

LIFE STORY - KEITH ALLINGHAM GREENHAM AM

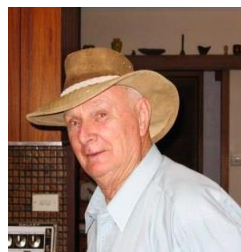
Autobiography - Childhood and teenage
background, joys, sorrows and challenges of
family farming and voluntary community service.

*A Personal History
of My Life, Times
and Voluntary
Community Service
to Swan Hill
Regional
Development
1927-2017*





Victoria
BIOGRAPHY



Norton Priory - Archaeology of a Medieval Religious House 1989, Medieval Monasteries 1992; contrib. to Manual of Museum Mgmt 1997, Manual of Museum Planning 1999; *m.* (1) 3 d; *m.* (2) Julia McCallum, *d. of*: William McCallum and Margaret Jones; *rec.*: theatre, music, walking, travel, landscape, archaeology; *clubs*: Nat. Trust (UK); *address*: Museum Victoria, GPO Box 666, Melbourne Vic 3001.

Victoria: what does it mean to you?

"As CEO of Museum Victoria since 2002, it has been important for me to understand my adopted home not just as a new resident, but as someone whose role is to capture its essence in order that it can be presented to our own visitors. One word sums it up: diversity. It characterises our Aboriginal heritage, the migrants who have made their way across the world to settle here, its geology and landscapes, the flora and fauna (terrestrial and marine), the architecture (especially domestic), the food and the wine. So much variety packed into a compact state makes Victoria a very special place. At Melbourne Museum, the Immigration Museum, Scienceworks and our website (www.museumvictoria.com) we reveal the rich diversity of Victoria - and encourage people to explore it."

Your own words or thoughts:

"It is not possible to comprehend the present and the future without an understanding of the past."

GREENHAM Keith Allingham; AM 2006; Retired, since 1990; *s. of*: Albert Clarence Greenham and Lilian Grace Thompson; *b.* Aug. 27, 1927, Swan Hill Vic.; *ed.*: Swan Hill H Sch., RMIT; *career*: Irrigation Dairy Farmer 1964-90, Irrigation Farmer and Grazier 1953-64, Dry Land Wheat Grower 1948-53, Clerk Shell Co. Aust. 1943-47; Cr Shire of Swan Hill 1993-95; Memb. Masonic Lodge (Swan Hill) since 1951, Swan Hill Club since 1998; Memb. Community Consultation Grp Swan Hill Murray River Bridge Replacement VicRoads since 2007, Treas. Nat. Party (Swan Hill) since 2000, Chief Flood Warden (Swan Hill Sth) Munic. Flood Response Plan since 1998, Sec. Assn Ind. Retirees (Swan Hill Br.) since 1998, Swan Hill Rural City Residents & Ratepayers Assn since 1998, Memb. and Sec. Lake Boga Community Dev. Cttee 1994-98, Cttee Memb. Swan Hill Disability Employment Svce 1994-98, Chair. Sthn Cttee Murray Mallee Regional Housing C1 1993-97, Chair. Regional Mobile Pre-Sch. 1993-97, Bd Memb. and Dep. Chrmn Pental Island River Mgmt Bd 1986-97, Sec. United Dairyfarmers of Vic. (Swan Hill) 1983-90 and 1973-75, Swan Hill Masonic Co. 1983-85, Commsnr Dep. Chrmn and Chrmn Pental Island River Improvement Trust 1982-86 and 1957-63, Flood Warden SES 1973-98, Cttee Memb. and Chair. Swan Hill Irrigators Res. Farm 1970-75, Sec. Rural Fire Bde (Swan Hill) 1960-63, Pental Island Settlers Assn 1956-63; recipient Citizenship Award Nat. Aust. Day C1 2001; *pub.*: num. opinion pieces 'The Guardian' Swan Hill newspaper since 1956; *m.* (1) 1953 Nancy Frances Dowling (dec. 1982) 3 s 1 d; *m.* (2) Feb. 7, 1987 Doreen Bridget Schifferle; *c.*: 1 stepd.; *rec.*: Christian church; *address*: Swan Hill Vic 3585.

Victoria: what does it mean to you?

"Victoria has educated us from childhood for roles in all walks of life, and in rural areas given access to rich soils, a critical water supply, know how for their

best use and marketing systems for the produce of the land. A strong work ethic and strength and compassion in times of hardship has provided rural Victoria with the basis for successful family life, not only for us but for our forbears, parents, grandparents and immigrant great-grandparents who lie in memorial parks across Victoria. Among my forbears are the Watmough family, Peter and Ann and their 4 young daughters. They arrived at Victoria's Port Phillip in 1841 from Bolton, England and are regarded as a pioneering family of the City of Melbourne. Eldest daughter Mary Greenham (Watmough) 1828-1911 rests in Swan Hill Memorial Park with three generations of her descendants. We salute their courage and that of all who, over the years, have chosen Victoria and Australia as their new home and enriched our lives. Looking into the future the greatest challenge rural Victoria faces are populist environmental policies which do not seek to balance the local, state and national economic and social consequences."

Your own words or thoughts:

"On Australia Day 2006, with the approval of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Australia, Sovereign of the Order of Australia, I was appointed by the Governor-General as a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia. In thanking the Swan Hill community I said: 'I am deeply humbled to find that my fellow citizens have seen fit to follow the 2001 Citizenship Award with nomination for this high honour. I pay tribute to my partners, wife Nancy who died in 1982 having lovingly raised our 4 children to adulthood and wife Doreen who for 19 years has given me great support in continuing community activity to my 79th year. By their encouragement and that of our combined families, they to, share the appointment with me. I pay tribute to those who so long ago gave me the skills and sowed the seeds of voluntary community service, my parents, teachers, employer, political mentors and the great band of like minded volunteer men and women, professional, public service and media people I have worked with. Many of my generation have served our community with distinction. We children and grandchildren of Swan Hill pioneering families grew up in the shadow of World War One. The hardships of the Great Depression, drought, fire, flood, anxiety and austerity of World War Two shaped our lives. Like generations before us we accepted the challenges driven by hope for a better future. We have been privileged to have lived through and contributed to a period of unprecedented beneficial technological and social change. "Building Our Future Together" is our Swan Hill Rural City motto. It calls for Indigenous, old and new Australian volunteers to continue to shoulder, with our Councillors, the community progress wheel with wisdom, patience and good humour, it is not easy, nor is it instantly rewarding but take heart, your efforts are needed and will not go unrewarded."

GREENSHIELDS Ian Leslie; BA (Canb.), MA (Hons) (Monash); Principal, Greenshields Communications Pty Ltd, since 2005; *s. of*: George Paterson and Ella Stimson Greenshields; *b.* Jun. 4, 1947, Rushworth Vic.; *ed.*: Bendigo H Sch., Univ. Canb., Monash Univ.; *career*: Grp Exec. Corp. Affairs Nat. Foods Ltd 1998-2005, Dir Turnbull Porter Novelli 1995-98, Gen. Mgr Pub. Affairs Mayne Nickless Ltd 1989-95, Dir Pub. Affairs Cwealth Dept Transport and Communications 1987-89, Dept Transport 1983-87; Memb. Pub. Rels Socy America since 2003, Bd Memb. Big Brothers




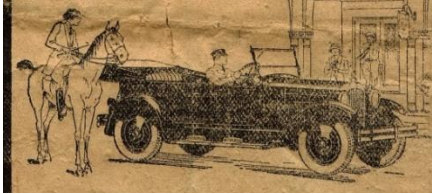






Victoria Inaugural Edition 2008

Update: host; Red Cross Murray River Canoe Marathon 1969-2009; *nom*; Victorian Senior Citizen of the Year 2011; *Victoria Government Gazette Swan Hill Place Name*: "Greenham Park" 2014; *pub*; num. Submissions State & Local Government. *Retired* from voluntary Community service; 2010 *Recalled* to State Emergency Service: 2011 (flood) & 2014/15.

Autobiography – Keith Allingham Greenham AM 1927 - 2017

Life, Times and Community Service

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Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -*

Reflections - Challenging Times

“Bear one anothers’ burdens”

The Holy Bible , Gal.V1 2 Rev, Beecher on our Wedding Day 1953

“Avoid doomsday pessimism and cockeyed optimism, be realistic.”

Agriculture Professor Sir Samuel WADHAM KBE 1960’s.

And we survived the challenge.

‘To capitalise on our potential rural export industries will need to keep improving their international competitiveness. Change needs to be continuous because competitiveness is a race without a finish.’

Rural Industry Consultant 1990’s

And ‘get big or get out’ became a reality, 2016 the endgame unclear.

“One can only complain about things in this country if you are prepared to stick the stamps and stuff the envelopes to bring about change. Whingeing on the sidelines is not an option.”

Leonie Christophosen AM 2008

And by 2014 emails & social media replaced stamps and envelopes.

“Our Swan Hill motto ‘Building our future together’, calls for indigenous, old and new Australian volunteers to continue to shoulder the community progress wheel with wisdom, patience and good humour. It is not easy nor is it instantly rewarding but take heart, your efforts are needed and will not go unrewarded.”

Keith Greenham AM 2008

And by 2015 public authority staff turnover made the role of volunteers critical to democracy.

“Looking into the future the greatest challenge Victoria faces are populist environmental policies which do not seek to balance the local, state and national economic consequences”

Keith Greenham AM 2008

And by 2015 “you had to be in the black (cashed up) to be green”.

“For Rural Victorian communities and government agencies dependent on the fortunes of agriculture in an urban dominated society, the locked in mix of three and four yearly democratic elections, competing Government Strategies, Triple Bottom Line and Business Case investment tests, fixed term Chief Executive Officer and senior management contracts, employee benefit Industrial Awards and three year Enterprise Bargaining Agreements, untested Memorandum & Deeds of Agreement and the uncertain impact of drought, export industry performance and ten year economic boom bust cycles are an enormous challenge.”

Keith Greenham AM 2015

Reflections on a Lifetime of Voluntary Service.

Thanks

I am thank-full for:

- My parents moving to Swan Hill on their six year old (me) being called a “blockhead” by the Goschen school teacher,
- my Swan Hill State Primary and High School education,
- my time with classical elocution (speech) and music teachers.
- my Christian upbringing and influence on my life,
- my school holiday time at the Swan Hill Stores in the grocery department,
- 4 year war time teenage ‘in service’ training in the Melbourne Victorian Head Office of Shell a multi-national oil company in the Mail and Staff Pay & Records (Human Services) Departments,
- RMIT night school education in basic accountancy,
- on becoming a farmer the rains which drenched the Mallee wheat lands in the late 1940’s breaking a long drought leading to freedom from crippling debt,
- my mentor parents & peers and Agricultural Professor Sir Samuel Wadham’s advice “avoid doomsday pessimism and cockeyed optimism, be realistic”,
- the opportunities for voluntary community service provided by my peers,
- the support of my wives, Nancy (1953-1982) and Doreen (1987 -) and our families, and,
- the support and encouragement of the media, *The Guardian newspaper, ABC & 3SH radio and television stations.*

Pental Island & Other Floodplain Development

I am proud of my involvement in the development of Pental Island. Gaining freehold land title 1964 and over time freeing landholders of the onerous flood protection task opened the gates to private and public investment, with new houses replacing the cottages of Bendigo goldfields origin, newly aligned bitumen roads (Fish Point section 2016), two new Little Murray River two lane concrete bridges (Swan Hill 1960’s Fish Point 1970’s), three phase electricity, white ant resistant underground telephone cables, RSD mail service, school bus, raised bitumen surfaced Loddon Floodway causeway road, laser irrigation land forming, drainage and limited subdivision into hobby farms to better balance the Islands economy. The development benefited Swan Hill economically and enabled other public authorities to access the Murray and Little Murray Rivers in the provision of water to other irrigation areas and a large stock and domestic area of the Mallee.

However by the end of this decade, 2010, of drought, irrigation water rationing, tradability of water entitlement out of the district and purchase by the Federal Government for environmental use meant that Pental Island along with other low economic value pasture based floodplain irrigation areas surrounding Swan Hill and in the newly created Victoria Murray Plains Electorate were in serious economic decline. With the capitalised value of high security water reaching \$2,500 m/l the incentive to shut down farm operations was and continues, despite its value falling in 2014 to as low as \$1,450 m/l, then back to \$3,300 in 2016 to be great. The end result is we have surrounding Swan Hill hundreds of largely unproductive ‘Life Style’ properties.

The emergence of superannuation funds and Government as buyers of large tracts of floodplain irrigation land and water with reconfiguration of irrigation systems aiming to reduce water loss through seepage and evaporation gives a glimmer of hope for the future.

However water ownership not linked to land has led to 7% returns for speculators including superannuation funds. The 2011 Benjeroop flooding first stage outcome has seen almost 1,000 hectares floodplain former irrigation land purchased by Government sold in one lot to a Swan Hill enterprise reliant on annual water purchase from willing sellers.

*Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -*

Community Development

I am equally proud of my contribution to community development despite the fact that many organisations I served faced with increasing costs related to increasing standards of living and continuing economic boom and bust cycles have had to face up to an evolutionary process based on 'get big or get out' or 'privatisation'.

Local emergency services, Fire Brigade and State Emergency Service, have evolved into strong organisations but are becoming hamstrung by regulations. In 2014 the services are to be merged.

Local pioneering River Improvement and Waterway Management organisations suffered the 'get out' fate, hamstrung by environmental and heritage demands. In 2014 we are considering revised strategies.

