Direct street confrontation between the **National Front** and the Left Wing in New Cross High Road and Clifton Rise, Lewisham, causing the ANL (or **Anti-Nazi League**), initially whose most significant element was **Rock Against Racism** (or RAR), from August 1976, when Eric Clapton made a drunken declaration of support for Enoch Powell at a concert in Birmingham. Clapton told the crowd that England had 'become overcrowded' and that they should vote for Powell to stop Britain from becoming 'a black colony', that Britain should 'get the foreigners out, get the wogs out, get the coons out', and he repeatedly shouted the National Front slogan 'Keep Britain White'.

David Bowie, speaking as The Thin White Duke, his persona at the time, made statements that expressed support for fascism and perceived admiration for Adolf Hitler in interviews with *Playboy*, *NME* and a Swedish publication. Bowie was quoted as saying: 'Britain is ready for a fascist leader... I think Britain could benefit from a fascist leader. After all, fascism is really nationalism... I believe very strongly in fascism, people have always responded with greater efficiency under a regimental leadership.' He was also quoted as saying: 'Adolf Hitler was one of the first rock stars' and "You've got to have an extreme right front come up and sweep everything off its feet and tidy everything up.'

Bowie caused further controversy by allegedly making a Nazi salute while riding in a convertible, although Bowie has always strongly denied this, insisting that a photographer simply caught him in the middle of waving. Bowie's claim seems to be borne out by existing footage of the event.

Bowie later retracted and apologised for his statements, blaming them on a combination of an obsession with occultism, the Thule Society and Friedrich Nietzsche, as well as his excessive drug use at the time. He said: "I have made my two or three glib, theatrical observations on English society and the only thing I can now counter with is to state that I am NOT a fascist."

Also refer: **July 1973.**⁵¹

⁵¹ David Renton, 'Politics that Breaks Down People's Fear,' *Overland* 212, Spring 2013, pp 66-72. [Held].



21 October 1977. Ray Witchell, Robyn's future husband was born. (Robyn).

Manuel Moraitis wrote a four-page letter to Gordon advising about travel in Greece. Gordon seems too have followed most of it. (Letter, held. Manuel advised to avoid Easter (1-18 April) 2-3 days in Athens: Acropolis, Temple of Zeus, Museum, Plaka, and Kapnikarea Church, Palace Gardens, Dora Stratos for national dancing. Then a home of the gods, Delphi or Epidauros: Delphi Museum, Tholos of Athena.

Theatres at Delphi, Epidauros or Herodes Atticus, Athens Acropolis. Islands South-east of Athens: Andros, Tinos, Mikinos, Siros, Naxos, Poros, Delos, to Crete (Minoan Knossos). Islands far East of Athens, near Turkey: Samos, Patmos, Kalimnos, Kos. Rhodes (old crusader city, Lindos, a little less known than the other group. (Held).

10 September 1978. Richard and Geoffrey Peterson-Wright began their almost 20-year relationship.

Robyn's other children: 21 October 1977 **Ray** was born, **Anne and Karen**. Anne had a son named **Chase**, by a casual relationship with his Mauritian father.

6 August 1978. Richard returned to Melbourne. (RGP).

11 November 1978. Stephen married Ruth Campbell. (SJP).

5 December 1978. Gordon and Joyce were divorced, which became *Absolute* on 6 January. (Decree *Nisi*, held).

17 January 1979. Anne was born. (Robyn).

21 April 1979. Rubie Higgs (1892-1979) died at the age of 86. (Probate, held).

Her memorial bronze plaque was installed next to Bert's⁵² (who had died 21 years earlier) in (Section1) Compartment F, Niche 50 in the Garden of Remembrance (3), in the Fawkner Crematorium and Memorial inscribed: 'Ruby G Higgs (she preferred Rubie, it was classier), 21-4-1979. Loving Memories.'

Ruby's doctor was **Ken McColl**. Later, when 70, he looked after Gordon during his fall, at East Ivanhoe Bowing Club, in 2003. (AGP).

