Roundabout
Monbulk Historical Society Newsletter
No. 45
Spring 2026

George Seamer Bridge sign restored

Graffitied sign 2017

George Seamer Bridge
The new sign erected October 2026

The George Seamer Bridge sign has been deteriorating for some years. Thanks to the persistence of one of George Seamer's grandchildren, Coral Marr, the Yarra Ranges Council was persuaded to reinstate the sign on the bridge at the bottom of McAllister Road. It is back to honour a man who did so much for the Monbulk roads.

George Seamer was born on 28 October 1889. He moved to Monbulk with his mother Maria, and 2 sisters, Maria and Emma, in the early-mid 1890s. The family first lived in a house at the Fairy Dell end of Moxhams Road. One day when George's mother, known as Blind Granny to most of Monbulk, returned home from shopping to find her house had burned down. The people of Monbulk secured a block of land on the other side of Monbulk for her and built a house on it. George started work at just 11 years of age, delivering bread by pack horse for a local baker, Mr McDunner. The money he earned he gave to his mother to help her manage with her housekeeping.

In 1909, aged 20, George married Eva Smith. They first lived in Silvan but moved to Monbulk after their home was burned down in a bushfire around August 1917. The works on the Silvan Dam had finished and the houses were being sold, George and Eva were able to buy one with the insurance pay out.

> ...From Frank N. Wiseman, Silvan, stating that the home of G. Seamer, foreman, was totally destroyed by fire, and asking council's assistance.
> ...Cr. Rouget moved that Mr. Wiseman be informed that council expressed its sympathy, but it was a matter for public subscription, and that council could not do anything in that matter.
> Councillors very generously put their hands in their pockets and handed a sum of money to the shire secretary to be forwarded.
>
> *Box Hill Reporter* Sep 7, 1917

Many of the people of Monbulk helped to disassemble the house from Silvan, and put it up again on a block at the Old Emerald Road end of the present Seamer Road. In 1936, this home also burned down. George and Eva and the younger children in their family moved in with George's mother, now Maria Hills, about half way along Seamer Road.

George and Eva Seamer, January 1945

George obtained the contract for clearing the short section of the main road of Monbulk, then called Boundary Road, between the State School and present Baynes Park Road in 1909. After grubbing the stumps, he set to work with his horse-drawn grader. *"The old steel roller was loaded up with stones to give it a bit of weight, while putting down the foundations for the main road through Monbulk"*.

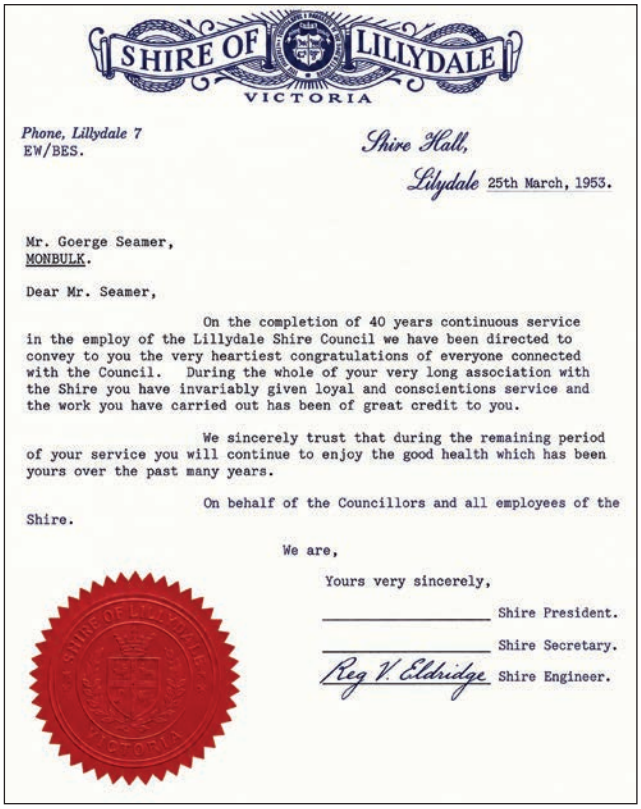
George Seamer started working for the Shire of Lillydale in 1912 as a road constructor. He and his road-crew constructed Cavey Road in the early 1920s. This road was at first a no-through road off David Hill Road, running down to Emerald Creek. In 1941 a decision was made to put a bridge over the creek and continue the road to meet up with, what is now Old Emerald Road.

George maintained the roads in the district for 42 years with the Shire of Lillydale. In his honour, the road George and Eva lived on, was named Seamer Road, and the bridge over Emerald Creek at the bottom of McAllister Road, was named George Seamer Bridge.

George Seamer Bridge c.1990s

George and Eva Seamer went on to have 13 children. In 2008 the descendant count was 50 grandchildren, 132 great grandchildren, 146 great-great grandchildren, at least 11 3x great grandchildren and 1 4x great grandchild, with many more descendants born after that with many of them still living in the Monbulk area.

George died in 1954 aged 65 years.



SHIRE OF LILLYDALE
VICTORIA

Phone, Lillydale 7
EW/BES.

Shire Hall,
Lilydale 25th March, 1953.

Mr. Goerge Seamer,
MONBULK.

Dear Mr. Seamer,

On the completion of 40 years continuous service in the employ of the Lillydale Shire Council we have been directed to convey to you the very heartiest congratulations of everyone connected with the Council. During the whole of your very long association with the Shire you have invariably given loyal and conscientions service and the work you have carried out has been of great credit to you.

We sincerely trust that during the remaining period of your service you will continue to enjoy the good health which has been yours over the past many years.

On behalf of the Councillors and all employees of the Shire.

We are,

Yours very sincerely,

_____ Shire President.

_____ Shire Secretary.

Reg V. Eldridge Shire Engineer.

George Seamer Bridge painted by Joan Ricketts

1935 George and Eva Seamer with their family c.1935.
Children from oldest born to youngest are:-
Thelma, Lena (1911-1912), Ella, Coral, Mick, Gladys, Dulcie, Harold, Henry (Harry), Pearl, Ruby, Eddie and Max

George Seamer.