

CHAPTER V

Subdivisions

Avalon Subdivision

John and Kathy Madden

The Avalon Subdivision has frontage to the western side of Channel Highway, from its access gateway near Morris Avenue, to the creek that is its northern boundary some 150 metres north of bus stop 34.

Historically it consisted of 27 acres, 3 roods, 20 perches purchased in 1935 by Miss S.E. Foster. This originally formed part of a parcel of land in excess of 150 acres which V. Hookey acquired from the Cartwright estate. The area was sold in 1938 to J.C.F. Jackson who built the two storey dwelling called "Avalon".

During the 1940s the land was subdivided and "Avalon" sold to C.H. Aley. Following Aley's death, the land was managed by M.V. Read who cut off three blocks on the southern side. These three blocks, which were given right of way to the original "Avalon" access road, and across the land reserved for road widening, were sold to Mrs F.I. Young who constructed a dwelling in 1945-46. In 1956 a second block was built on by Mr and Mrs T. Howard who lived there until 1984 and are still residents of Tarooma.

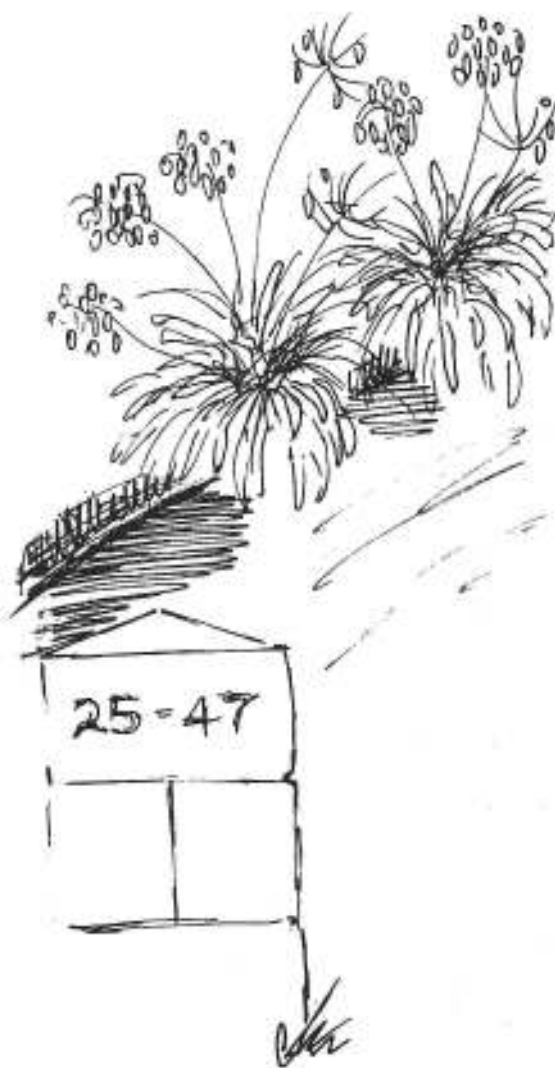
C.H. Aley's widow sold "Avalon" to B.L. Bennetto who, in 1960, extended rights of way along the access road to "Avalon" and cut off four blocks with frontage but no direct access to Channel Highway. One access was to a proposed road on the northern boundary which was never built.

The bushfires of 1967 burnt out the creek and destroyed a number of large eucalypt trees throughout the area. In March of that year "Avalon" was sold to R.E. Pringle-Jones and, after a period of tenancy the area was subdivided and the house sold to V. and J. Osborn whose previous home at Fern Tree was destroyed in the 1967 fires.

There are now eleven houses on the subdivision. Long term residents of at least ten years are currently Joe and Geraldine Byrne, John and Beryl Phillips and John and Kathy Madden, and previously Tom and "Topsy" Howard, Gordon and Dot McDonald, "Ossie" and Jane Osborn, and the late Ray

and Joan Wiedenhofer.

The Avalon Subdivision has shades of Camelot for it has, in general, been a happy place to live. Our one regret is that Miss Margaret Wiedenhofer, a noted historian of early Tasmania, was not still resident to write this contribution.