Local Government got bigger, more efficient, more regulatory and over time more whole of municipality service inclusive especially in rural municipalities as main town urban voters who dominate the electoral system have come to recognise their dependence on rural industries. However the economic cycle has costs out of control so the 'get bigger' scenario is again on the cards. 2014 once again we are considering revised strategies.

Local Government Land Use Planning Scheme with State & Tribunal decisions have become the main cause of elected Councillor instability while industrial relations (organisation restructure & enterprise bargaining) are the likely cause of Chief Executive Officer instability with Swan Hill having 7 in 21 years. 2016 rate capping is a new discipline.

Pioneering Local Township Community Development Organisations are evolving into strong advocates to counter the dominant main town urban vote.

Local Social Justice, housing & disability employment government funded services, suffered the 'get out' fate and seem to have been privatised.

Our local irrigation research farm having achieved its aims has disappeared along with our dairy farmer Agro-Political Branch (UDV) as the local industry declined under Water Trading and the Murray Darling Basin Plan and 'get big or get out' scenarios.

Our local political National Party Branch hopefully will become stronger as we face the challenges of electoral redistribution 'get bigger' caused by country Victorian stagnating population growth. Our Victoria Swan Hill Electoral District has become Murray Plains Electoral District centred on Echuca stretching along the Murray R. from Nyah to Kyabram. Metropolitan voters must be made acutely aware of their reliance on Australia's rural economy.

Our Local Ratepayer Association and Independent Retire Association continue to serve the community.

Our Churches continue to provide for our spiritual needs and provide the music which I was so much involved in during my life.

While the many benefit Lodges which existed in the early 1900's have disappeared the Masonic Freemasons Lodge continues its role of shaping the lives of men.

For Victoria 2015 is the dawn of a new era as the Labour Government takes power for the next four years. We can only hope that they govern wisely avoiding the mistakes of the past in the interests of all Victorians.

Food security and National external balance of payments security are critical issues for all Australians whether metropolitan or country based.

Keith A Greenham AM

15A Everingham Street SWAN HILL VIC 3585

Tel: 5032 1057 Email: greek@iinet.net.au February 2017

Memorable Quotes

“As bubs we got into trouble for holding hands”

1903 Source: Freda Smith (Coburn) remembering school days at Goschen with Bert (Snowy) Greenham.

“Hasn’t that brat arrived yet!”

1925 Source: My father Bert (Snowy) anxiously waiting for the return of his future bride Lillian Thompson from a New Zealand midwife nursing task.

“You blockhead”

*1933 Source: My first school teacher at Goschen.
Parents reaction we left the Goschen Mallee farm to live in Swan Hill*

“I do wish these little boys would wear underpants.”

1940’s Source: Lady in Town Hall front row watching physical education display.

“I’ll put you down for twenty Madam.”

1940’s Source: Wartime housing assessor confronting my mother placing refugees from Melbourne in Swan Hill homes in the event of the WW2 conflict reaching Australia’s southern shores.

“He’s a fiend!”

1947 Source: Melbourne teenage schoolies party, girl doing up blouse buttons on returning from time out in the garden,

“Bear one anothers’ burdens”

1953 Source: The Holy Bible Gal. VI 2 The Rev. Beecher on our marriage.

“The Premier (Sir Henry Bolte) will only read one page letters of one line sentences.”

“The more a public servant knows about a problem the less he or she is likely to solve it.”

“It is better that I walk out of a community meeting rather than confront and embarrass a public servant before the people.”

“I was pulled over for speeding on a country road, the officer at the end of his shift had not reached his quota, we made a deal, country police residences getting fly wire doors and windows to keep the flies & mosquitoes out.”

1960’s.Source: Sir Percy BYRNES KBE MLC Northwest Province as The Victorian Minister for Public Works advising on the realities of politics.

“Parliament rises tomorrow the dust will settle”

1960’s Source: A Victorian senior public servant soothing the feathers of a colleague.

*Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -*

Memorable Quote's (Ctd)

"Try again"

1960's Source: A tribute to Sir Ronald EAST KBE, Chairman SR&WSC at his retirement function by those he challenged to 'try again' in preparing them as Civil Engineers for future Water Industry leadership; and,

"Give the Trust what it wants"

1960's Source: Ronald EAST Ch. SR&WSC Approving Pental Island Interstate Levee Agreement Flood Mitigation Scheme having thought about a problem and practicing what he preached 'try again'.

"Avoid doomsday pessimism and cockeyed optimism, be realistic."

1960's Source: Professor Sir Samuel WADHAM KBE our Agricultural Mentor on dealing with the highs and lows of life on the farm.

"The Ratepayers Association will be able to use me as a consultant."

1990's Source: Swan Hill Local Government CEO on his retirement.

"Put your coats and ties on boys in readiness for *The Guardian* photo shoot."

1990's Source: Local Government Municipal Clerk to his Councillors.

"To capitalise on our potential Australian export industries will need to keep improving their international competitiveness. Change needs to be continuous because competitiveness is a race without a finish."

1990's, Source: ACIL Consultant commenting on the future of the dairy industry.

"You haven't lived till you have stood on the foredeck of a fishing boat under a shower of arrows."

Source: 1990's Doreen's son Rodger Schifferle as a fish buyer moving from village to village on PNG's Fly River.

"I'll get the local pugilist to bash you up"

Source: 1990's An irate ratepayer to Local Government Councillor (me).

"Who's that silly old bugger"

Source: 2011, A lady's remark on hearing Keith Greenham AM (me) (83 YO) speak to Town Hall and 3SH Radio flood response audience of thousands.

"Under after surgery medication I attempted to write a judgement. I couldn't believe the rubbish I wrote and re-wrote it."

2000's Source: former Judge Victorian Industrial Relations Commission and Victorian State President Association of Independent Retirees.

Memorable Quotes (Ctd)

“One can only complain about things in this country if you are prepared to stick the stamps and stuff the envelopes to bring about change.

Whingeing on the sidelines is not an option.”

*2008 Source: Leonie Therese CHRISTOPHERSON AM, BA; Who’s Who in Victoria
2008*

**“Looking into the future the greatest challenge rural Victoria faces
are populist environmental policies which do not seek to balance the local,
state and national economic and social consequences.”**

**“Our Swan Hill motto ‘Building our future together’, calls for indigenous, old and
new Australian volunteers to continue to shoulder the community progress wheel
with wisdom, patience and good humour. It is not easy nor is it instantly rewarding
but take heart, your efforts are needed and will not go unrewarded.”**

2008 Source: Keith Allingham Greenham AM Biography Who’s Who in Victoria 2008

Medicals

“Here’s a lovely glass of orange juice”

*1935 Source: Nurse encouraging child (me) to drink orange juice laced with
castor oil.*

“Get a bottle of Airwick Madam”

*Source: 1950’s Surgeon’s response to my mother’s complaints
at the smell of healing compound fracture of her brothers arm.*

“He’s a bit grumpy today don’t take any notice of him.”

*Source: 1970’s Nurse as surgeon prepared a short wooden broom handle wrapped in
paper towelling to break the adhesions following haemorectomy (removal of piles).*

“Get your dirty hands out of there”

*Source: 1970’s Surgeon to his male assistant during operation under spinal epidural
anaesthetic. His assistant looked over the green sheet barrier and winked.*

“Don’t take any notice of him, he’s a farmer, he can stand pain.”

Source: 1970’s Surgeon to recovery nurses.

“Do’s this wee thing still work”

*Source: 2010’s Female Urologist gazing down on the 80 Y O wee thing following
flexible bladder scoping.*

“You are a brave man”

*Source: 2010’s Surgeons Assistant following 15 injections/needles of local anaesthetic
in preparation for facial melanoma surgery.*

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*August 1926 - Swan Hill
From The Guardian and Lake Boga Advocate*

Some advertisements from the post WW1 economic boom times before I was born.

**Uncle Alan Dunoon
was a Swan Hill
motor industry
pioneer.
I bought my first car
Morris minor 8HP
4 cyl utility,
an Austin A40 utility
and Austin A90 car
from him.**

CHRYSLER

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FEATURES

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EASY TERMS. INVESTIGATE AS YOU PLEASE PLAN

McDonald's Famous Super Diesel Engines

No Lamp — No Magneto — No Carburettor

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Easy Terms — Good Service

A. G. DUNOON, Agent

C/o Amott's Motor Accessories 32 & 34 Campbell Street, Swan Hill.

H. KENNEDY

Practical Watchmaker, Jeweller and Optician


CAMPBELL STREET, SWAN HILL

£298 AND £298

BRITISH

The Morris - Cowley ROADSTER

R. DAVEY,
Agent, Lake Boga



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Uncle Jim Thompson a mallee farmer along the Lalbert Road had one of these.

**Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -**

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or Send for Literature**

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SECONDHAND SPECIALS

1926 INDIAN SCOUT AND SIDE CAR, PERFECT ORDER.
1924 DOUGLAS 21, GOOD ORDER.
1924 HARLEY, DO ONE ONLY 3000 MILES.
1920 SCOUT, CHEAP.
1924 EXCELSIOR AND SIDE CAR.

GA ADVOCATE.

DAY, AUGUST 12 1926

**You Know a
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Any Man with even a Limited Car Experience has confidence in and praise for the **DODGE CAR**. So many have been sold, tried, tested and approved in all possible circumstances that it seems obvious that if this Car was faulty or deficient that the whole world must know. Still, for 12 years, and more so now than before, big firms, Government departments, mailmen, in fact the most experienced judges everywhere are spending their money on **DODGES**.

This Car Stands Alone

In that it relies on its reputation year in and year out, and not on the argument that the new models do not incorporate the faults of old models. **DODGE CARS** have never yet changed their design.

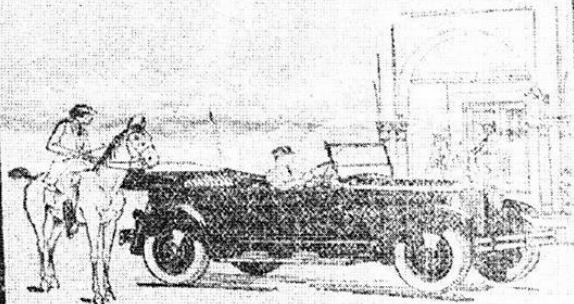
Why take a Risk

Why experiment with other and less reputable makes; perhaps they are as good; on the other hand, you may have to buy your experience. Anyhow, why take a risk when you know a **DODGE** is so good.

**Roadster
£320**

**Tourer
£325**

MAGNETO £10 EXTRA



LOCAL AGENTS

**DOWLING'S
Motor Service**


IN THE CENTRE OF SWAN HILL

**Fred Dowling (Greenham cousin) also a Swan Hill motor industry pioneer.
Dad bought a 1926 Dodge 6, post WW2 Vauxhaul Luton and Holden cars from him.
1926 - Horse or the luxury of a car? That is the question!**

**Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -**

Or maybe an Ajax or Nash 6

"The Better Car IS Built"





For every standard of PRICE and QUALITY comparison
NASH BUILT CARS have always led the way.

Their excellence is a natural result through the use of the
most modern and economical manufacturing methods, supplemented
by the fact that they are the only cars that are possible when practically all of each
car is made in the great Nash-Ajax factories.

Buyers want QUALITY and VALUE, and the number of
orders streaming in for Nash and Ajax shows they know where
to get what they want.

**AJAX SIX
NASH SPECIAL SIX
NASH ADVANCED SIX**

On all models, at no extra cost, are 4 wheel brakes, full balloon
tyres, and five disc wheels.

A demonstration will prove instructive and profitable to you.
Literature on request Write, phone or call.

JOHN GRAY AND SON
SWAN HILL
NASH and AJAX Distributors

Farmers !

Think this over, then Ring 98,
write Box 72 or call at the
Ford Service Station, Swan
Hill, for more particulars.

**Fordson Tractors are an Invest-
ment of the A1 Class**

They do not eat as horses when not working
They cut your labour bill in half
They occupy only the ground on which they
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PRICE £180

CHAFF
(Now 2/6 per ton.)
BAGS BOUGHT
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Phone 182. J. W. WHITNEY.

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CHINESE HERBALIST.

A. LAM SUN, is the only nephew of
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list, Bendigo, and successor to his prac-
tice. Address: 381 McCrae Street,
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Tel. 756. At Home Daily.

A. LAM SUN will visit the Com-
mercial Hotel, Kerang, every fourth
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NEXT VISIT: Friday, 21st May, and
every four weeks.

**MESSRS. SMALLEY, BALMER,
DAVIES and COOK** notify that they
have acquired the Practice recently car-
ried on by the late Mr. J. R. Town. The
Practice will for the present be conduct-
ed in the name of J. R. Town and Co.
in the same offices and with the same
staff under the supervision of Mr.
Davies.

J. R. TOWN and Co.,
Solicitors, Swan Hill,
24th November, 1924.

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J. W. FULFORD'S NEW HOME
IN CURLEWIS STREET
(Opposite Goods Shen)

When they have any **CARRYING
WORK** to be done

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Depot for Shell Products.
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STEAM LAUNDRY**

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT.

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LIVERED
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Repair work of all kinds. Only best
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TOBACCO, FANCY GOOD STORE
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Or a Fordson Tractor. Note the benefits!
"They do not eat as horses when not working.
They cut your labour bill in half.
They occupy only the ground on which they stand."

*Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -*

Or a 1925 Studebaker

and

an alarm clock

“He that Riseth Late Must Trot all Day”

at H. Kennedy’s a business which still exists in 2016.

During WW2 you had to start work before 6AM to get a permit to buy one.