⁵² Refer: 28 May 1958.

14 December 1979. Richard completed architectural **drawings** for a 1,727 sq m addition to double the size of the **factory** and 410 sq m additional office for Impact Extrusions (Vic) Pty Ltd at 12-18 Wentworth Court, Thomastown. The builders were again Consulaire. (Held).

The planning permit for the addition was **refused** by the responsible authority the MMBW, because there was inadequate provision for parking and 3 m was too close to the road reservation. On 15 February 1980, Gordon wrote that the extension was solely for storage and there would be no additional employees and the land opposite backing on to Settlement Road was only occupied by a 350 feet (106.7 m) wide power line easement.

21 December 1979. Gordon travelled overseas (his fifth trip) to the Philippines. (Passport, held).

[**1979.** Professor Graeme Clarke invented the **Cochlear ear implant** (the bionic ear) in Melbourne].

3-14 January 1980. Gordon was at Impact's office in **Manila** and 25-**28 January** (his sixth trip): Hong Kong. Richard was finalising the architectural drawings with the factory manager Bruce Jennings for the new Impact Extrusions factory to be built at **Thomastown** (Passport and letter, 14 January 1980, RGP to AGP in Manila. Held).

25 April - 17 May 1980. Gordon was overseas (his seventh trip), to Singapore. (Passport, held).

[**4 December 1980.** The first train on Melbourne's brand new **underground rail loop** departed from Spencer Street. Construction had commenced in 1971. Regular services began on 26 January 1981. Parliament Station opened in 1983 and Flagstaff in 1985. In 2011, 430,000 used it daily. Tunnels were 7 m diameter. It cost \$500 million. Refer: 1929].

[**1980. Melbourne's population** reached three million].

1981. Stephen and Ruth were divorced. (?)

29 April 1981. Robyn's daughter **Karen** was born. (Robyn).

1 July 1981. Gordon loaned Impact International Pty Ltd the sum of \$100,000.00. (Letter, Impact dated July 10. Held).

13-25 July 1981 Gordon went overseas (eighth trip), to Narita in Japan (Passport. Held).

9 September 1981. Gordon left for overseas again (his ninth trip). (Passport. Held).

3 December 1981. Gordon, Company Manager, purchased five acres (0.2 hectare) and a house on the Bittern-Dromana Road, Balnarring, Vol 8487 Fol 392, Lot 2. (Certificate of Title).

26 November 1982. Gordon's monthly salary was \$2,733.33 (\$1,833 after tax, \$21,996, or \$33,000.00 per annum. Letter from 'Greg'. Held).

1983. Gordon retired, aged 70.

He played **golf** casually after the war, then **squash** and 'later in life' **bowls** with, Balnarring and particularly **East Ivanhoe Bowling Club**, of which he became their successful finance director.

18 November 1983 Gordon left for overseas (his tenth trip). (Passport, held).

2 March 1984. Gordon was asked again to review the 1984-85 budget of **Parents without Partners in Australia**. (Letter from State Treasurer held).

1-19 April 1984. Gordon travelled overseas (his eleventh trip), to the Philippines. His task was to resolve problems being experienced at the Impact International Pty. Ltd. factory there. Dusan Sava Lajovic, the company's Chairman and Managing Director authorised Gordon to act and sign documents on his behalf personally and on behalf of the company in the Republic of the Philippines. (Passport and both letters dated 10 April 1984, held).

4 November 1984. Gordon arrived overseas (his twelfth trip), in the Philippines (Passport, held).

1985. Stephen first first met **Monte Punshon**, when she was 102.

There is a story about how we met but I won't go into that here. I lived near her in Elwood, and at that time was developing an interest in Japan. I commenced regularly visiting her, in her upstairs apartment. At this time she was still fully looking after herself, and we shared her home-cooking a few times. As her culinary abilities began trailing off, I started a weekly habit of bringing her food, which would last a few days. We spoke a great deal, of her childhood and the past in general, and especially her trip to Japan in the late 1920s. She gave me a few Japanese lessons. As her eyesight started failing, I began reading to her on every visit, speaking gradually more loudly as her hearing also deteriorated.