Belhaven Avenue



*Site of Meath and
Belhaven Avenue, 25th
October 1941.*

PHOTO REG ESCOTT.

*Site of Belhaven
Avenue, 25th
October 1941,
"Queen Elizabeth"
in background.*

PHOTO REG ESCOTT.



*View over Meath
and Belhaven
Avenues, 1986.*

PHOTO J.C.S. BOWLER.

Churchill Road

Tony Cook

The Churchill Road area was a pleasant place in which to grow up during the 1950s and 1960s. My parents built their service station on the corner of Channel Highway and Churchill Road in 1946 when I was a young boy.

Churchill Road at that time was a rough gravel track winding up the hill through the trees to an old dairy farm owned by Mr George Corney. There were several houses at the lower end of the road and my friend, Lachlan Holeyman, lived with his parents in "Quiet Corner", half way up the hill.

As young boys my brother, Geoffrey, Lachlan and I would often wait for Mr Corney to take us up to his dairy on his horse and cart which he used to distribute milk around Tarooma. Sitting in the cart we would bounce over the rough track and up around the big bend to his dairy farm which was near the present site of the high level concrete reservoir.

Mr Corney's daughter, Mrs Kitty Wright, remembers the dairy farm which was called "Bellevue". Mrs Wright described the farm as "like living up in the dress circle", with an uninterrupted view of the River Derwent. The family would watch the boats travelling up and

down the river: steamers, fishing boats, the Cock of the Derwent on Christmas day and the warships at Regatta time.

At the very top of the hill, where the road became a mud and gravel track, there was another dairy owned by the Lipscombes.

There was no school in Tarooma at the time (1930) and the children from both families had to walk to the Sandy Bay State School each day.

The old dairy farms were destroyed in the 1967 bush fires.

During the late 1950s and early 1960s more houses were built along the road and the old rural setting gradually took on a suburban appearance.

Churchill Road is very narrow, being 16 feet 3 inches wide, with no room for footpaths. It is now sealed with kerbs and gutters and, although rather steep, can be negotiated with reasonable safety in all weather conditions.

The creek which runs from the top of the hill behind Tarooma into the River Derwent at the northern end of Hinsby Beach follows Churchill Road for most of its journey. Water flows in the creek all the year and during the winter huge boulders are carried down the creek by the force of the flood waters. The creek was very clean with numerous big pools of sparkling water containing native trout, water cress and lily pads. These have now gone



Exit to the Churchill Road Tunnel.

PHOTO J.C.S. BOWLER.

Subdivisions

with the increase in pollution from the houses in the area.

The creek flows under the Channel Highway, close to its junction with Churchill Road, through a tunnel built between 1841 and 1847 when the Browns River Road was constructed by convicts from the Browns River Probation Station. The tunnel is 104 feet long, 4 feet wide, with 5 feet high walls constructed of sandstone blocks laid in one foot courses. The bed of the creek through the tunnel is skillfully laid down in cobblestones, ranging in size from 9 to 12 inches in diameter. Sprung off the top of the sandstone walls is a relatively modern 2 foot high concrete arch built around 1910. The tunnel is easily big enough to safely walk through when the water is low in the summer months, except for a very deep pond at the eastern end.

Just to the left of this tunnel, and on the corner of Churchill Road and the Channel Highway can be seen the quarry from which stone was obtained to fill the gully, as well as road metal. This quarry has now been landscaped as a small park.

There is a pleasant walk from Churchill Road to the Signal Station at Mount Nelson. From the top of the hill the walk follows the power lines to Mount Nelson. A return trip to Tarooma can be made via Truganini Walk from Mount Nelson to the quarry near the Grange.

Acknowledgement

Mrs Kitty Wright (nee Corney).