The Extras of Yesterday

are Standard Equipment today on the 1925 —

Studebaker

NEVER have cars so completely equipped been offered to the motoring world—BALLOON TYRES, SUN VISOR, GLASS-COVERED INSTRUMENT CASE (with clock and petrol gauge), STOP LIGHT, NEW BALL ACCELERATOR are regular equipments on the new models. Prices from **£420**

Local Agents
O'Connor, Egan & Smyth
STOCK AND STATION AGENTS, SWAN HILL
Terms Arranged if Required



One piece adjustable wind screen, glass, automatic, wind screen, electric, of glass, ventilation, comes in various driving comfort.

Clock, speedometer, petrol and power and petrol gauges are grouped under glass on silver plate wall.

Big follow-up Ballions, with full wire and woven wheel, type meeting specially designed to use with ballions.

CHRYSLER

The Modern Car

Reduced Prices Liberal Terms arranged

4-Cylinder £335 : : 6-Cylinder £465

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Indefatigable MOTORCYCLES

PIPES AND POUCHES
OF THE BEST ALWAYS ON HAND.

RAZORS AND POCKET KNIVES,
Rogers' well-known make.

ALL SCHOOL REQUISITES.
MEMO AND ACCOUNT BOOKS
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YOUR PATRONAGE IS SOLICITED

**“He that Riseth
Late Must Trot
All Day—**



PRICES
8/6 to 20/

And Shall Scarce Overtake His
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Therefore avoid rising and running late by getting A TRUST-WORTHY ALARM CLOCK. We have the up-to-date designs and well regulated prices that save you Time and Money.

H. KENNEDY

Practical Watchmaker, Jeweller
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£298 AND BRITISH £298

The Morris - Cowley ROADSTER

R. DAVEY,

Agent, Lake Boga

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NATURALLY it remained for the International Harvester Company, with long time tractor and farm machine experience and great resources, to bring out the one great epoch-making farm power value. The McCormick-Deering 15-30 stands in a field of its own—the logical choice for the man who wants the best in modern-day farm power.

The McCormick-Deering 15-30 is equipped with ball and roller bearings at 29 points. These dust-proof, quiet-running bearings relieve the tractor of all excess friction—at drawbar or belt work the power of the 4-cylinder, valve-in-head, kerosene motor is delivered without strain or drag.

In fact, every unit of the new McCormick-Deering 15-30 has been signed for long life, economy, full power, and operating comfort.

The McCormick-Deering 15-30, like all IHC tractors, is a farm power plant. It is equipped with belt pulley, large wide mudguards, throttle governor, adjustable removable angle logs.

You will want to know about this model on which it can be purchased. Call and we can tell you all about it.

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W. MOORE
Hairdresser News Agent Tobacconist

ENJOY YOUR SMOKE! Fill up with our Special Mixture, and smoke the Pipe of Peace. If your taste turns to Cigars or Cigarettes, we have the goods, and can satisfy the most fastidious.

Pipes! Our Perfect Pipes please our patrons. We stock L. and Co., J.D., Peterson's, F.L.C., and other well-known brands. Wallets, Purses, shoes, Mirrors, Knives, Safety Razors, Shaving Sets, Fountain Pens, Watchcases, Perfumes, Soaps, Razors and numerous other articles.

Parlor Talk! Now, a sharp talk on a cutting subject. Our Razors ensure a perfect Shave, and our Hairtrimming is above reproach. Clients can rely upon receiving the best attention, coupled with civility from the "Two Experts."

ELECTRIC MASSAGING and SHAMPOOING executed correctly

Razors Set, NOT SETTLED, and Re-handled.

Or a New Tractor along with a haircut, newspaper and a smoke.

Dad had one of these but did not smoke.

<

The last time I saw it, it was in a thousand pieces under a Pental Island gum tree.

BETTER LIGHT

At Less Expense From Kerosene



THIS wonderful new incandescent mantle lamp gives more than ten times as much light as the common kerosene lamp. At the same time it burns less than half as much oil as the old style open flame, centre draught lamps. Beats electric, benzine or acetylene. The new

Aladdin Hanging Lamp

the most reliable incandescent mantle oil lamp ever made. For evening reading, writing or sewing there is no light than can compare with the powerful, steady, white light of the Aladdin. Safe, durable, economical, no noise, no odor. You can't appreciate the great difference between the light of this lamp and the common kerosene lamp until you see it.

LET US DEMONSTRATE IT TO YOU.

AWARDED GOLD MEDAL at Panama Pacific International Exposition as best kerosene Lamp. In competition with the world's best. Gov't Bureau of Standards and 35 leading Universities have tested and approved of the Aladdin.

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(also furnished in
portable table
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Crocery and Glassware

From **SWAN HILL'S SPECIALTY
HARDWARE STORE**

Frazer & Horn

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CAMPBELL ST.

SWAN HILL

**BUILDERS, IRONMONGERS
TIMBER MERCHANTS**

CONSULT US REGARDING YOUR IDEAL HOME

Designs and Estimates Submitted
Mail Orders Promptly Despatched

Nance and I started out married life in 1953 without electricity and an Aladdin hanging lamp inherited from the Greenham Goschen farm.

Frazer & Horn built our 2 bedroom bungalow extension in the 1950's and our 6 unit walk through dairy milking shed in the 1960's.

*Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -*

*Keith Allingham Greenham AM - Life Story
Goschen 1927 - 1933*

Born 27 August 1927– first born of Clarence Albert (Bert) and Lillian Grace Greenham (Thompson) of “Tillara” Goschen - a premature baby following my mother’s emergency operation for appendicitis. October 1929 joined by little sister Dorothy.

Schooling commenced at Goschen Township in the weatherboard Mechanics Institute Community Hall facing the Donald Road which was later burned down and replaced accessed from the Ultima Rd. All that remained a few years ago was the rotting fence netting, broken crockery and a dimple in the landscape where the long drop toilet stood. Few memories of these school days remain however I was the littlest of the up on the hall stage ‘ten little nigger boys’ with blackened face and hands through the white sheet at the school concert and the discovery of a brown snake with many babies in the school yard was a major event. Church was the Methodist around the corner of Donald and Ultima Road a limestone building. All that remains is the limestone foundation.

Goschen was once a thriving township with a blacksmith, wine shanty, football team, rifle shooting club & range and fire brigade. The railway line through Ultima probably sealed its fate. In 2016 it is a bushland reserve with unused hall and tennis courts adjacent to the regional Television tower.

Our home and farm outbuildings developed by pioneering grand-father Peter Greenham & grand-mother Sarah (Stevens) and their 5 children were east of Donald Road, 5 kms north of Goschen and north of Greenham Road. All that remains are the pepper trees, sugar gums and metal bits and pieces to spike costly tractor tyres. The 1,500 acre property was the northern part of grand-father Peter’s 1920’s 3200 acre farm enterprise. The southern block owned by Uncle Ted Greenham.

The Greenham homestead complex comprised a typical early mallee dry land wheat growing homestead extended from a pioneer 24 foot x 12 foot drop log two room cottage and back veranda by the addition of verandas & bedrooms and the centre of activity in the outbuildings was the working draft horse stables, loose box for gig horse, chaff house, chaff cutter and hay stacks. A cocky-chaff/wagon shed protected horse feed collected from the field following the grain harvesting process and a mouse proof barn protected bagged seed wheat and oats. The blacksmith ‘shop’ as it was known produced the iron work necessary for horse teams, the sheep yards handled the livestock and shearing shed doubled as a machinery shelter. The car shed, housing the 1926 Dodge, had a ceiling of washed jute fertilizer bags to protect it from bird droppings. The cow yard with milking bail was made of mallee stumps. A one room weatherboard working man’s hut with fireplace was located some distance from the homestead. Grandfather Peter’s policy of giving away unused machinery resulted in no old machinery being hoarded among the remaining mallee trees.

The 1898 6th Swan Hill A & P Society Show awarded Grandfather Peter Greenham with the second prize for the Best Kept Mallee Farm.

In the early days water was carted by horse teams from a dam with wooden stage located hand pump at the corner of Donald and Back Boga Roads. This dam was filled by steam driven pump and open channel from the Little Murray River. By the time I arrived a house dam and horse & stock dam, serviced the complex filled by the Waranga Basin Stock & Domestic pump and open channel gravity system which had evolved from the pioneering Long Lake steam driven pump and 18 inch spiral riveted steel pipeline to an earthen reservoir on the Greenham high land over the road from the present Goschen stock and domestic pipeline water tower and from there by open channel to 600 mallee block earthen dams. From 2006 the property has been serviced by pipeline to polyester tanks from the Murray River on Pental Island when channels and dams were replaced.

A second working horse stable complex and hut was located on the “Aintree” block closer to Swan Hill the site of an earlier (Wilkins) and the present homestead. Remnants of the earlier “Aintree” homestead complex included that of the thatched roof horse stables, a half underground household cellar hole in the ground used as a rubbish dump in which a babies bottle was found and a prolific fig tree located on the then water storage dam bank.

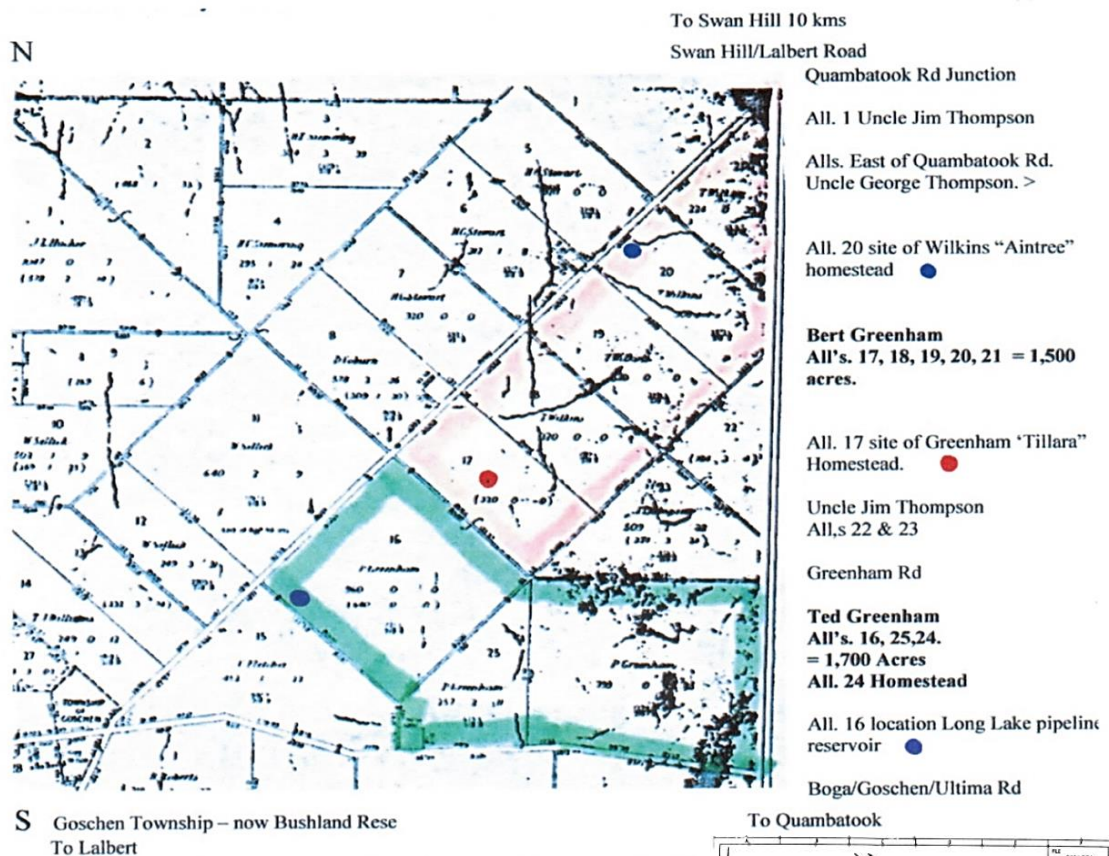
Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

Memories of the “Tillara” homestead include the wash basin and rough cake of soap at the rainwater tank, coolgardie evaporative water based safe for cooling food, kerosene lights, the bath tub in front of the kitchen wood fire stove, the mouse plague with 4 gallon kerosene tins sunk in the earthen veranda floors part filled with water for them to tumble into and drown, shot gun cartridges eaten away by the mice leaving the metal cap and the big ‘bang’ on putting one in the gun and pulling the trigger copying dad at the Goschen Rifle Brigade range. My imaginary child-hood workman ‘Jack’ lived under a pepper tree along the homestead track.

To Dads dismay the real workman filled the household biscuit tins rather than carry out his outside tasks while we holidayed down south. The eyes of the border leister rams in the house paddock sparkled in the lights of the Dodge 6 car. It was a red letter day when Swan Hill’s Drummond Bros. delivered our prefabricated two seat ‘long drop’ toilet outhouse, one bench for the big people another lower one for us littlies set over a one metre deep hole in the ground.