The books were all decades old, obscure topics over my head, but she calmly lapped them up, as if they were old friends calling by for a chat. I met a number of her other visitors, about whom she confided in me quite a lot, and I took her to a few functions. I was with her at the Japanese Consulate when she received the Emperor's Award. I made my first visit to Japan in 1989, to be told on my return she had passed away, aged 106. I was very saddened and upset. She had become an integral part of my life over the 4 years, during which I would have been one of her most frequent visitors, although I was not part of the rest of her life. Stepping into her eyrie in quiet leafy Elwood really was like stepping into a time capsule, and I was by far the richer for it.⁵³

4 August 1987. Register of AGP's share portfolio. (Held). **Financial crash.** Gordon's share portfolio probably reduced by 30%.⁵⁴

15 January 1988. Gordon achieved **50 years membership of the Australian Society of Accountants**. (Letter from their President, dated 15 September and Certificate, held).

23 August 1990. Gordon achieved **50 years a member of the Institute of Corporate Managers**, Secretaries and Administrators Ltd. and its antecedent bodies. (The Chartered Institute of Secretaries. Letter from their Chairman, held).

1990-96. Gordon made 7-8 trips⁵⁵ to Japan to stay with Stephen, Yoko and their family. These were his thirteenth until nineteenth, or twentieth trips

⁵³ Stephen Peterson's posting on www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/hindsight/monte3b-a-singular-life/5872238
Also; Oral history interview with Ethel May Punshon, 20 April 1977, by Patsy Adam-Smith, State Library of Victoria, 'A Single Life: Ethel May 'Monte' Punshon', Australian Women's Archival Project, directed by Nancy Peck (1989).

Ethel May Punshon, Monte-San: The Times Between, Life Lies Hidden, Kobe Japan-Australia Society, 1987 and Ruth Ford, Speculating on Scrapbooks, Sex and Desire: Issues in Lesbian History, Australian Historical Studies, Volume 27, Issue 106, 1996.

⁵⁴ AGP verbal observation to RGP.

⁵⁵ His passport and SJP's memory are uncertain.

overseas, probably not including other trips to New Zealand, not recorded here. (SJP).

Kenneth Myer's biographer, Sue Ebury wrote regarding a period (in 1975) admittedly 14 years earlier, that: 'Nearly thirty years after the end of the war, **anti-Japanese feeling** had abated considerably, but not enough' [for Yasuko Myer to be acceptable as the wife of a potential Australian governor general]. Gordon never seems to have harboured any **anti-Japanese** feeling from the time of his military service.⁵⁶

Gordon continued to make **cumquat marmalade**:

375 g cumquats,
375 g lemons,
7 cups of water,
1/4 cup lemon juice,
1 1/2 kg sugar.

Select fruit well coloured but only just ripe, slice cumquats and lemons thinly discarding pith, place seeds and some pith in a small muslin bag, place all in a very large steel saucepan, pour in water and leave to stand overnight. Slow simmer the mixture until peel is soft for 1 1/2 hours, remove and squeeze muslin bag hard into the mixture, then discard. Warm sugar in baking tray in oven and add this to the mixture and stir gently until dissolved.

Pour the mixture into a large steel heavy base pot and cook over a high heat for 20 mins. Test some in a saucer, after 20 secs: if it wrinkles, its ready, if not cook further 5 mins and keep testing for wrinkles. Remove from heat and cool for 10 mins, then pour into clean warmed jam-jars and seal with cellophane and an elastic band, then label as cumquat marmalade with the date.

17 August 1991. Whilst at Balnarring with Nance Garnett, **Gordon** had a **stroke** and was taken to Frankston Hospital, then Waringal, then Olympia Rehabilitation. From then he had regular Home Care visits.