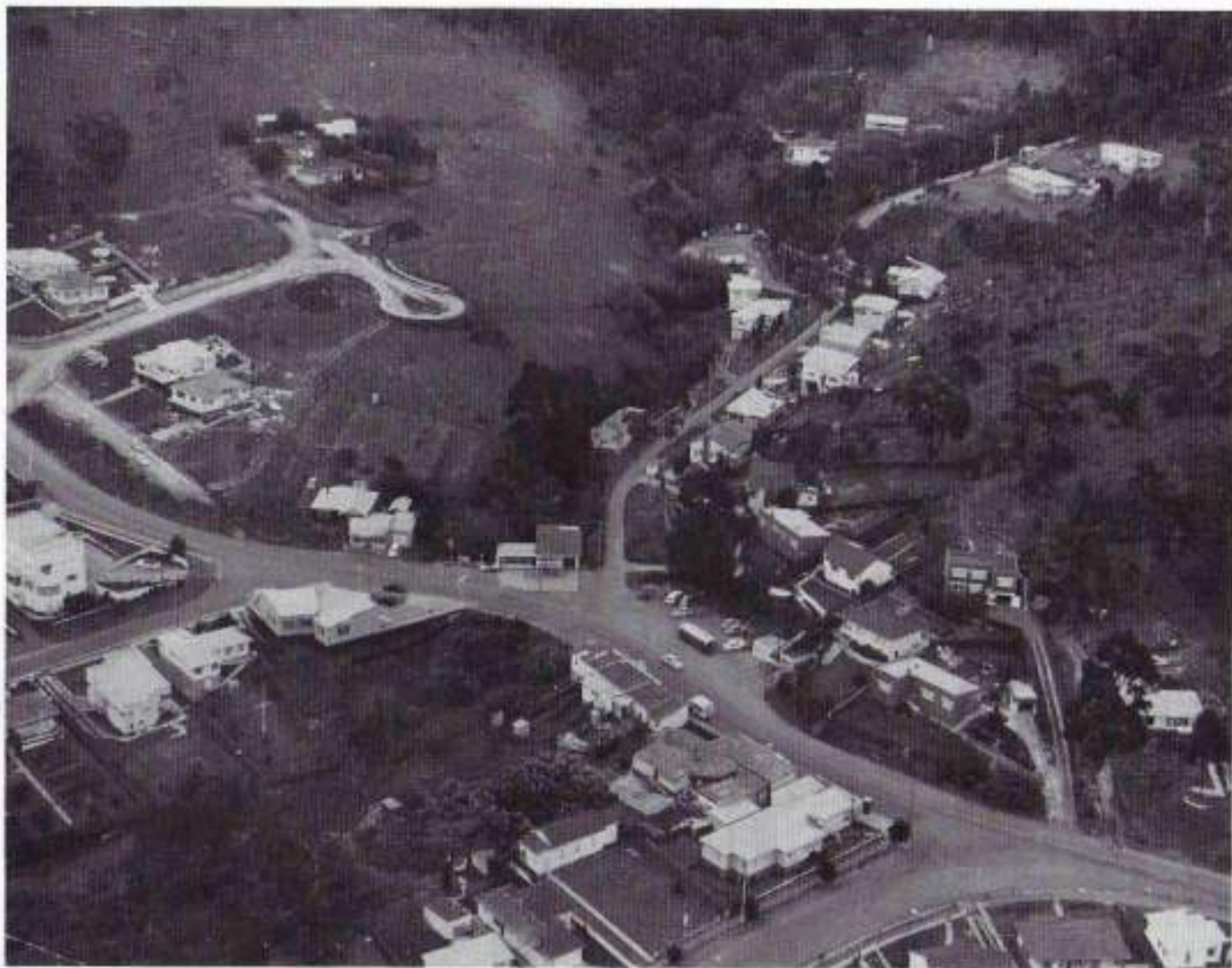
Entrance to the Churchill Road Tunnel.

PHOTO J.C.S. BOWLER.



The cobblestone bed of the Churchill Road Tunnel.

PHOTO J.C.S. BOWLER.



Churchill Road from the air showing the Channel Highway with the Hotel on the left hand corner. The "Little Shop" is diagonally across the road, the Shell Service Station on one corner of Churchill Road, with the bus terminus on the other and the old shopping centre directly opposite, 1962.

PHOTO VERN REED.