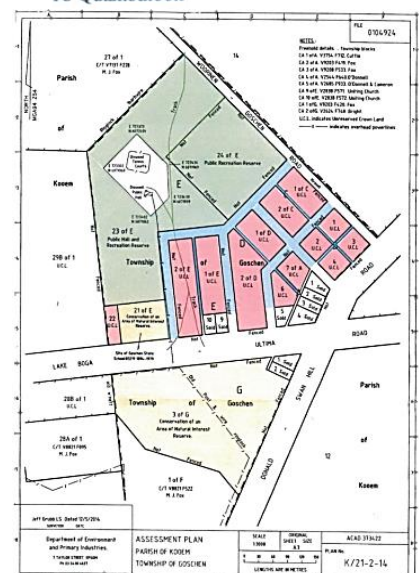
Life on the heavy red soil mallee farm came to an end in 1933 with the economic depression, drought, daily grind of the 5 km horse and gig trip to the Goschen school and the final straw for my mother, teacher declaring me a “blockhead”

Location
of
“Tillara”
&
Goschen
Township

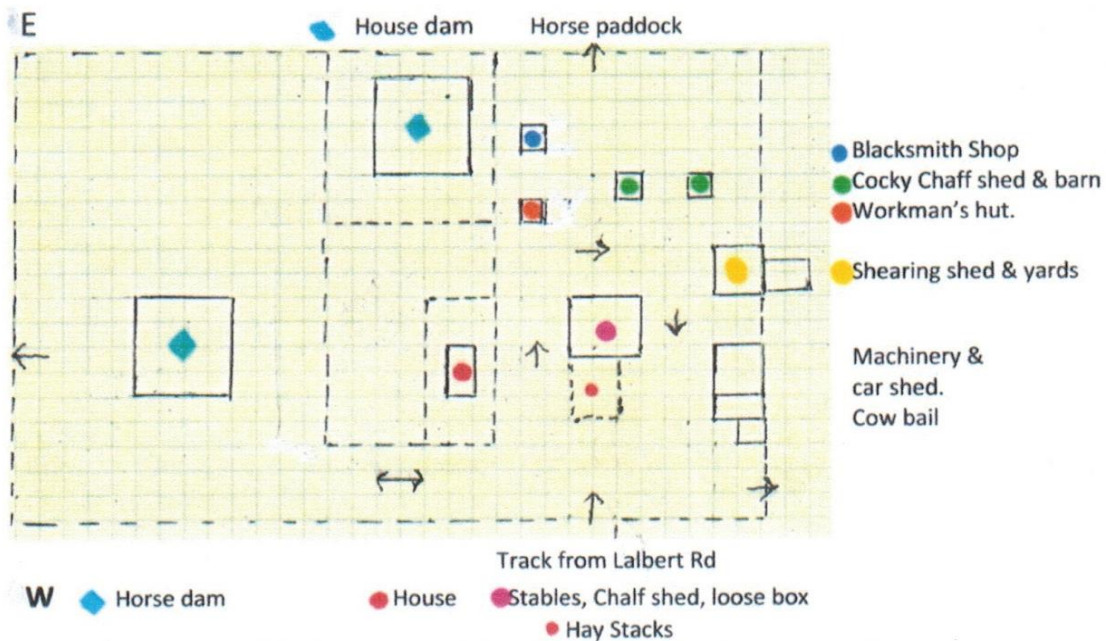


**2015 – Swan Hill Rural City Council - Reproduction of 1900's
Goschen Township subdivision to enable assessment and
formal creation of a Bushland Reserve**

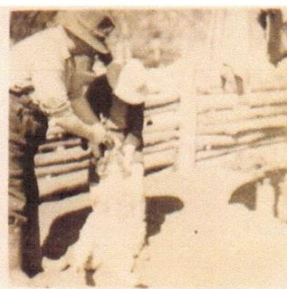
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*Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -*



**1940's Goschen "Tillara" homestead Allotment 17 complex
set in Mallee bushland**



From top left; a Mallee horse dam, Keith at house dam, Keith & Dorothy, Baby Keith, homestead & orchard, the team at chaff cutter & haystack, Dad, Keith & Peter at sheep yards.

*Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -*

Swan Hill 1933 - 1943

On my Goschen schoolteacher declaring me a 'blockhead' we moved to Swan Hill firstly living with Grandpa & Grandma Peter & Sarah Greenham (Stevens) on the NW corner of Everingham & Gray Streets, later rented NW corner Splatt & Pritchard Streets finally settling in 1934 on the SW corner of Splatt & Wood Streets, then 104 now 88 Splatt St., a half acre (2000 sm) block with a 7 roomed homestead style dwelling with surrounding veranda part used as sleep outs, detached housemaid quarters, orchard, clay tennis court, and double garage. The home all up under the roof was about 33 squares and cost 1,625 pounds (\$3,250). It was tenanted by Ron Millar and his family. The small room with fireplace in the SW corner was the home office of Ron Millar & Co Stock & Station Agents. These three houses in central Swan Hill are still in existence in 2016.

Photos 1940's - Kodak Baby Brownie cost 6 shillings



Peter on trike

Greenhams - Splatt St Swan Hill 1930's

Behind the house single room maids quarters & tennis court

Behind the garage were the chook shed and my pigeon loft, wood heap and horse tethering area under the shade of the neighbours mulberry tree. All were behind south of the tennis court.

So life in Swan Hill settled down – electricity, a second hand electric refrigerator with a primitive unsealed unit which leaked its gas, a radio, also second hand, kids to play with in the sandy streets, trimming the hedges which protected the household from dust from unmade streets, milk, meat, groceries and vegetables ordered at and delivered to the back door, front door salesmen selling everything else, medical doctor coming on request along with piano tuner and teacher for lessons on the second hand piano. Taking meals to out of work victims of the economic depression wielding the axe down at the wood heap was a small boys task, responding to others needing help dad drove a sick child to the Melbourne Children's Hospital through the night in our 1926 Dodge 6, and as things got worse sharing the large house with others for ten shillings (\$1) a week.

Linked to the new town sewage system with an outdoor toilet with overhead water flushing system we made toilet paper squares out of newspapers strung on string and "held our noses and pulled the chain" and with our mates explored the "pot & drive" trenches as the scheme expanded. Sleeping on the verandas meant waking up in a pool of mud when dust storms raged on hot summer nights. The house was not designed for family living so the first change was removal of an internal wall incorporating the kitchen 'walk in pantry' into the dining room doing away with the dining room 'hole in the wall' servery used in the days of servants.

Primary School

School started at Swan Hill State Primary School in Splatt St., then with 6 or so boys among all the girls at Donnington Girls Grammar School till about 8 years old then back to the Swan Hill State School, now McKillop College. Junior Grades were in an old wooden building adjacent to St Mary's Catholic School with seniors in the brick building. As we boys lined up for our medical check the size of the needle and what it was used for ("they stick it up your dick") was passed down the line up waiting for the School Doctor causing unnecessary anxiety.

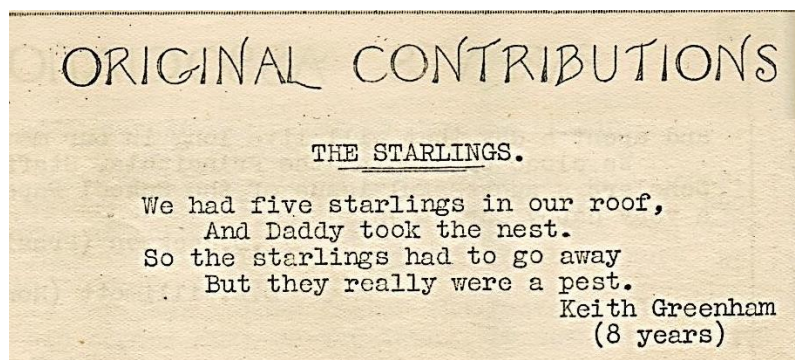
Being the 6th grade bell ringer was a great thrill. Unknown at the time my future wife Nancy was among the kids in my year as was Bill Richards who served on the Swan Hill City Council and as an Olympic Games diving judge and was honoured with the MBE, and Ron Jilbert BEM & Albert Jordan NM who were honoured for a lifetime of volunteer service to the Swan Hill Fire Brigade.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

In Grade 6 it was one cut with the strap for each spelling error with Alf taking the master behind the piano jobbing him and never returning to school. Later an irate parent, a policeman, jobbed the master and he never returned to school. We carried a crust of bread in our pockets to be used as a rubber for last minute lead pencil corrections and hopefully avoiding the punishment. 2016 the senior school block 6th Grade room is McKillop College Pastoral Care Centre and Chapel.



Surviving evidence of primary schooling in Swan Hill is this 1934 State School Grade 1 photo which includes future wife Nancy Dowling (2nd row 3rd from left) and myself (back row tallest centre, dark jacket) and below, my first recorded writing in “The Chrysalis” Donnington Girls Grammar School 1935 magazine. The background to this effort was a fig tree in the Splatt/Wood St back yard which attracted starlings to its fruit.



Source: The Chrysalis – Donnington Girls Grammar School

My second ‘on stage’ appearance after the Goschen littlest, nigger boy effort was at the Donnington Girls Grammar School RSL Memorial Hall Speech Night where I disgraced myself doing what little boys in the front row do, wipe their nose on a shirt sleeve.

Other Childhood Activities

Coming from a tea-total (no alcohol) Methodist/Baptist background I found myself a member of the Junior Tent of the Rechabite Lodge (a temperance/benefit lodge) who met in the brand new Swan Hill Town Hall upstairs Lodge Room. The attraction was target shooting with Daisy Air Guns firing pellets and darts, and carpet bowls. In the 1940’s in Melbourne I attended a meeting in Middle Brighton where members were coming from six o’clock pub closing to pay their dues.

As Cubs and Boy Scouts we met in a disused earthen floored shed on the north side of Burke Street between Splatt & Berveridge Sts. then to Curlew St opposite the railway station.

Swimming was in the then murky unfiltered Swan Hill baths in Monash Drive, Murray River at Luke’s, Little Murray River at Horseshoe Bend (Pioneer Settlement Museum Pental Island sandbar) and the old wooden Pental Island Bridge where we dived for mussels and on one occasion got caught by the local Member of Parliament and his wife sunning our bare backsides on the outrigger piles supporting the then wooden single lane bridge.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

Street games included marbles in the sand under the street lights and less friendly 'knock knocks' with a string to fly wire front doors from behind a hedge bringing people to their door and street gang stone fights led by characters with nick names like "Dookie" and "Pinga" where the winner won the girl. Even less friendly was teenage boy gang home theft. Grandfather Peter was a victim they found an unregistered pistol in a kitchen draw. When caught they got off with a caution and Grandfather fined 4 pounds and pistol confiscated. A glow in the southern sky found us rushing out to Splatt Street to see in the distance the wooden racecourse grandstand in flames.

Party games included "postman knocks" where the reluctant teenage boy had to kiss a girl.

We watched the building of the Splatt St concrete water tower from our home over the road and when built finding the door open we street kids climbed the 5 ladders to the top with some taking a dip in the town water supply. Finally the police arrived with their little black book taking names as a deterrent. Sister Dorothy was unlucky to be at the tower that day. The tower water was not filtered and mud was periodically flushed out to the formed earth gutters of Splatt St. finding its way to Gray St. and Coronation Ave. lowlands and in later years the historic Wood Street wooden spiral steel rod encased household water main pipe was replaced.

November 5th Guy Fox bonfire night was a community event of these times. Our local bonfire patch was vacant blocks of land next door to the water tower on the corner of Wood & Beveridge Streets. All the winter tree pruning's and burnable material was collected in a great heap and pocket money bought fire crackers and sky rockets and a great night was had. Local bonfires in time gave way to a greater community event on the then unoccupied future 'Hospital Block' bounded by McRae, Chisholm, McCallum & Gummow Streets.

A feature of these times was the way school kids organised their own games football and cricket matches picking teams and umpires from those who appeared at the pitch on the day. Our trusty steeds, push bikes, got bogged in the sand at St Mary's Catholic Church corner and carried us as far away as the clay pans of the NSW Murray Downs stock route adjacent to Swan Hill's airstrip and Uncle Alan Dunoon's aeroplane hanger (shed) where the game was cutting off or bringing the opponent down push bike and all.

Pigeons were popular with our mates, we had lofts where we bred pigeons of all varieties, tumblers, blue bards, white knights and homing and deliberately set out to trap each other's birds. During war time food rationing we ate them and every boy had to have a dugout air raid shelter topped with galvanised iron soil covered roof and hole in the wall for a candle for lighting.

Another feature was the Radio 3SH young Merrymakers Club where we learned how radio stations worked. I noted that a royalty of 3 pence/cents a 3 minute music record played had to be paid. No wonder the need for advertising revenue.

Then there was the Regent Picture Theatre (Town Hall) and the Saturday afternoon matinee cowboy film and being dragged along to see "Damaged Goods" which aimed as we grew up to avoid the terrible sexual transmitted diseases of those times.

Dad bought an unpainted cottage in Burke St adjacent to Cohns Curlewis St. factory as an investment and I became the 10 shilling (\$1) a week rent collector (10% of basic wage) and during the drought of 1937/8 he leased 200 acres of irrigation land, on the corner of Werrill Street and the Murray Valley Highway bounded to the west by the irrigation main channel. It was used to keep the Goshen working horse teams alive and in fattening lambs. The leased property included the Werrill Street hill where the remnants of the historic Zacchariah Burton drop log homestead and bread making ovens still existed along with a red gum slab shed in which an elderly Chinese man lived.

Aboriginal remains in sitting positions were found on the drought ridden windswept crest of the hill east of the homestead remnants. On the day of Grandfather Peter's funeral I found myself droving lambs to the local butchers slaughter house west of the channel south of Werrill St. He had run out of lambs to slaughter before the next scheduled Swan Hill sheep sale.

The Goschen Mallee farm during these years was operated by resident share farmers. During a dry spring seasonal finish I recall counting fence posts to determine Dads share of the crop and fencing it off with mallee tree stakes and cyclone wire netting in readiness to turn the sheep in.

Family holidays included at boarding houses in Daylesford and Portland (Greenham ancestral territory) and during the Polio epidemic school closure in a caravan whose wooden spoked wheels collapsed at Glenthompson out of Hamilton where we were isolated in the backyard of a repair workshop living in the caravan perched on 44 gallon drums only being allowed out in the evening. Such was my nursing sister mothers fear of the disease.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

Pental Island

1939 Dad purchased the Murray River water edge CA7 380 acre Pental Island Agricultural College Council Trustees Leasehold irrigation property.