8 March 1992. **Stephen** married **Yoko Nishijima** (born 16 July 1962) in **Fukuoka**, where they continued to live. Their children are **Shaun**, born 16 January 1994 and **Conan**, born 30 October 1996.

Yoko is connected to one of the 8 Japanese Class A war criminals, tried and hanged by the Tokyo War Crimes trials, Baron **Koki Hirota** (1878-1948). His biography was either a whitewash, or a correct reflection of the truth. Outside the Fukuoka art museum is a statue, a larger than life depiction of the man, who was from Fukuoka.

He was a Japanese diplomat, politician and the 32nd Prime Minister of Japan from 1936-37, for almost a year. He was educated at Tokyo Imperial University and graduated in law. One of his classmates was post-war Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida. After being minister to the Netherlands, Hirota was ambassador to the Soviet Union, 1928-32.

In 1933, he became Foreign Minister, just after Japan withdrew from the League of Nations. He tried to create a Japan-China-Manchukuo alliance against the Soviet Union, and spoke repeatedly against the Second Sino-Japanese War, so the military forced his retirement in 1938.

In 1945, he returned to government to lead Japanese peace negotiations with the Soviet Union, and failed to persuade Stalin's government to stay out of the war, and it declared war on Japan between the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Following Japan's surrender, he was arrested as a Class A

⁵⁶ Quoted by BSue Ebury, *The Many Lives of Kenneth Myer*, Miegunyah, Melbourne 2008.

war criminal and brought before the International Military Tribunal for the Far East.

He offered no defence and was found guilty of waging wars of aggression, and war or wars in violation of international law, waging unprovoked war against the Republic of China, and disregard for duty to prevent breaches of the laws of war.

He was sentenced to hang and was executed. The severity of his sentence remains controversial, as he was the only civilian executed by IMTIE. It is said his death sentence was because knew of information about the Nanjing Massacre, which he is alleged to have telegraphed to the Japanese embassy in Washington. As Foreign Minister, he received regular reports from the War Ministry about the military's atrocities, but lacked any authority over the military.

But the tribunal condemned his failure to insist that the Japanese Cabinet act to end the atrocities. Also he signed the Tripartite Alliance, and the antipathy of China's Kuomintang government, it saw as providing justifying Japan's aggression against China in the Second Sino-Japanese War, which began during his second term as Foreign Minister.⁵⁷



Koki Hirota statue, Fukuoka.



Koki Hirota listening to his death sentence.

20 March 1992. Stephen married Yoko.

29 March 1992. Stephen married Yoko again at Yarrabee, 46 Bittern Dromana Road, Balnarring.

23 August 1992. Gordon arrived at Japan (his thirteenth trip, and his first to Fukuoka. Passport, held).

30 September 1992. Gordon departed Fukuoka Airport. (Passport, held).

18 April 1993. Gordon arrived Fukuoka Airport (his fourteenth trip, and his second to Fukuoka. Passport, held).

18 June 1993. Gordon departed Fukuoka Airport. (Passport, held).

⁵⁷ Stephen Peterson email 15 November 2011` and Wikipedia, accessed 15 November 2011.

February and early July 1994. **Gordon's knees were replaced**, at Warringal and Donvale.

10 January 1994. Shaun Gordon Peterson was born. **Gordon** is an anagram of drongo. There have been boys with the middle name of Gordon in the Peterson/Hogg family for 5 generations, all were born in different cities.⁵⁸

[**1994. Yellow.com.au** began listing print Yellow Pages subscribers on its site free].

3 April 1995. Gordon arrived Fukuoka Airport (his fifteenth trip, and his third to Fukuoka. Passport, held).

2 June 1995. Gordon departed Fukuoka Airport. (Passport, held).

11 August 1995. Gordon made his last Will. (Will, held).

17 April 1996. Gordon arrived Fukuoka Airport (his sixteenth trip, fourth to Fukuoka. Passport, held).

26 May 1996. Gordon departed Fukuoka Airport. (Passport, held).

8 September 1996. Finky died in London. She had not regained consciousness following a stroke in mid-July. Curiously, we received nothing in her Will, not even a keepsake.

