

THE TRAM HOUSE AT MONBULK

The Tram House was made up of Numbers 97 and 98 trams placed side by side with a large space between them. A tin roof was later constructed to cover over the top making a central room. It was named "Mart Esuoh", which is 'Tram House' written backwards.

While under construction, this building was a source of great interest to the Monbulk children who lived nearby. The house occupied a central position in the Main Street Monbulk, opposite the butcher and bakery.

Mr Leach, the owner, began construction in the late 1920s and completed it around 1937. It was originally intended as a holiday home but over the years was rented out to many families as semi-permanent accommodation. During the Second World War "Mart Esuoh" was sometimes rented by families wishing to move out of the Melbourne city area.



The Tram House c.1966

A bootmaker and shoe repairer operated in a tin shed beside the Tram House from 1939 to 1966 by Mr Smith who travelled daily to Monbulk from Yarra Glen to conduct his business.

Many people lived in the trams during the late 1930s and 1940s. Mrs Bradshaw spent her last years there as did Mrs Sands with her son Alf.

The site is now occupied by the car park situated between the police station and the RSL Hall.

The Tram House was on this site for many years, and was finally demolished in about 1966.



Tram House 1930



Tram House c.1937

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MHS

Monbulk Historical Society is nearing the end of our research for our latest project - a book on the origins of the road names in the Monbulk, The Patch, Kallista and Sherbrooke areas.

If you have any photographs, maps or information on your road, please contact us - Jill's Mobile 0417 117 101 or via email explore@monbulkhistoricalsociety.org.au or call in at the Monbulk Hub on a Wednesday morning. ALL WELCOME

www.monbulkhistoricalsociety.org.au

explore@monbulkhistoricalsociety.org.au

GUEST HOUSES OF THE PAST IN MONBULK, KALLISTA, THE PATCH AND SHERBROOKE

Prior to the 1880s most who lived in Melbourne spent their leisure time close to home. When the railway line was extended from Ringwood to Ferntree Gully in 1889, it made a visit to the Dandenongs more accessible and more comfortable.

The leisure time of the visitors to the guest houses was filled with social and nature activities in the area. All meals were provided. Visitors usually stayed about two weeks and many people returned year after year to the same guest house. The breadwinner of the family often went back to the city and returned to spend the weekend with the family.

Many resorts were distinctly seasonal and offered summer and winter tariffs. Booklets of advertisements were published and widely circulated. The language of the advertisements was often flowery, enthusiastically praising the beauty of the area and the comforts which the guesthouse provided.

"Unsurpassed Panoramic views of Mountains and Lake Silvan!" "Where Nature's haunts are jealously preserved in all their charming sanctity." "First-class Accommodation." "Modern Conveniences" and "Own Farm Produce".

During the 1920s and 1930s guest houses were an important part of the local economy. The Government Tourist Bureau's magazine 'Where to go in Victoria' 1928-29 edition included: Grendon, Sherbrooke Lodge, Grantulla, Doddinghurst, Wannan Lodge, Arcadia, Bonnie Doon, Fairy Dell, Glenelva, Nathania Springs,

Warwick Farm and Weardale Guest House all in this area.



NATHANIA SPRINGS --- TEA GARDENS MONBULK C.1920s
Pronounced by our late Prime Minister, "The Most Picturesque Spot in Australia."
Noted for the Tame Blackfish & Tame Kookaburras.
Fern Gullies - Beautiful Gardens.
Afternoon Tea. Home Made Cakes & Scones.
Motor Service from Upper Ferntree Gully.
Hot Water. Picnic Parties Catered For.
Cold Lunch at any Time.
F. S. Gay Proprietor.

The arrival of motor cars and the opening of major tourist roads in the 1920s boosted the demand for guest houses in the hills. Families were able to travel further, wages were better and there was more leisure. People came to the resorts for recreation as well as health and there was a developing interest in exploring the natural environment. Walking clubs and 'Field Naturalist Societies' flourished. These times were sadly short lived with the Depression of the 1930s, combined with some serious bushfires. This led to fewer customers for the guest houses and because of the pressure to update the facilities, many went out of business.

With the petrol rationing and other restrictions during World War Two, even more guest houses were affected, and by the 1950s most had disappeared. Some were converted into flats for families of migrants who were making a new life in Australia after the war.

After the end of World War Two, the restored use of car travel led to the development of camping and caravanning habits for the average family. During this time many of the traditional guest houses of the Dandenongs disappeared.

A publication with the full story of 'Guest houses of the Past' in Monbulk, Kallista, The Patch and Sherbrooke, is available from Monbulk Historical Society.



WANNAN LODGE --- MONBULK C.1920s
Situating in the picturesque Valley of the Dandenong Ranges.
1 mile from Nathania Springs 2½ miles from Sherbrooke Falls,
3 miles from Sassafra through beautiful fern gullies all the way.
1 mile from Monbulk Mechanics' ... Dance Parties, etc.
TARIFF ON APPLICATION
Telephone - KALLISTA 25
Mrs. J. SWALE - Proprietress

Monbulk & District Community Bank Branch Bendigo Bank

Monbulk Historical Society would like to

thank the Bendigo Bank - Monbulk & District Branch for their continued support.

Monbulk Historical Society welcomes our new member: Pamela Pullman