< N[^] House site remnants found near the western property boundary in northern Murray River bend.

Sadly the former owner while burning off was thrown from the Furphy horse drawn water cart breaking a leg and burned to death.

In 1939 the entrance to the property was in the NW via present day Kahn Lane. Dad changed it to the SW to give access to the home from Pental Island Road. Much time was spent on the farms via the push bike.

In 2016 the Pental Island property (now freehold) remains in family ownership as the Pental Island Caravan Park & Holiday Farm with continuing irrigation farm activity.

< To left: House, windmill, shearing shed stockyards & remnants of major historic Murray R irrigation pump site and of a sunken barge on NSW side of river in a sandbar– pictures below.

Crown Allotment 7 Parish of Pental Island.

Source: 1911 Draper contour survey.

1940's – Pental Island 4 room cottage & Murray River – Photos taken from river bank windmill.



Dad droving lambs to the stock yards and shed. Red gum slab shearing shed on Murray River bank.



Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

Recreation

Waterside picnics were at Lake Boga in the Murray Valley Highway present caravan park area.



Uncle Alan Dunoon's yacht on Lake Boga & at the then jetty at the present caravan park.
The black specs are from the heat affected negatives.

And, at Lake Tutchewop's then northern sandy beach off the Benjeroop Road.

Source: 1935 The Chrysalis - Donnington Girls Grammar School Magazine

Youthful Introduction to Politics

Politically my father Bert was a Country Party supporter, mother Lilian leaned towards the United Australia Party and local State School Mothers Club people who decided to challenge 1930's economic depression Country Party Victorian Premier Albert Dunstan on the issue of building a new Swan Hill State School on the existing Splat/McRae/High Street site. Dunstan depicted by *The Argus* cartoonist Armstrong as a head in sand ostrich kept it buried and in 2016 some of the brick buildings remain in use by McKillop College and are heritage listed.

In 1939 my father Bert (*pictured lower row right*) nominated for election to the newly formed Swan Hill Borough Council. He received 13 first preference votes and headed for the Pental Island farm to console him-self. On his return he found he had been elected to the 9th position on preferences. A gentleman's agreement that those elected to the last 3 positions would not be challenged at the ordinary council election 2 months later was not honoured a high profile candidate emerged and he was not re-elected. His comment after two council meetings, *"they didn't have any money anyway"*.



THE first Swan Hill Borough Council following the election in July, 1939. Rear, from left, Francis Browne, Duncan Douglas, Alfred Jager, Ernie Williams, Gerry Kurrie. Seated, Alan Garden, town clerk Frank Womersley, Mayor Ernie Gray, Leslie Cato and Bert Greenham.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

During the election I encountered jibes like *“Mr Mayor and all the little Mayors”* resulting from the change from traditional Shire President to Borough Mayor.

DISILLUSIONED

*When Swan Hill was rated a borough,
The ratepayers firmly believed:
That all would be daisy and thorough;
But oh what a jolt we received.*

*Our sewerage is really efficient;
The drainage is bad one concedes;
The water supply is sufficient;
To satisfy most of our needs.*

*The rosy tints proved most deceptive;
The pipe dream was faded away;
For service quite ineffective;
We pay and we pay and we pay.*

*The footpaths are rough and
distasteful;
All gutters are in a bad way;
For roads that are really disgraceful;
We pay and we pay and we pay.*

Source: The Guardian 1947 reprinted August 4 2014

Then in the early 1950's Uncle Bert Thompson, my mother's eldest brother an irrigation and wheat farmer of Kerang and Swan Hill who took advantage of the post war commodity boom to recover from the 1930's Great Depression was upset by Federal rural policies and challenged the sitting Country Party Federal Member for Mallee as an Independent. Needless to say he lost his deposit but had a lot of fun setting up his advertising campaign which included the use of picture theatre slides throughout the electorate. In Kerang due to his big money talk he was known as 'hundreds & thousands' and as rotary lawnmowers emerged to my amusement he dubbed them "helecoptical devices". One day he arrived at Splatt St in his brand new Jowart Javelyn motor car with a tractor tyre for repair on its roof declaring it got there "by a system of levers". He lived to 98 by which time his considerable voluntary contribution to the Kerang region was forgotten.

Memories of the 1930's Great Depression & recovery.

Thinking of the Great Depression years reminded of issues and stories heard over the years.

The unemployed gathered in Swan Hill for the start of the dried fruit harvest camping along the river seeking the help of the community.

. Our Wood St neighbour lady of the household was the volunteer St Mary's Catholic Church benevolent services provider so a constant stream of visitors passed our prosperous looking household with its double garage and tennis court looking for assistance.

A classic case was ***“my mates got a crook back, can you give us some methylated spirits lady?”*** followed up with ***“we would love some spare eggs”***. Anecdotal evidence suggests they made a potent brew of egg nog.

We were also the target of riverbank dwellers selling ***“fresh Murray Cod”***. My mother warned to make sure the gills were nice and pink.

Our Splatt St neighbour an elderly gentleman who we had employed as a hay stack builder cut a deep trench across his property to cut the roots of the huge mulberry tree growing in a nearby property allowing him to grow vegetables which he sold to fellow patrons of his favourite watering hole (hotel) supplementing his pension and enjoying his regular afternoon out with the boys.

A Campbell St business owner's wife was asked how they could afford the obvious luxuries of life? ***“Was not her problem just booked them up to the shop”***. To those of us with everything second hand it was a new twist.

My mother warned that when better times returned families we had given work to or helped through difficult depression times would turn against us. On return to Swan Hill in 1948 I encountered this.

Then there was the experience of a family who were forced to walk out of their mortgaged Sydney home, choosing a 60 acre Tyntynder Flats irrigation dairy farm to make a new start where they became community leaders. In those days butterfat was government subsidised to the tune of 6 pence a pound.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

And a similar story of a Melbourne family who moved to a Gippsland dairy farm where they could not afford rubber boots and worked in the muddy cow yard conditions in bare feet. Their home on the top of a hill escaped a bush fire as the flames parted and swept either side. They ultimately returned to Melbourne and their engineering business.

A Mallee farming family who fell on hard times though losses on the Wheat Futures Market survived the war years as shopkeepers and receiving a 50 pound (equal to 8 weeks wages) private loan took advantage of the post war commodity boom going on to be successful farmers.

Another Mallee farming family rejected by their bank found a backer through a private guarantor of a bank loan also went back to be successful farmers.

Attending a Tyntynder dairy farm clearing sale in the 1960's I learned that the property was still under 1930's great depression debt adjustment management by a livestock agent.

Prior to war breaking out and petrol rationing Dad as a Methodist Church Member and Trustee drove local preachers without transport to lead country church services. After the war his Sunday afternoon was taken up as a Director of the Swan Hill Stores in the rural areas attempting to collect debts which had accumulated during the depression and war years.

Then there were the great rolling dust storm blackouts of the drought years. Grandfather Peter fishing from his boat on the NSW side of the Murray River at Pental Island could not find his way back to Victoria and home and we kids sleeping on the verandas woke up in a pool of sweat and dust made mud.

These events were my youthful introduction to real life in the Mallee and politics.

Swan Hill High School 1940 -1943

And so the short pants were abandoned and decked out in the traditional grey long'uns it was off to High School for 4 years where according to the *The Cygnet Magazine* in 1940 there were 374 students and 17 teaching staff, ratio 22:1 and by 1943 there were 424 students and 16 staff, ratio 27:1 The demands of the war had reduced the male staff numbers from 8 to 6.

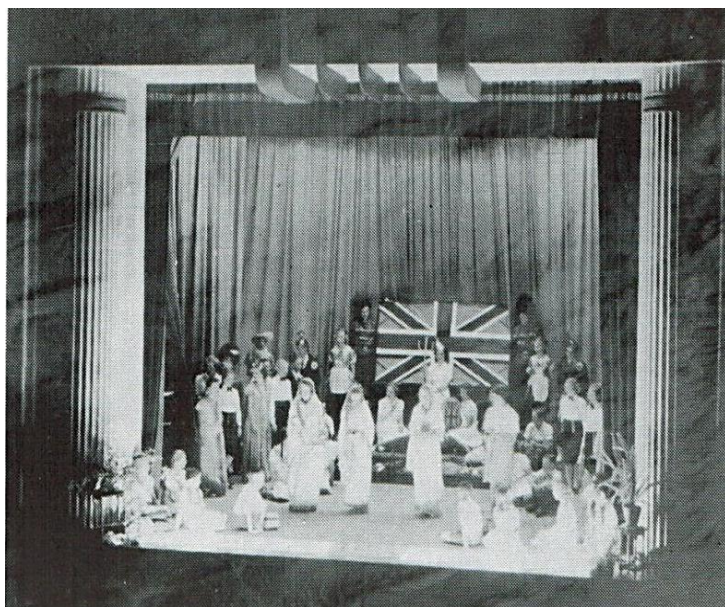
The traditional schoolboy induction was to have your head shoved under a schoolyard tap.

We boys had a sloyd (woodwork), sheet metal tinsmith (soldering) and blacksmith forge (ironwork) rooms and with the addition of a Technical School wing a metal work lathe room.

Alarmed at my speech I was sent to a 'classical' elocution teacher (Mrs Hanley of Splatt St) and entered in the eisteddfod competitions. Needless to say the opposition 'dramatic' elocution exponents (Mrs Hill of Everingham St students) won the day however the experience of throwing the voice whether singing or speaking into the vast new Circa 1936 Swan Hill Town Hall auditorium was invaluable.

By the end of the first year the Second World War was escalating. Swan Hill Town Hall Speech Night featured the Empire Pageant a patriotic tabloid and songs. Someone produced

Grenadier Guard uniforms and bear skin head gear, so as the tallest I was the singing Guard to the right holding the Union Jack in the picture.



Empire Pageant. Speech Night - 1940 Flags of St George, St Patrick, St Andrew paraded separately to form the Union Jack.

Source: *Yours and My School* – Graham Gardner

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

By the end of the second year Japan had attacked the USA at Pearl Harbour. A Japanese cantata 'Cherry Blossom Time' with me the Emperor of Japan was being prepared for the Town Hall speech night suddenly I became the Emperor of Ceylon. (Syrilanka)

In the third year we produced a mystery play with me the detective. As I finally sat at a card table after roaming around the Town Hall stage setting the serious opening scene in the Sherlock Holmes style play a ripple of audience laughter became a torrent. The trouble finally diagnosed as a collapsing card table leg and in the best traditions the show went on. 50 years later I used the incident in a speech to Swan Hill College students at their Presentation Day reproduced on page 30.

According to the school magazine (The Cygnet) and Pupil Record Book I was the male Form Captain in second and third years 1941 and 1942. As a scholar my class ranking gradually fell from 4th of 49 to 11th of 28 mainly due to English which I failed to support by reading the prescribed novels however Merit, Proficiency & Intermediate Certificates were achieved.

Swan Hill High
School - Fourth Year 1943
Term 3 Report Keith A
Greenham

THIRD TERM: *A very good pupil with an excellent attitude. Work is of high quality. Recommended for Intermediate Certificate in 8 subjects higher standard*

Conduct

THE PUPIL WILL BE PROMOTED NEXT YEAR TO FORM *V*

H. Thompson Form Teacher. *H. Halliday* Head Master.

Signature of Father or Guardian

Next Term begins *Feb 1st 1944* when this book should be returned to the School
duly signed by Parent or Guardian.

**Must have picked up my
SOX.**

1943 Swan Hill High School Football Team

Note: R Rose of Collingwood FC leadership fame.

Source – The Cygnet Magazine -1943

A highlight of these years before the war escalated was an interschool football match in Kerang via a chartered steam train.



S.H.H.S. FOOTBALL TEAM

BACK ROW—J. Roberts. B. Caffrey. J. Curnow, A. Chick, K' Greenham
F. Sydes
MIDDLE ROW—R. Rose. K. Harrop, K. Lindsell, H. Adams, Gilmore
D. Morpeth.
FRONT ROW—P. Engstrom, F. Tresize, J. McGregor, D. McLennan
K. Nield, J. Roberts.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

Telling Time

Student Winnie of Murray Downs Homestead ***“the homestead has 40 bedrooms with a chamber pot under each bed”***.

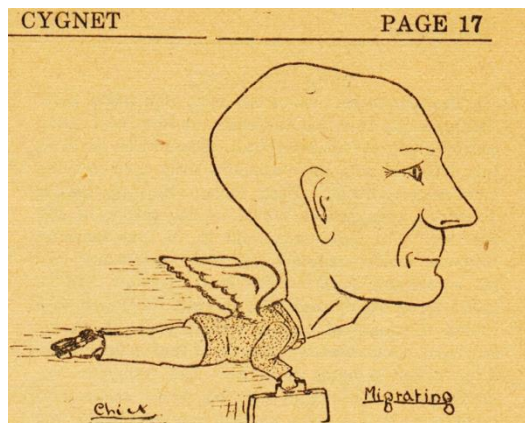
History Mistress Miss West; ***“Ledwidge when you get into Parliament I want an armchair in the staff room”***. Leddy became a Local Government Civil Engineer.

