

# Roundabout

Monbulk Historical Society Newsletter

No. 21

Winter 2020



Photo courtesy of Tracy Ann of Tracylandscapes

## BUTTERFIELD PARK

Many walkers using the Sassafras Creek walking track and motorists using the Emerald-Monbulk Road will be familiar with Butterfield Park, now known as Butterfield Reserve, but not many know the history behind the park's name.

Sidney Butterfield, a plasterer by trade, had difficulty finding work in Melbourne so worked as a cable tram conductor until he decided to try farming on a 20 acre property with a small house. The family believes he purchased this land sometime after his marriage in 1904. The house had an earthen floor and large fireplace and was formerly Bosisto's slab hut. Sidney Butterfield built on two front rooms, a larder and pantry. He concreted over the kitchen floor then brought his wife and young daughter Christine from the suburbs.

The following information is extracts from Christine's diary and her reminiscences of the family's early life on land that had previously been of interest mainly to gold fossickers.



The home that once stood in Butterfield Park.

There was a creek running through and Woori Yallock Creek formed one boundary. We were 4 miles from Emerald Station and no road in but Dad bought an old cab horse and two-wheeled cart. Then the council cleared a cart track for him so he could get to Emerald for provisions. This is now called Butterfield Road. When I was five Mother and I went down to Prahran where my brother Bill was born in 1910. We travelled

back to Emerald on Puffing Billy when he was one month old. It seemed a long hot journey in a small carriage that smelt of leather seats and varnish. Dad met the train and we went home in the cart.



Sidney Butterfield and his wife Christina.

Dad planted an orchard of Five Crown apples, milked cows and reared little pigs for the Dandenong market. Mother set the milk in large shallow pans, waited for the cream to rise, skimmed it off and made butter into small pats. Dad took this to the store on Saturdays to sell and pay for our food and meat. It was difficult to make a living from 20 acres so Dad bought more land on the flats along Woori Yallock Creek. It was heavily timbered so he cleared it by cutting down the large White Gums with axe and wedges. When Mum heard a big tree fall she would listen for Dad who would stand on the trunk and hit it three times, then Mum would know he was safe. In this way several acres were cleared for ploughing and planting with potatoes. The potatoes grew well and were dug and bagged to be loaded on a sledge and dragged up to the house area ready to be sent to the Melbourne market.

Before he could load the bags heavy rain fell flooding the creek; bags of potatoes were half covered in water and mud. When the flood went down he loaded the bags on the sledge and the horse pulled them up to the bridge over the little creek. Dad was ploughing for a neighbour to earn ready money so Mum had to empty the bags and sort the good from the rotting

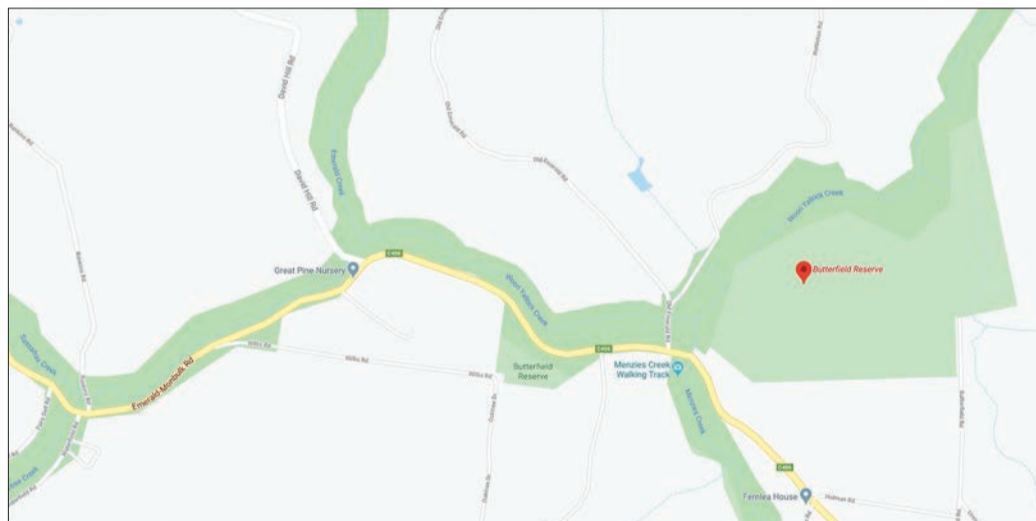
[www.monbulkhistoricalsociety.org.au](http://www.monbulkhistoricalsociety.org.au)

[explore@monbulkhistoricalsociety.org.au](mailto:explore@monbulkhistoricalsociety.org.au)

potatoes, wash these in the creek and fill in to dry bags ready for sale. About 5 o'clock she would go back to the house, light a fire to cook tea and warm up 2 kero tins of food for the pigs. Then the cows had to be put in the bails ready for Dad to milk by the light of a hurricane lamp when he came home after dark. The cooking was done on firebricks in a big open fireplace. Iron saucepans hung from chains on

a bar in the chimney. After tea I was put to bed and they went over to the chaff house where Mum fed the sheaves of hay into the chaff cutter while Dad turned the big wheel that cut it into chaff for the horses and cows. They finished about 10.30pm.

Sidney Butterfield died at 73 from a heart attack, suffered while ploughing. His elder son William and wife Naomi (nee Kennedy) from Emerald had stayed on the farm where he had previously built up a bullock team so the family's association with this land continued for years to come. William died in 1998 and Christine in 2002. Their family name is kept alive in the local area with the adjoining Butterfield Wildlife Reserve and nearby Butterfield Road.



### WHERE HAWKS FLY

125 YEARS OF THE  
MONBULK FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB  
1895 - 2020

Where Hawks Fly is a book about the history of Monbulk Football Netball Club (MFNC) and produced in celebration of their 125th anniversary this year.

The history includes every known Monbulk Seniors, Reserves, Unders, Veterans, Womens and Netball A, B, C, D and Under 17s team photos, match result and ladders over these years.

Over 3,000 individuals are mentioned in this 560 page A4 book with over half of them seen in this unique collection of 1,150 photographs. Brief histories of Monbulk Junior Football and Monbulk Netball Clubs are also included along with many junior football and early netball/basketball team photographs as these clubs have been closely associated with MFNC as far back as the 1930s. Early newspaper articles of incidents and achievements of team members and the Club have also been incorporated in the book.

The book is a joint project of Monbulk Historical Society and the Monbulk Football Netball Club and has been compiled by Armin Richter and Jill A'Vard.

We are very grateful to the Monbulk & District Community Bank for their wonderful sponsorship to go towards the printing of the book.

Proudly supported by  
Community Bank  
Monbulk & District



We are currently seeking further sponsorship for the printing of the book and want to include an acknowledgement in the book in appreciation of much valued donations.

We have a tight deadline before going to print so if you would like to contribute to this project Monbulk Historical Society bank details are:

Bendigo Bank BSB: 633000 A/c No: 151312170  
Please quote 'MFNC book' in payment details.  
Alternatively you can send a cheque to Monbulk Historical Society, PO Box 98 Monbulk Vic. 3793.

**IMPORTANT:** Please contact Jill (0417 117 101 or email [president@monbulkhistoricalsociety.org.au](mailto:president@monbulkhistoricalsociety.org.au)) before 30th June 2020 with your details for acknowledgement.

The book is scheduled to go to print in July and hopefully will be launched in August/September depending on the current COVID-19 restrictions on events.