11 June 1997. Richard's partner **Geoffrey Peterson-Wright** died in London. They were together almost 20 years, then a record for the immediate family.

21 September 1997. Gordon arrived Fukuoka Airport, (his seventeenth overseas trip, and his fifth to Fukuoka. Passport, held).

30 October 1996. Conan Bert Peterson was born in Fukuoka.

2 November 1997. Gordon departed Fukuoka Airport. (Passport, held).

31 January 1998. Anne's son, **Chase** Peterson was born.

25 May 1998. Gordon arrived Fukuoka Airport, (his eighteenth trip, and sixth to Fukuoka. Passport, held).

22 June 1998. Gordon departed Fukuoka Airport. (Passport, held).

11 October 1998. Gordon aged 85, arrived at Fukuoka Airport, (his nineteenth and last trip, and his seventh to Fukuoka and his third trip there in 12 months. Passport, held).

8 November 1998. Gordon departed Fukuoka Airport. (Passport, held).

Date? Stephen and Yoko's family returned to live in Melbourne.

18 September 2002. Gordon achieved **65 years membership of CPA Australia** and its antecedent bodies. (Letter from their Victorian Director and AGP's draft reply).

September. Gordon had fluid on the **lungs** and was taken to the Epworth Hospital. (AGP).

2 September 2003. Gordon had a **heart** attack and was taken to the Epworth Hospital. Ulcers formed on his feet. (AGP).

⁵⁸ Shaun Gordon Peterson (b1994, Fukuoka), Richard Gordon Peterson (b1946, East Melbourne), Albert Gordon Peterson (b1913, Bendigo), Robert Gordon Hogg (b1878, South Melb) and Adam Gordon Hogg (b 1878, Edinburgh).

Gordon visited: East Ivanhoe Medical Clinic; Mr Robert Donato, Plastic & Reconstructive surgeon; Dr Ronald Dick, Victorian Heart Centre, the Epworth Hospital; Andrew K. Roberts, Vascular Surgeon; Steve Kelly, Advanced Orthotic & Prosthetic Services; and Maree Goggin, East Ivanhoe Podiatry. (Appointment cards, all held).

31 December 2003. Gordon was admitted to the very pleasant Viewbank House for respite.

11 January 2004. Gordon was admitted to Austin Hospital with a fractured hip.

On **21 January**, at midnight and again on 29 January, Gordon had **pulmonary** crises and on **25 January** he had a fast pulse and some **heart** damage. His hip was operated on. After the operation, staples were removed on **26 January**.

9 February 2004. Gordon died, at the Austin Hospital, Heidelberg. Richard arrived first, then Stephen and Robyn shortly after.

Refer: **6 August 1956** for a partial assessment of Gordon.

He was quietly proud to have the right to have three **sets of initials** after his name: ASA [Australian Society of Accountants, now CPA?], ACIS [Australian Chartered Institute of Secretaries] and ACIM [Institute of Corporate Managers, Secretaries and Administrators Ltd]. Check we wording of these, Gordon told me the initials only of the first two, but the full name of the third (AGP).

12 February 2004. His funeral was conducted by Rev Andrew Boyle at the Ivanhoe Uniting Church. His ashes are interred at The Necropolis, Springvale, next to those of his parents and of Jean.

26 April 2004. Probate on Gordon's Estate was declared. His personal estate was valued at \$2,489,292. (principally 44 different shareholdings in 34 publicly listed companies which Chess statements valued at \$2,292,655. His shareholding in AMCOR being \$929,500. and its derivative, Paperlinx: \$217,570. alone. His real estate was estimated at \$1,100,000. Actually, it realised \$1,215,000. Total: **\$3,701,292.** (Chess statements, etc, mostly held SJP).

