

Monomeath Estate

Judy M. Pearson

The Monomeath Estate is situated a couple of bends off the Channel Highway north east of the Shot Tower, and is perching on the Alum Cliffs. It includes Wandella Avenue, Baringa Road and Tower Court. In 1823 this land was part of the 40 acres located to the Norfolk Islander, John Anderson by Governor Brisbane. By 1916 Mr R.D. McGuinness owned 54 acres in this area. In 1921, 15 acres of his land were subdivided and sold for £675, this being the land which is today known as Monomeath Estate. It changed ownership several times during the next 40 years and a block from the south-western end, with frontage to the Channel Highway, was sold in c1957 to Mr D. Ireland. In 1962 Messrs. M. Corba and D. Hodgman developed the remainder of the land as a housing estate. For some years prior to this the area had been used to agist horses belonging to a riding school instructor.

Meanwhile, in 1950 about 7 acres of apricot orchard adjoining this estate to the north, and owned by Mr William Dixon, was sold to Mr J.F. Jacob. Access to this land was obtained from the Channel Highway not far from where number 214 Channel Highway is today. A few years later Mr D.C. Jacob, Mr John Jacob's father, bought several adjoining acres. This

area today includes numbers 32, 34 and 37 Wandella Avenue and "Karingal", Wandella Place.

The bushfires of 1967 swept down the hill and across the subdivision with great speed. There were few homes on the estate then and fortunately no homes were lost, although the ceilings of several caught alight and were quickly extinguished. The fish pond in John and Joan Jacob's garden became a refuge for several small children until the fire had passed over.

In 1980 the Metropolitan Transport Trust extended the Taroona bus route to terminate at Baringa Road. The developers in 1962 had made provision for a turning circle in the plans, so it was a relatively simple matter to widen the road for this purpose. This improved service was greatly appreciated by all who depended on buses for transport. Previously residents had a "ten minute walk if you run" to the Taroona Crescent terminus.

Development of Monomeath Estate was slow in the 1960s, but many houses were built in the 1970s, and today nearly all blocks have been developed. All homes on the estate, with one exception are of brick and stone construction, and there are no front fences, giving an uncluttered look to the area.

Acknowledgement

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View of Taroona Beach taken from number 32 Wandella Avenue, 1986.

PHOTO J.C.S. BOWLER.

Nightingale Avenue

Edward (Ted) Le Rossignol

Our name "Le Rossignol", means "The Nightingale" in English. As we were the first residents in this street the other residents decided to recommend to the Council that they use the name Nightingale Avenue.

We built our weatherboard home, the first on the right, in 1951. There were no other houses beyond Nightingale Avenue in the Oakleigh Avenue subdivision at that time.

Residents who followed us in the Avenue were as follows in alphabetical order:

Mr and Mrs Eric Booth, Mr and Mrs George Hughes, Mr and Mrs Ivory, Mr and Mrs G.S. MacLaine, Mr and Mrs Malcolm McRae, Mr and Mrs Cedric Pretzman, Mr and Mrs Max Rex, Professor and Mrs G.C. Wade.

Our first visitor was Peter Rumney, a lad of about eight or nine years of age. He arrived at our back door with a blue tongue lizard draped around his shoulder and carrying a second one in his hands. To her horror my wife discovered both reptiles on the floor of the kitchen where Peter had left them.

On another occasion Peter, with his sisters and our three children, returned from playing in the bushland above us carrying a live snake by the tail. Peter had caught the snake as it slithered down a hole. It was duly deposited under a box in his backyard in Oakleigh Avenue.

We also caught a Mountain Devil (lizard) and killed a whip snake on our door step.

Mr Les Bower the local postman, who lived at number 140 Channel Highway which is on the corner of Seaview Avenue, walked everywhere on his rounds, commencing at Taroona Post Office. He was a popular and well respected figure who blew his whistle if he had a letter, but remained mute if he had only a bill.

The water mains at the bottom of Oakleigh Avenue were made from wooden staves, thus reducing the pressure to Nightingale Avenue. This necessitated the placing of a 1000 gallon galvanised tank on a platform on our land to fill at night. Our house was then connected to this tank.

Sewerage was confined to septic tanks, with the effluent being run into the gutter. Provided that the weather was not hot no one noticed.

Seaview Avenue

June Kerr and Helen Morgan

About 1923 L.J. Crozier and D. Ockenden purchased the land which was to become known as the Seaview Estate. This land was originally part of the location order given to Charles Clarke in 1813. Mr Geoffrey Charles Payne was engaged to draw up a subdivision plan, with a road reservation 40 feet wide running through the middle of it. It remained as just a track until 1940 when the road was made. The work of construction was done by hand and rocks were carted up from the waterfront to form a solid base.

Mr Dave Charlton and his wife Lucy were the first permanent residents of the Avenue and are still here today. Another early resident was the late Mrs John Lawrence who had the 12th Apostle cottage from Maria Island, re-erected on Lot number 8. Other early residents were Mr and Mrs R. Campbell, Mr and Mrs H. Suckling, Mr and Mrs Pamplin and Captain and Mrs Newton.

After the Second World War young families purchased blocks and built their homes in the Avenue. These included Mr and Mrs P. Fuglsang, Mr and Mrs L.J. Bell, and Mr and Mrs R. Mudge.

In 1956 the road was re-made and a section was bulldozed down to a solid bed of pure red clay in order to remove a "hump" halfway down the avenue. This took place on a Friday morning, without prior notification to the residents who had driven to work in their cars as usual. On their return in the evening the clay bed of the road was dry and so access to frontages was no problem. However, during the night light rain fell, turning the road into a downhill slide. The bulldozer that caused the trouble had to be used to pull the cars back to the Channel Highway. When finally finished, after many months of mud, a neat street appeared, albeit one of the narrowest in Taroona.

The width of the carriageway between the new concrete curbs and gutters was 20 feet, with a 5 foot boxed gravel footpath and a 5 foot nature strip on each side. The avenue was sealed in 1960.



Looking up Seaview Avenue from outside number 35, in 1949.

PHOTO JOAN FUGLSANG.



Looking down Seaview Avenue from outside number 4, after the heavy snowfall of 25th July 1986.

PHOTO ANDREW LORD.