

BUNGAREE RECOLLECTIONS

By Bing Hanrahan

I'm Bing (Brendan) Hanrahan. I lived in Bungaree from 1941 to 1953 – 2nd son of Dan & Phyllis Hanrahan. My other siblings: - Denis, Paul, Anne and Terry.

My father, together with his brother Jack, were partners with Tinney Bros. and ran both general stores in Bungaree, ie the top shop and the bottom shop.

The official business name of the shops was Tinney Bros. & Hanrahan.

Dad & Mum moved to a milk bar in Black Rock in 1953.

My early recollections are as follows:-

The residents in the house nearest the hall were the Frawley's. I can't name the parents but the children names were Des, Mary, Graeme & Les. Next to them heading towards the blacksmith was Bill McLaren (he kept canaries), then came the Jeffries (or Jeffreys). They had a little shop which opened only on Sunday and sold ice creams and milk shakes. All the locals would gather and play kick to kick on the land in front of the Western Highway.

After the little shop was a paddock full with Jersey cows, owned by the Shepherds. Their house was the first past the blacksmith heading towards the current footy ground. They also operated an egg farm.

We lived in the next house. Then came the shop.

The house after the shop was occupied by the Kellys. The parents were Leo & Mona, children were Maureen, Maurice, Jack, Leo, Noel (a horse trainer) and Eileen.

Over the road from the bottom shop was the Morning Star Hotel - owners Stan & Ann Forbes – Dot Deverauex (Forbes) can fill you in on all family members, but I particularly remember Helen who went on to become a Brigettine Nun at East Ballarat.

Up from the pub heading toward the top shop was first of all a small butcher shop run by Bill Jeffrey and only opened once a week, or maybe fortnightly.

Next was the police station, with the police officer in charge being Bill Martin. The Martin children were John, Des, Michael and Margaret. I still have contact with Des to this very day. I played footy with him at Ormond CYMS during the sixties.

The house behind the police station heading down towards the creek was occupied by Jack & Elly Hanrahan, with children Mary, John, Kay & Billy. When they moved to Albury, our family moved over to live in that house.

Next was Jack Maher, can't remember the next ..., can anyone help?

Then a type of garage/welding business which had steel and all sorts of machinery in bits and pieces (their name, I believe, was Dunstall).

Down over the creek and up the hill was Mick & Mag Hanrahan: - children Carmel, Michael, Marie & Neil. They were potato farmers.

Further along that road, a chap called Diny Shelley lived in an old wood hut down along side the railway on the creek flats. He had a band of horses which he would herd/drive all around the district.

Down where the Art business is now were the Kimber's, and up the hill from there was the original football ground. It was moved to Forbes Paddock after we left Bungaree.

Over the road from the footy ground was Terry Hishon and family, and then came the Meade's.

My family was very active in the community. Dad was secretary of the football club and was also secretary of the Bungaree Race Club. Like everyone else, he was active in the Fire Brigade.

Stars in the footy team were Don Porter, Len Trigg, Keith Chisholm, Butcher Meade, Jack Maher and Frank Frawley.

I attended St. Michael's school and made my first Holy Communion with Des Frawley, Ron O'Donohue, Mary Frawley,(daughter of Bob) and Tommy Jeffries.

I loved my early childhood in Bungaree and wish sometimes that the world would stop spinning and I could go back to those enjoyable days.

My recollections may not be absolutely correct, so if anyone wishes to amend them please do so.

Regards

Bing Hanrahan

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Contact – brendanbing@bingpond.com