Monbulk Historical Society Inc.

Roundabout

Monbulk Historical Society Newsletter

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FAIRY DELL

The eastern end of The Patch was once known as 'Fairy Dell'. A name derived from the early guest house operated by William White Fraser and his wife who was reputed to have bought a second hand wagon which bore the words 'Fairy Dell' on the side. It was his guest house that also led to the naming of Fairy Dell Road. *Fairy Dell* guest house still appeared on a 1938 tourist map.

William Fraser was an early settler and he offered accommodation at his home, *Fairy Dell*, as early as 1903 until it burnt down in July 1936. William's property was near Ti Tree Creek, at the bottom end of Fairy Dell Road, below what was then Steve Burne's property. Some *Fairy Dell* visitors would come by Hunt's Coach to Steve Burne's property and walk to their accommodation from there.

Until the 1920s, when Emerald-Monbulk and Kallista-Emerald Roads were constructed, Fairy Dell Road was an important access road to Emerald. In Fern Tree Gully Shire minutes of 1917, the road was referred to as "the Emerald road between Fairy Dell and McKellar's". Despite its importance, reports indicate it was still just a rough track.

Fairy Dell 1920s.

Fairy Dell Guest House

The state of Fairy Dell district roads received great coverage in *The Herald* in September and October of 1924, so much so that a council deputation visited the area and agreed with the grievances of the locals in the area as to the state of the roads.

TOURING.

ROAD INFORMATION.
OFFICIAL REPORTS.

Metal formation is being extended on the road from Monbulk (V.) to Fairy Dell, about two miles having been so treated, says the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria. Beyond the Dell to where Sassafras Creek is crossed in a fine-weather road only, but is better beyond on rising country to Emerald at six miles from Monbulk.

The Australasian
Saturday June 11, 1932

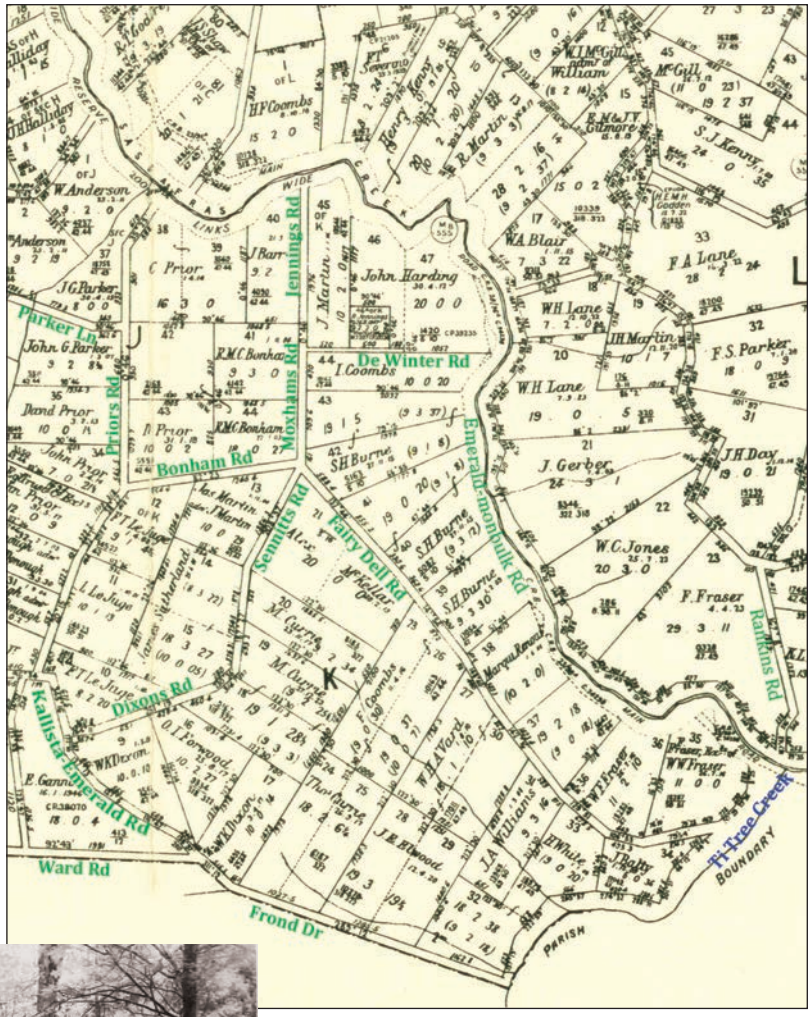
Mr and Mrs McKellar also ran a guest house called *Bonnie Doon* on the corner of Fairy Dell Road and Sennitts Road on the 20 acres they bought in 1888.

There were many Chinese all in the area during the Emerald Diggings days. Many mine shafts can still be found along the creeks between *Butterfield Park* and *Fairy Dell*. There were miners there again in the 1930s.

In the 1920s, Mrs Ah Mouy ran a hospital at Fairy Dell, mostly for unmarried mothers, until the hospital burnt down. Mr Ling Ah Mouy was Chinese and worked in the Law Courts in Melbourne.

Early in February of 1926, fire reached Fairy Dell and The Patch.

When Mrs Ah Mouy's hospital burnt down they built a new house in Fairy Dell Road. Mr Ah Mouy died at Monbulk in 1934 and the family moved to Ferntree Gully. Their property was about a kilometre from the junction of Emerald-Monbulk Road and Fairy Dell Road.



The east end of The Patch was known as Fairy Dell.

Ti Tree Creek crossing at Fairy Dell 1920.

Ti Tree Creek was originally spelt Tea Tree Creek on early district maps from the time of John Hardy's c.1867 Dandenong Ranges map until at least the 1930s tourist maps. From the 1940s to 1960s the creek was marked on maps without a name as it is only a very small creek. When the name started to be used again, around 1970, it had become Ti Tree Creek again.

McKellar family and friends at *Bonnie Doon* c.1940.