



Monbulk's Main Street looking from Primary School end, early 1900s.

Take A walk through Historic Monbulk...

When the depression of the 1890s followed the collapse of the land boom, 'Village Settlements' for subsistence farming were seen as one way of improving the problem of massive unemployment. The "Dandenong Forest Village Settlement" was cut out from the forest reserve and opened for selection in 10 acre blocks. It was comprised of 76 farms and was named 'Monbulk'. The Post Office opened on the 19th May, 1898 and the town has grown from there.

Through a Yarra Ranges Council grant, Monbulk Historical Society has created a Heritage Trail on the footpath down Main Street Monbulk. Symbols stamped into the footpath to reference different periods and events depict the changes of the town's long history. The Trail is explained on an information board near the pedestrian crossing closest to the ANZ Bank. So

the next time you walk around the town centre of Monbulk, please look out for the information board and follow the words and symbols on the footpath relating to our history.

Old Monbulk Township

The original town of Monbulk was opposite the Primary School and for many years had just three shops to serve its residents. There was Nation's General Store, the Post Office and Store run by sisters Annie and Sarah Siddle and the Drapery Store which also sold confectionery. The store owners' residences were behind their shops.

In 1900 Jane Nation opened the General Store in Monbulk while her husband Robert Nation ran Nation's Coaches, a carrying business and coach service between Monbulk and the train station in Belgrave. His son Will Nation later operated the service that continued at least until WW1. Mr and Mrs A.E. Hopton and their two daughters, Marg and Bess, ran the store from 1921 when the town was still without electricity and the water supply came from household tanks. It was later sold to Dorothy and



Nation's coach at Siddle's corner Post Office 1903

Alan Rich who made extensions to the shop. The Methodist Church land was purchased for £13.2.5 in 1903 and the building was completed soon after by voluntary labour. The first parsonage was built next door to the Church in about 1917.

Mr & Mrs Williams bought the Drapery shop opposite the Mechanics Hall in 1914 and later sold it to Miss

Fowler and Miss Bray in 1925. Confectionery on one side and haberdashery on the other satisfied both mothers and children. Mr & Mrs Taylor bought this shop in 1948. They made a number of extensions and alterations to the building and business and the stores remained central to the lives of those in Monbulk.



The Dandenong Forest Village Settlement State School in 1897
(Renamed Monbulk State School in 1899)

Mr & Mrs Hefford opened a garage and milk bar opposite the end of David Hill Road in about 1950. Dave Lane opened his garage and taxi service next door to where the panel shop is now.

The Monbulk Primary School started life in 1897 as The Dandenong Forest Village Settlement State School but was renamed Monbulk State School in 1899. The small school building and nearby Mechanics Hall were burnt down during the 1913 fires so classes were held in the Methodist Church across the road until the school was rebuilt on the same site on the corner of Main Street and David Hill Road.

Do you enjoy learning about the people and places that led to our community being what it is today? Has your family played a part in the history of the District? If you're interest is in research, contributing your family's history or sharing the history of others, we need and welcome your help. You can participate in various ways depending on your time, interests and skills. If so please become a member of Monbulk Historical Society and join us in collecting, documenting and preserving our local history.

Vale Jan Williams



Jan was President of Monbulk Historical Society from 1998 to 2010. She loved researching our local history and set about interviewing many older residents of The Patch to get their 'life' stories. She led the Society in publishing 2 photographic books of early settlers in The Patch and their hardships and achievements.

Jan worked hard to ensure that Monbulk Historical Society had a home in the new Monbulk 'Hub'. For many

years most of the Society's belongings were packed away in boxes, stored at Garden City Plastics, with the more valuable items stored at Jan's home. I'm sure Bill, Jan's husband, was glad to have some of his rooms back when the Society moved into the Hub!

Jan instigated the production of four unique Monbulk calendars to sell to raise money to help with the rent.

She was also an enthusiastic member of the Shire of Yarra Ranges Heritage Network. Jan will be sadly missed.

MHS STREET STALL

Monbulk Historical Society will be holding a stall in the Main Street of monbulk outside the ANZ Bank on Saturday 6th December 2014.

Come and enjoy our photo display and have a chat about our history. Our collection of past identities' stories and local historic sites of Monbulk, Kallista and The Patch as well as Monbulk in Photographs Volumes 1,2 & 3 will be on sale.

A set of Monbulk in Photographs Volumes 1,2 & 3 for \$45.00 would make a great Christmas present!

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