

### KALLISTA PRIMARY SCHOOL CENTENARY 1919-2019

When the Dandenong Forest Village Settlement scheme came into operation in 1893, the forested land that now occupies Monbulk, Kallista, The Patch and Sherbrooke was first opened for selection.

The early settlers and their families endured many hardships in those early years, one of which included educating the many children that were scattered in various forest dwellings.

Schools already existed in Ferntree Gully, established in 1874, Silvan in 1876 and Menzies Creek in 1882 but these were too far for the children to walk to and from on the rough bush tracks. The need for a local school was pressing.

In October 1894 a school was established in a dilapidated shelter shed, originally used by early stockmen, which existed in Sassafras Gully on the western side of Sassafras Creek near Nobles Lane, Sherbrooke. The shed was draughty, leaked and "infested with vermin". Within a year it was closed and transferred to the Sassafras township Mechanics' Institute Hall.

With a growing population in the district, a school was established at Monbulk in 1897. There was discussion of relocating the Menzies Creek School closer to South Sassafras (as Kallista was then known) at the same time to serve both communities, however this did not eventuate. For the children of South Sassafras it still meant a 5km trip along boggy tracks to either Monbulk, Sassafras or Menzies Creek. The state of the roads often determined which school they would attend on any given day.

The move to finally establish a school at South Sassafras was started by Mrs Heath of Sherbrooke

after her daughter Rosie had been frightened by a stranger while walking through the bush to the Sassafras school.

Arthur Drury of The Patch and John Hartney of *Huon House* near Beagley's Bridge corresponded with the Minister for Education who informed them that 30 pupils within a 2 mile radius of the proposed school were required before a school could be established. Mr Hartney compiled a list of 22 names in 1918.



Kallista State School 1936

Mrs Heath then proceeded to collect the sufficient names required. She later admitted that she had cheated somewhat by including a few names of children who had not yet been born. It was also later admitted that it was not unusual for a pupil to attend Monbulk but be registered at Kallista to maintain numbers.

With no school building, the new South Sassafras State School No. 3993, was established using the Mechanics' Institute Hall as the classroom. On March 10<sup>th</sup> 1919 the school began with the first enrolment of students. The Mechanics' Institute Hall was used for the first 5 years of the school then in 1924 the new school buildings were opened.



Kallista Primary School Centenary will be celebrated on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019 1.00 - 10.00pm

Historical display of the first 20 years will be held in the Mechanics' Institute Hall from 1pm. Performances by students, dances, 1930s to present photographic and video displays and other activities will be at the school from 1.30pm. View the day's full program on the Kallista Primary School's Facebook page.

Monbulk Historical Society  
PO Box 98 Monbulk VIC 3793

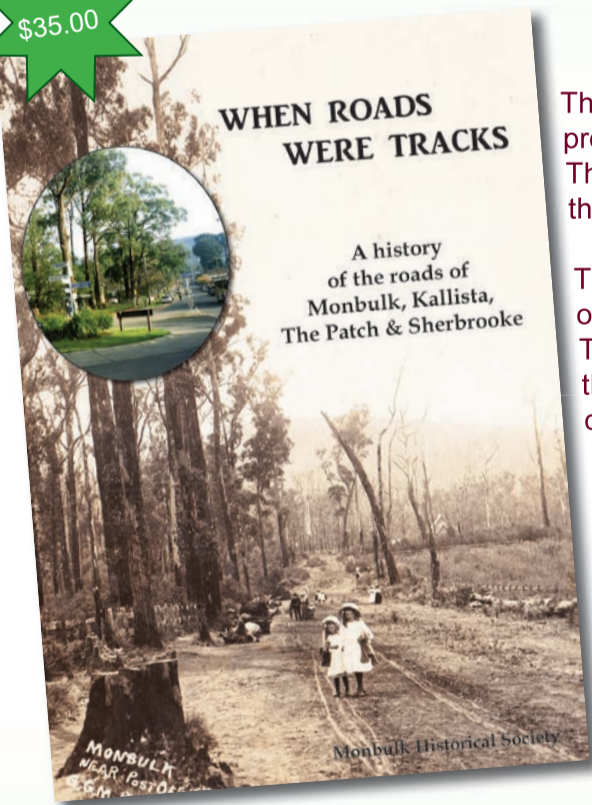


## Monbulk Historical Society presents

# WHEN ROADS WERE TRACKS

A history of the roads of  
Monbulk, Kallista, The Patch and Sherbrooke

\$35.00



This 250 page book is Monbulk Historical Society's most ambitious project to date documenting the development of Monbulk, Kallista, The Patch, Sherbrooke and the history of the naming of the roads of these local towns.

The names of the roads and tracks are a window into the history of the area and the families that have made it what it is today. The book also includes the history of the tourist tracks, the tracks throughout Sherbrooke Forest and brings together a unique collection of historic photographs and maps.

## Book Launch

at

10am Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019

Monbulk RSL  
Main Street Monbulk

with a photographic display from 9.30am

Morning tea provided

ALL WELCOME

With the help of our wonderful sponsors it has been possible to keep the price of this book to a minimum for all the community to enjoy.

Proudly sponsored by

- Monbulk Bowling Club
- Tesselaar Direct MRE
- Yarra Ranges Council
- MADCOW
- Monbulk & District Rotary Club
- Monbulk RSL
- Monbulk Family Dental Care
- Kallista Real Estate
- Angela Arnott
- Dorothy Harris