Desk Decorators

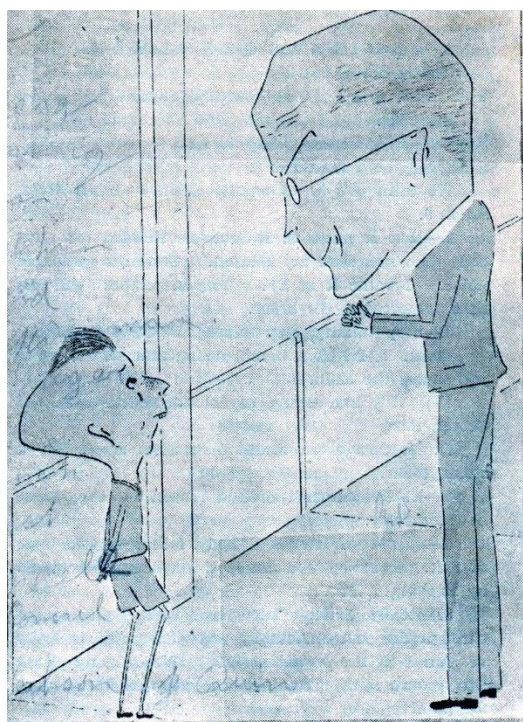
The only other remaining evidence of High School days is my second published writing, under nom de plume “Blackham”, an article entitled “Desk Decorators” written under duress (a knuckle in the ribs) as I doodled on my desk followed by suggested title and clearly edited by the “Master” which was published in the 1943 ‘The Cygnet’ school magazine along with the picture above of the Football Team of that year and page 17 art work cartoon below.

The “Master” was ‘Dickie’ Dawes who on ***migrating from Swan Hill*** made metropolitan media headlines as a Victorian country High School Head Master claiming that rural school days under achievers made good farmers. Despite the public or was it media outcry I guess it was true.

Reference in *Desk Decorators* to the Chamber of Awe ***“The Office”*** reminded of the ‘six of the best’ received in the ‘Chamber’. ‘Not guilty your honour’ but took it in good grace. The young female art mistress no doubt overawed by the situation failed to protect me, her form monitor, who had just finished distributing art material from the “Boss” as he marched in looking for a trouble maker to make an example of.



The Cygnet cartoon HM & trouble



ADMONITION

Among those students who joined us in Year 9, Form 3A, was **John Bail** from Beverford who served as a Swan Hill Shire Councillor. One school year ahead The Hon. **Alan Wood** MP for Swan Hill, Victorian Government Minister, Swan Hill City Mayor & Councillor, **Geoff Hobson** who served as a Swan Hill Shire President and Councillor, and **Betty Jenvey** (Stephen) Swan Hill Citizen of the Year 2004, one & two school years behind Cousin **Esma Jewson** (Vains), Swan Hill Citizen of the Year 1982, **Jim Willox OAM** 1995 and **Bob Rose** of VFL and Collingwood Football Club fame. When we add from primary school days **Bill Richards MBE** honoured for service to the Olympic Games & community, **Ron Jilbert BEM**, NM and **Albert Jordan NM** [National Medal] who were honoured for life time service to the Fire Brigade, myself **Keith Greenham AM** and **Max Thompson & Frank Bonney** our dance band musicians who led us to our lifetime partners it is an impressive list of those who served the community from my era. No doubt many of those who sought greener pastures also served their new communities with distinction.

Looking at these more than 60 year old magazines one cannot help being reminded of how lucky we are to have computer word processing as opposed to lead metal type setting from hand written documents.

Among our Swan Hill High School teachers was **Ron Brady** who saw WW2 active shipboard service in the Australian Navy and married my sister in law Eunice Dowling. At the height of his Education Department career he was Principal of *Reservoir High School* in Melbourne charged with the task of improving its academic performance. **Brady Hall** a tribute to his leadership.

DESK DECORATORS

On entering English, 2nd period, Wednesday, October 27, the teacher, or shall we call him master, said as usual, "What's the work today." At this most people sighed and said in chorus "Verse".

Well, as it was, the magazine committee had decided on the conscription method for obtaining material for the magazine, so we at once had subjects shanghaid at us. As I am not so good at English, I happened to be missed to my joy, but as usual somebody squealed and the master's brain began to function trying to think up some new subjects for the magazine. I happened also to be thinking and at the same time scribbling on the desk. All at once I was brought back to earth with, "Blackham, have you got a subject?" "No," I replied. "All right, write on Desk Decorators." I shuddered and my brain began frenziedly. And now for some of the incidents in the trade of Desk Decorating.

Firstly the case of a Form V. boy, who bored with Maths, began to clean his finger nails with a small file. After cleaning one or two of them, that nail file wandered and wood began to fly from the desk. Up crept the maths. teacher (renowned for his jokes), threw out his chest and bellowed into the ear of the startled youth, "WHAT do you mean by it, you destructive BRUTE?" The boy shrivelled up and tried to mend matters.

And for the second thought, which happens to be what happened to the "Decorated Desks". Some months ago our 2 O.C. decided to remove the decorations from the desk. He started by scraping the desk with razor blades. This operation proceeded well and because of this I am very sorry to tell old students that the initials they engraved, if not very deep, were removed, leaving only school records, detention and late books to tell of your attendance at S.H.H.S. He then proceeded to polish the desk with Fisher's Wax, plus something prepared by the Science Master. This did such a frictionless job that certain boys when bored with lessons occupied their minds by observing the movement of falling objects, i.e., studying the sliding rate of books down the lids of desks.

What brought the third incident to my mind was the thought of room D with its new desks. Well, one fine day, initials were found on one of these new desks, and the H.M. got up looking very grave and gave a speech about it, telling us the old one about the tablet "Sacred to the memory of the wretch who wrote upon this desk." As usual he concluded by politely asking for the person or persons who placed their initials on the desk to report to that Chamber of Awe. "The Office". He also added that if nobody reported, he would use his own unique and infallible methods of crime deduction. I do not know what the outcome

IN CONDEMNATION OF PROJECTS

Who on earth, or under the earth, was the accursed person who invented that diabolical destructive piece of work known as a project? On consulting the dictionary, I find that the word means a "plan" or "scheme" and I will endeavour to explain to you what that plan or scheme really means.

In the first place, the victim is informed that he has to write a comprehensive account, profusely illustrated, generally on any subject under the sun. The unhappy person then racks his brain as to what subject he shall concentrate upon. Having discovered that he knows slightly more about one geographical or historical subject than another, he immediately sets to work to accumulate information on the subject.

Harassed and overworked mothers and fathers are appealed to for any light they may be able to throw on the subject in question. The house is ransacked from end to end in search of information. Books are left thrown about in untidy confusion. Cupboards, where the papers and magazines of ages have been painstakingly and tidily collected, are reduced to a state of chaos.

But the worst phase is when the period of mutilation commences, in order that the project fiend may illustrate his work. He will hack out any illustration in spite of all the protests of his near relations. He looks through the beautiful Geographical Magazines and steals some striking picture that fills in a gap in his knowledge and leaves a gaping void in an intensely interesting article so that future readers will curse the name of "project" with sincerity. You approach a pile of magazines to re-read a story that charmed you a year or two ago. How maddening it is to reach that devastating moment when a proposal is trembling on the lips of the handsome hero to find that it has been cut off on the back of a picture to illustrate a project on the "Fall of the Babylonian Empire." or the "Career of Napoleon."

Does this not prove that project-making is an invention of the devil and an encouragement to those destructive impulses that are common to all young animals, and which should be strenuously suppressed?

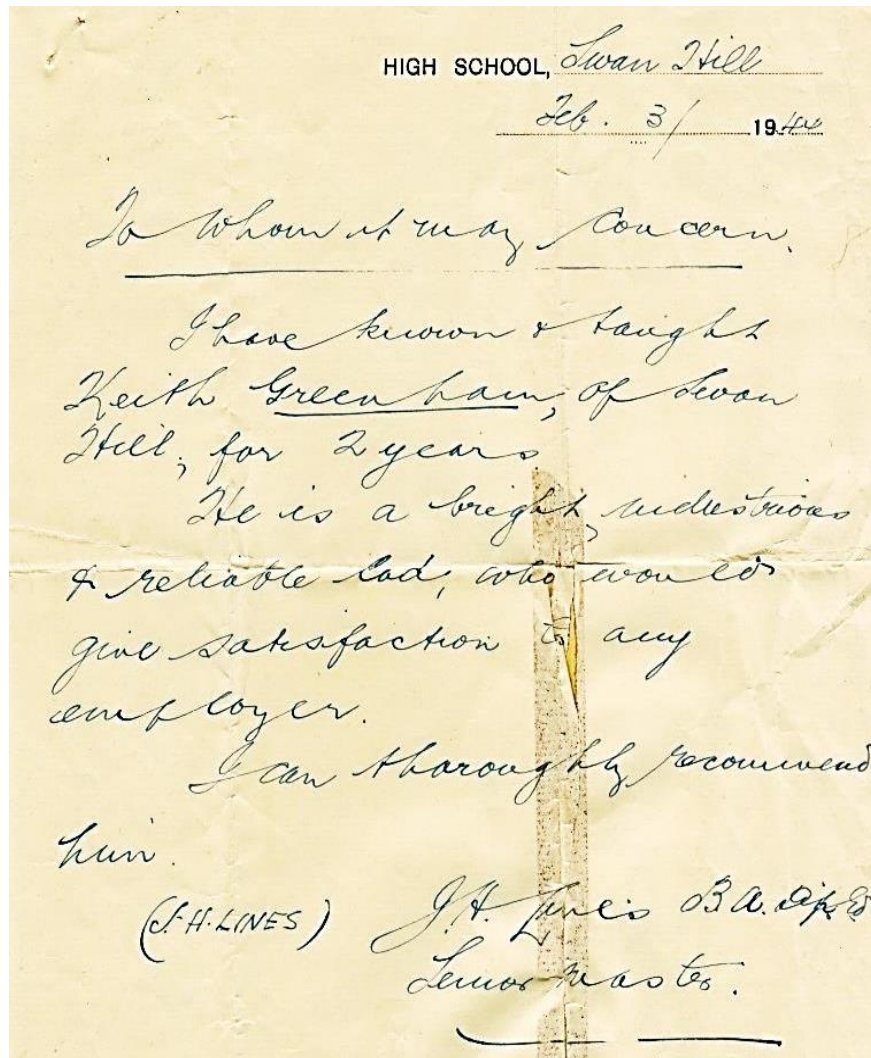
FAULTY CARBURETORS

A fly was crawling on the wall,
His engine stopped, he had to stall,
Right to the floor this fly did fall,
No more upon the wall he'll crawl.
His girl friend, Sal., she tried the same,
Her engine stopped, and down she came,
She should have known she would be lame,
She was a very cranky dame.

was, but the speech subdued everybody.

The last thing is a tip to those who are leaving;—
Leave your Desk Decorating till your last day of school.

**Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -**



The Reward.

This 1944 reference is from Senior Master Lines, Head Master Gallagher had retired in 1943.

I recall 'Joe' at a school assembly speaking of his son in the wartime armed services;

"I'm proud that my son calls me the old man".

The Brick

In 1990 following a student reunion a brick engraved with Nance and my names was placed with others in the Swan Hill College quadrangle pavement.



***Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -***

Swan Hill College Presentation Day 1993

50 years later Swan Hill High School had become a College. As a Shire Councillor I was invited to speak and present the Sporting Awards. I said:

“It gives me great pleasure to represent the Shire of Swan Hill on this your Presentation Day 1993. The awards in the sporting area have covered a wide field of achievement. I congratulate you all and wish you well.

With the changes in the structure of education in Swan Hill I find myself an old, old boy of your College. Our College records do not show any outstanding achievements, scholastic or sporting on my part.

No matter what your achievement level is, always take pride in your own efforts, take pride in the efforts of your friends and last but not least take pride in your College.

Over the years the status of sport in the College curriculum has had its ups and downs. It is pleasing to read that your College has earned Exemplary Status in the area of Physical and Sports Education. To be in the top 20 in the State of Victoria is an outstanding achievement for our Region.

The value of your Physical and Sports program to the community is in the character, discipline, fitness, teamwork and respect for the umpire which are promoted.

In life after College days your prospective employer will also be looking for these essential qualities in the highly competitive society which is evolving.

On another level the knowledge you gain of the rules of the many sports promoted today will set the pattern for your recreation activities, whether they be on or off the field, in the various stages of your life.

The Mayor Councillor Millar has presented the Scholastic Awards I congratulate the recipients of those awards. Our College has a proud history of achievement in this vital area. The dedication of all to the task is I am sure well appreciated by the community.

Student contribution to Presentation Day is one of our Colleges great traditions. I warmly congratulate presenters and musicians for their part in this day”.

For the Junior School Presentation I added – “Finally due to the changing Local Government scene I doubt that I will have another chance to address a gathering of students such as this so a real life story from the unwritten history of your College seems in order.

This occasion, your Presentation Day, used to be Speech Night held in the Town Hall. From year 7, 8 & 9 students the musical and drama talent was drawn. I found myself in this team in each of those years learning a little stage craft, how to apply the grease paint and how to speak and sing loudly and clearly enough to be heard in the back stalls seemingly a world away. No microphones in those days.

On the Speech Night in question we presented a very dramatic mystery play. The stage furniture was simply a card table and two chairs. Somewhere in the darkness beyond the footlights was a vast audience of guests, students, parents and teachers.

I was first on stage, the audience quiet as a mouse as the mood for the enfolding drama was set. I prowled around the stage, playing the detectives role of looking for clues, finally sitting at the card table. Suddenly the audience stirred, a ripple of laughter swept the hall.

Panic stations, lines forgotten, minders and prompters in the wings yelling advice which could not be heard for the laughter.

Finally the penny dropped, a leg of the card table was collapsing, as only a card table leg can. I shot out my leg hooked a foot around the offender took a firm grip on the table and pulled hard, click the leg was locked in place.