His Will dated **11 August 1995** required, after an annuity of \$10,000 was paid to June Raw, that his car, his piano and an annuity of \$100,000 be given to Robyn and then his residual estate be divided equally between Richard, Stephen and Robyn. (Probate and Will, held).

6 May 2004. The titles of both St Hubert Road and of Balnarring were transferred into the names of Richard, Stephen and Robyn as Joint Proprietors. (Title, held).

30 June 2004. Gordon's income in the last year of his life was \$133,000. (Personal and Estate Tax Returns, held).

20 December 2004. Gordon's shares were equally distributed between Richard Stephen and Robyn valued at almost \$2,500,000.00.

St Hubert Road and Balnarring were repaired by Courtney Campbell and cleared out of furniture and contents. Stephen removed almost all of the heavy and dirty sub-floor contents from St Hubert Road himself. It would be fun to have set a play in there, a sort of Godot in a piled up detritus: physical evidence of our lives.

25 January 2005. Both St Hubert Road and Balnarring were placed on the market for sale, respectively with John Heffernan, Balnarring and Miles Real Estate Agents, Ivanhoe.

Gordon's shares were distributed to the beneficiaries.

8 February 2005. An offer of \$510,000.00 was accepted for the purchase of Balnarring. (This purchaser then withdrew, at the last moment of the cooling off period).

22 February 2005. Balnarring was sold for \$505,000.00.

3 pm, 26 February 2005. 28 St Hubert Road was auctioned, by Miles Real Estate. Two other previous auctions were held on the same day, nearby. The Planning Certificate in Vendor's Statement disclosed that it was residential 1 Zone, with a single residence caveat on the title and with a Vegetation Protection Overlay VP03. (Vendor's Statement, copy held).

28 St Hubert Road was sold at the auction for \$710,000.00, after the bidding rose from \$660,000.00. All of the major tasks of the executors were now completed.

10 March 2005. Settlement of Balnarring.

20 May 2005. Settlement of St Hubert Road.

Gordon's Estate had realised **almost \$4 million**. The beneficiaries had received a total of approximately **\$1,300,00.00 each** from the estate.

Ivanhoe East nice place to stay put⁵⁹

A POCKET of leafy Melbourne suburbia is the most tightly held piece of real estate in Australia.

Owners in **Ivanhoe East** - a quiet cul-de-sac of tree-lined streets surrounded by parklands along the Yarra River - hang on for an average 16 years, longer than anyone in Australia, says property research company R.P. Data.

People tend to stay put in more affluent inner-city areas, researcher Cameron Kushner said. Those in Caulfield, Oakleigh and Elsternwick in the south and Essendon West in the north stay in homes for an average of 14 to 15 years.

On the outskirts of the city, a demographic of younger buyers who were trying to get a foothold moved on after shorter stays, Mr Kushner said.

Residents of Burnside Heights and Truganina, in Melbourne's outer west, stayed an average of 1.7 and 2.7 years respectively. Properties in Braybrook in the west and Lyndhurst in the east were held for between 2.2 and three years.

Melbourne and Sydney have the longest average holding time for houses, 9.6 years and eight years respectively, while Darwin and Adelaide have the shortest, 4.7 and four years.

In the 16 years between 1994 and 2010, owners in Ivanhoe East would have seen their median house price increase from \$250,000 to \$1.25 million.

[There is a] ...slower turnover in the inner city... In Albert Park people stay put for 9.7 years, just above the Melbourne average.

Robyn stayed on with her husband **Bill, her abuser**, as so many women do.

[2005. **Melbourne's population** reached four million].

⁵⁹ Simon Johanson, *The Age*, August 28, 2010.

<http://www.realestate.com.au/property-acreage+semi+rural-vic-balnarring-117233491.pdf?2d611be57a6355f715e94ccb1425116e-3000.63-18>

Note: Throughout, ‘our’ refers to Robyn, Stephen and Richard.

Richard Peterson