The show was on the road again.

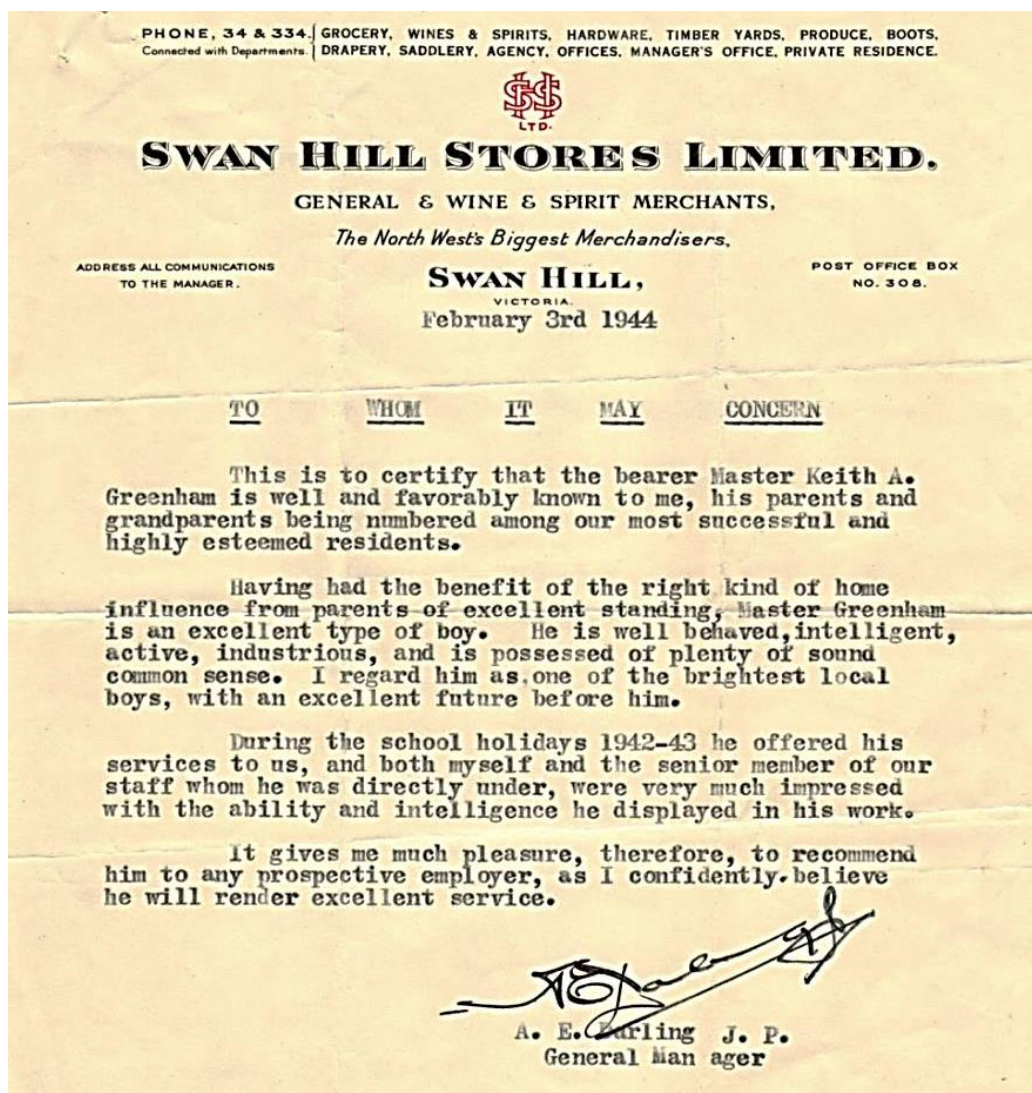
Like the modern song says; “and I was only twelve or thirteen or was it fourteen”.

God bless you all”.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

Work Experience

School holidays work experience was gained at the Swan Hill Stores a department store in the grocery department where a finger was almost sliced off in the bacon slicer, packaged breakfast food was retrieved re-roasted from the hot ceiling storage area and I dropped a tin of cyan pepper from a great height. These were the days of the brown paper bag and wartime ration ticket books. My pay packets bought a fishing rod in the hardware department and the Baby Brownie Kodak camera which took many of the pictures reproduced in this auto-biography.



The Reward.

A glowing reference for the CV

I learned about retail percentage mark ups based on expected rate of turnover and the alphabetical buying price codes. It was cash or monthly credit account business with a central upstairs cashier accessed by a small container propelled back and forth along overhead tight wires from each department. The heading of the personal reference above indicates the size and operations of the store.

My Father Bert was a long term Director and Acting Manager when the manager fell ill, post war 1957 with a paid up capital of 25,589 pounds the Company's net profit from trading was 4,364 pounds, with full year dividend 10 per-cent 2,559 pounds. Ultimately the business was sold and in 2014 the site which included the Managers residence is occupied by Safeways, accompanying shops and car park.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

Teal Point

School holidays in the 40's were spent on "Airlee" at Teal Point my mother's home off the Kerang/Koondrook Road accessed from present day Roberts Road. It was a 500 acre irrigated dairy farm pioneered by maternal Grandfather Alexander Thompson & grandmother Belle Thompson, (adopting Bendigo family Allingham / born Morrow), along with their 9 children. (5 girls & 4 boys) Belle died following the birth of Jean the 9th child and the family was brought up by the eldest daughter Lene. My first memory of 'Airlee' was Grandfather Alexander's funeral at the Teal Point Baptist Church following which in the 1930's the farm was run by my three spinster aunts.

All three milked the cows with household managed by Lene, dairy clean up, pigs, calves Nell and irrigating Jean. With no means of transport all goods were delivered by the Kerang Butter Factory cream pick-up truck 2/3 days a week and shopping in Kerang involved ordering by party line telephone or walking 3kms to Teal Point tramway rail siding on the Council owned Kerang/Koondrook line with its Coffee Pot steam engine propelled tram. The now closed line mainly transported red gum rail sleepers from the Murray River forests. My boyhood access from Swan Hill was by steam train and push bike from Kerang along the formed black soil road.

The isolation of the property was demonstrated in 1948 when I drove my mother there in our new Vauxhall car following rain. We walked in from Teal Point Siding to find Aunt Jean ill. I walked back to Teal Point drove to Barham for medicine and attempting to return by another road got bogged. An enforced overnight stay led to yoking up 2 horses with Aunt Lene and a long walk to pull it out. The horses must have found their own way home.

The grey alluvial soil irrigation farm and buildings were quite different to the Goschen Mallee red soil dry land farm. The original drop log home also 24 feet by 12 feet stood alone with veranda and bath room attached and was in use as the kitchen & living area, a four roomed 24 x 24 foot unpainted 4 room cottage with veranda probably transported by wagon from the Bendigo goldfields was nearby used for bedrooms and storage. A two room standalone fly wired sleep out on stumps provided sleeping quarters well away from the black snakes which infested the other buildings and swampy surrounding land. A cry in the night of 'snake!' followed by a shotgun blast was not unusual. A half underground cellar kept the food and sometimes humans & snakes cool. A new weatherboard home was built in the late 1930's.

Outbuildings included the 6 stall 3 unit milking machine dairy, diesel engine driven, with hand operated cream separator, stock yards, a barn and pig pens with feed troughs hewn out of logs. A specially designed and floor level ventilated 6ft x 6ft room under a shady tree stored the cream in 8 gallon and smaller cans waiting pick up by the butter factory pick-up truck.

In the early days in addition to growing and storing fodder, crops were harvested and grain winnowed by a team of men operating a steam engine driven thresher. 50 Dairy and Illawarra Shorthorn cows were milked and all the calves were reared and grown out for herd replacements and fattened for sale to butchers.

The property was supplied with water from the Torrumbarry Irrigation system built by the pioneering families including the Thompson family who were also horse & scoop earthmoving contractors. Part of the property was the lowest land at the end of Water Commission irrigation supply channel shallow swamps were created as they overflowed when others on the spur channel finished irrigating. The swamps were planted to *paspalum distichum* (water couch) and grazed by the cattle.

School and Baptist Church was a 3 km walk away at Teal Point. The youngest girls Lilian (mum) and Jean received an education in preparation for nursing and school teaching. My mother's nursing training was at Castlemaine during the 1919/20 Spanish Flu worldwide pandemic where her best friend and fellow nurse died of the disease. Part of their training was to yoke up the horse and dray using it as an ambulance. As a Nursing Sister she was based at hospitals throughout southern Victoria. Prior to marriage she spent time in New Zealand and following marriage and moving to Swan Hill she did some special private in home nursing.

Anecdotal stories include Grandmother Belle confronted by an aboriginal man wielding an axe and demanding tucker gave him the roast in the oven and Uncle Bert lost a finger to my mother wielding an axe in childhood games cutting the heads off wooden dolly clothes pegs.

By the 1980's, like the "Tillara" Goshen complex, all that was left of the "Airlee" Teal Point complex was the barn & house dam to indicate its busy past. Like the Goschen Township, Teal Point has not survived as a community. The dairy farm holidays experience led to my becoming a dairy farmer on Pental Island in 1964.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

World War II

Early wartime Swan Hill life revolved around physical fitness in readiness to defend Australia, recycling goods collection and Sunday evening church followed by community singing in the Town Hall to boost community moral and sell War Bonds. Among the great community leaders who emerged during this time was Jock Williams (a Scotchman), Teddy Freeman and Eddy Butler.

In Eddy Butler's physical fitness area I found myself given the task of organising the building of a padded top wooden vaulting horse for use in tumbling with material supplied by Drummond Bros and I built myself a wooden fishing boat to a Popular Mechanics design out of floor and lining boards. 1960's it found its way to the bottom of the Murray River at Pental Island's Greenham Lane.

Town Hall physical fitness displays were popular. In the front row in singlet & shorts as we wound up the routine the lady seated in front of me exclaimed! ***"I do wish these little boys would wear underpants."*** In recent years as the Town Hall was refurbished and began a new life I wrote of the experience in *The Guardian* under the caption "De-briefed" or should it have been "Exposed".

We boys had to have a make believe air raid shelter, mine was a hole in the ground beyond the tennis court baseline covered with sheets of roofing iron and the excavated soil. Lighting was a candle in the shelter wall. Doreen tells me that at school in Bendigo it was flat out under the desk with a rubber in your teeth as the mock air raid siren sounded.

With the 1939 start of WW2 and rationed petrol (2 gallons or 8 litres month) the Pental Island property was accessed by horse and converted motor car trailer with the horse stabled during the week under the overhanging branches of a neighbours mulberry tree behind the garage and tennis court with dad walking home across country at the week end.

Cousin Pte Alex Thompson, Uncle Bert Thompson's only son, who had survived the 8th Division retreat from Greece and Crete, was married on return to Australia and within weeks tragically killed in action having volunteered with a mate to fight the rear guard as Australian forces retreated over the Owen Stanley Range towards Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea.

Then in 1942, as Japan threatened Australian cities, our home with its spacious wired in veranda sleep outs, much to my mother's displeasure, was declared capable of housing 20 refugees. ***"I'll put you down for twenty madam."*** said the rebuffed official as he retreated off the front veranda to Splatt Street.

Fortunately the need did not arise Australia was saved in the Naval & Air Battles of Midway and the Coral Sea. Nevertheless Dad divided the Splatt St house into 2 flats turning the southern office into a separate kitchen accommodating a refugee family for a short time then Australian Air Force personal and their families based at the Lake Boga Flying Boat Repair Base. After the war to comply with building regulations a brick fire wall divided the northern and southern flats.

Among these families was life-long family friends Cliff & Marjory Moulton who correctly predicted that post war employment would be boosted by the development of the packaging industry replacing brown paper bags. Cliff went on from Boga to lead an Island hopping intelligence unit which landed in the Philippines before General McArthur's triumphal arrival. He became Sales Manager of a packaging industry company. As I write in 2014 we have gone to the other extreme with some packaging costing more to produce than the contents. Their son Warren came back to Swan Hill as a 3SH radio announcer and went on to join ABC radio.

Another of these families was Wally & Becky Stebbing who on RAAF posting from the Boga Flying Boat Repair Base to Essendon Airport were a great help to me when as a 16 year old I moved to Melbourne boarding with a distant Aunt in Brighton Beach. Wally was a veteran of RAAF 10 Squadron based in Scotland's west coast RAF Sunderland Flying Boat base at Oban, Becky his Scottish bride. They were successful in obtaining a Soldier Settlement Dairy farm at Katunga.

A lifelong school days friend Len Smith, son of a *The Guardian* newspaper pioneering partner William Smith was apprenticed as a motor mechanic at Bryan Bros. He tells me that at the height of the war his employer faced with confiscation of their metal turning lathes hid them and was later contracted to use them in producing artillery gun shell casings delivering them to the Swan Hill railway station every Thursday as part of our local war effort.

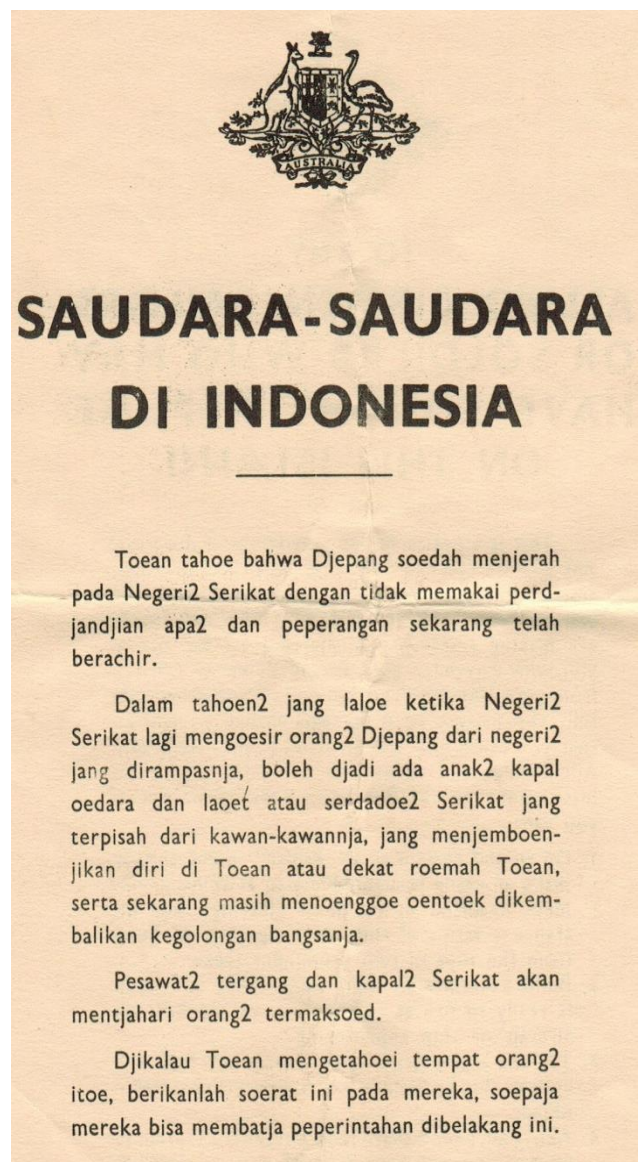
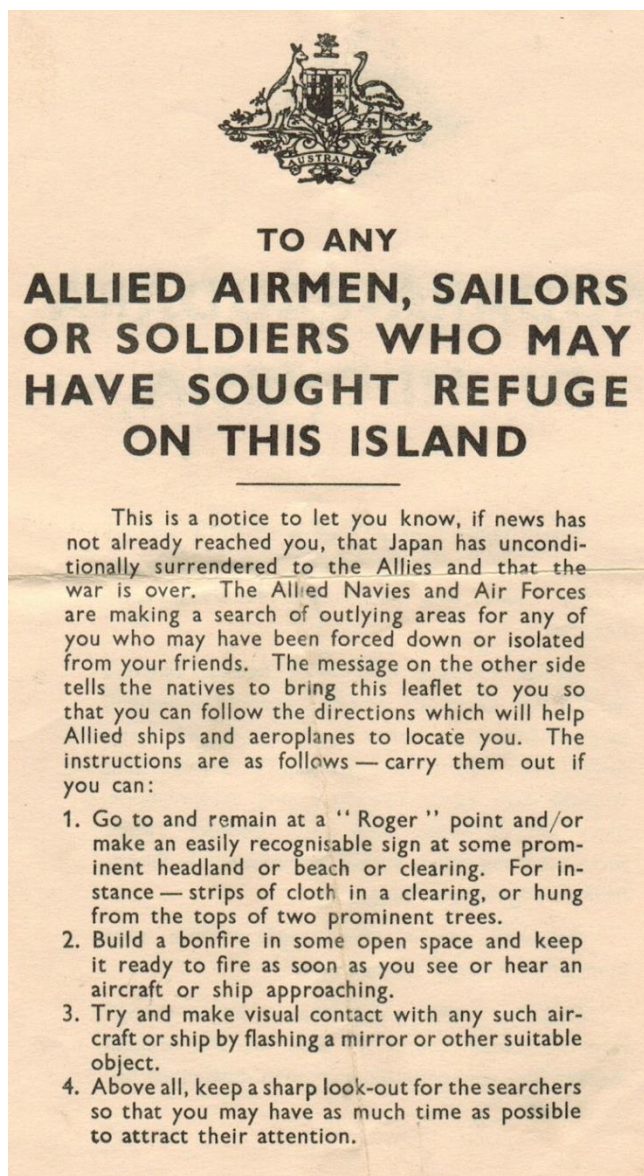
Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

During the desperate days of the 1942 Japanese southward push to Australia my father Bert who had spent 9 months on the French Western Front with the AIF 4th Division 46th Battalion in the dark days of 1916/17 and was a survivor of the First battle of Bullecourt became Master of Swan Hill's Murray Lodge (Masonic) In those days Lodge members were community leaders.

His World War 1 service in France included five (5) seven day stints on the front line at Fleurs, Renicourt and Messines and in moving supplies forward to the front line. Only 3 of 8 Greenham first cousins survived the First World War in France.

As a result of his 46th Battalions heavy losses suffered in the First Battle of Bullecourt he rapidly advanced from the rank of Private to Corporal and Acting Battalion Orderly Sergeant before being invalided back to England and hospitalised at the Cheltenham Infirmary for 14 weeks recovering from rheumatic fever and returning to Australia. His last army duties submarine watch on the journey home. A highlight of his time at Cheltenham was a visit by the Princess Royal.

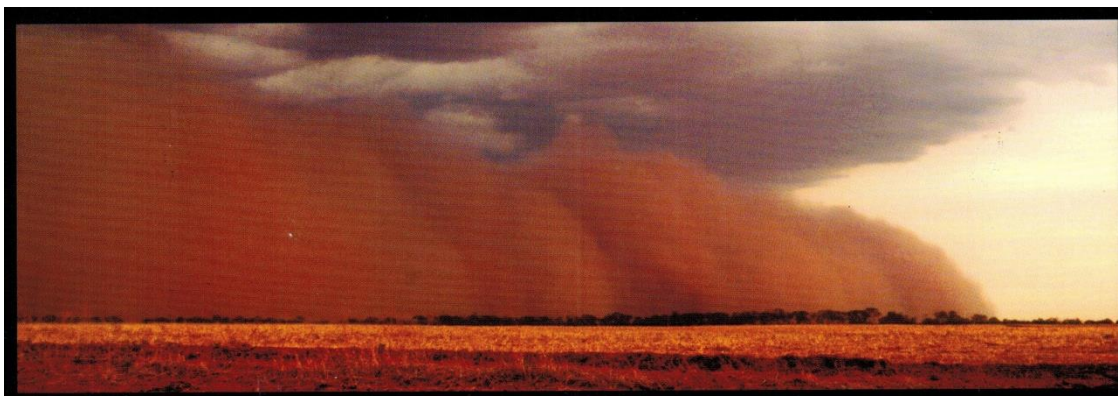
During **WW1** my mother Lilian's two brothers Jim and Earn Thompson served in the Light Horse at Beersheba in Palestine and my future wife Nancy's uncles Mac and Bill White served in the New Zealand army.



This pamphlet found among Nancy's memorabilia was dropped over Papua-New Guinea and Indonesia following the WW11 Japanese unconditional surrender.

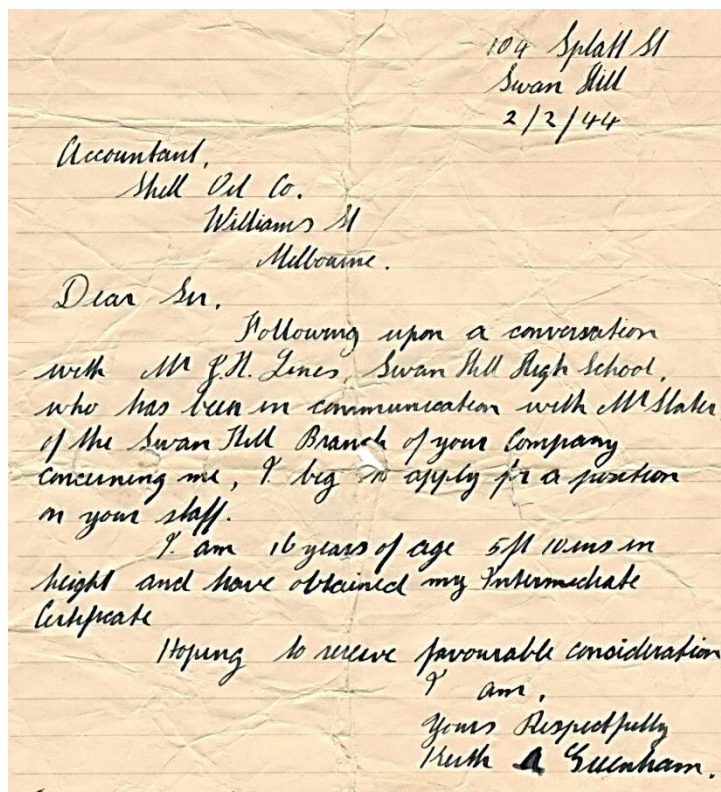
Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

1940's Wartime austerity ration cards and coupons, Swan Hill Post Office and
a dramatic picture of a mallee dust storm of the 1940's rolling in.



Melbourne 1944 - 48

Then as a 16 year old my application and interviews for a position as a junior clerk in the Victorian Head Office of The Shell Company of Australia in William Street, Melbourne was successful and I exchanged school habit for a war time grey pin stripe double breasted business suit and was off to the “big smoke” and in service training.



Must have been a trial run

Learning from his WW1 overseas service in France and post war rehabilitation training at a South Melbourne Technical College accountancy course my father's plan was to ensure that I was in employment before entering military service at 18 providing a job at war end. The war ended one week before my eighteenth birthday.

Dad's time at South Melbourne Technical College served him well in later life in voluntary community leadership roles including local government, company directorship, treasurer of organisations, Church Trustee and Masonic Lodge leadership.

1940's Shell House a 10 story building was north of the former 4/5 story Shell Corner Building on the NW corner of Melbourne's Burke and William Streets. At the top of the Burke Street hill it was the

tallest in Melbourne overlooking the City and Port Phillip Bay. Internally each floor's passages were shored up with heavy timber reducing them to 4ft (1.2m) providing structural support and air raid shelters should the war extend southward and Melbourne bombed. The lower floors housed the Victoria Branch HO, the upper Australian HO with a theatrette, staff recreation and canteen area taking up the 10th floor. We were permitted to use the roof for recreation.

In 2013, like the Greenham and Thompson family ancestral farm buildings, the William St. Shell Corner and adjoining circa 1930's Shell House and surrounding buildings have long since disappeared, replaced by 40 plus story skyscrapers.

Looking back, the almost 4 years with Shell at a time when reserved occupation key people and older and junior workers kept the flow of petrol and oil from overseas up to Victoria's war effort was the key to later success in life.

Mail room junior clerks in addition to mail postage (Spencer St GPO), collection (Elizabeth St PO), sort and distribution were required to place and collect tuck shop lunch orders for staff, collect bank statements from banks, pay the stevedoring accounts of oil tanker Captains for the Cashier throughout the city, wait on the Manager, spray out his office each morning with “Shelltox”, collect his tickets to the Tivoli Theatre from the female star's dressing room, dig him out of “Bing Boys Charitable Club” Menzies Hotel long lunches and fetch and carry. Wartime austerity was in force with envelopes collected and reused and the franking machine topped up with money to pay the postage. Our mail room mentor and leader was Mr Palmer a former English RN submariner.

After a year in the mail room learning the company management structure, we juniors found our-selves in one of the Shell Victoria Branch Departments, Operations (branch HO or Newport), Sales, Cashier, Accounts payable, Credit control, Sundry Returns to HO or Staff Pay & Records.

I found myself in the latter where two senior managers and two juniors under strict confidentiality maintained staff records and did the paper work for authorisation of the weekly pay roll of more than 250 office, country depot and Essendon Airport staff and supervised the 400 worker Newport Installation pay roll prepared by 4 staff on the site at Newport.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

Master sheets were typed and calculated on a machine called a comptometer operated by my fellow female junior Wendy Orchard, weekly amendments taking account of overtime & holiday pay were handwritten and calculated mentally and following a learning period which involved reading and absorbing the relevant Industrial Awards my weekly task was preparation of the 65 Country Depot and Essendon Airport worker payroll, maintaining the pay and record card system, checking the 400 worker Newport Installation payroll and having them signed off by accountants and senior managers with delivery to the Cashier for payment.

A 17/18 year olds initials *KAG* were on the bottom line of the authorisation list rubber stamp box on the documents for the weekly payment of some 465 workers. We were required to work one Saturday morning in four and our Company experience was broadened by periodic weekend stocktaking at the Newport Installation.

Melbourne Skyline 1940's - From roof of 10 story Shell House mid 1940's Original 1940's photos 6x4 cm taken with my 6 shilling (60c) Kodak Baby Browne.

V Looking south along William St. from the corner Burke
& William Sts L. Menzies Hotel. R. St James Building.



Docklands.

V Looking west along Burke St, General Post Office and SEC coal fired power station which showered us with cinders keeping windows closed. Background: Victoria Docks in 2013



V Looking east over Goldsbrough Mort Wool Store along Burke St. St Patricks Cathedral left background.



V Looking NE along William St, Law Courts, Tax office, left background new Melbourne Hospital.



***Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
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1940's - from William St. Shell House,
Spire St Pauls Cathedral dominates the landscape, foreground Menzies Hotel,
distant background Government House and the Shrine as in 2014 picture below
Source: Keith Greenham AM (6 shilling Kodak Baby Brownie camera.)

2014 - Today's Melbourne
Where is St Pauls Cathedral spire?
The Shrine and Government House in the foreground
highlighting 70 years of changing skyline since the
William St. Shell House days
Source: *The Age* newspaper.



Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

Following war end and removal of the internal corridor timber structural support air raid shelters the Victoria Branch Pay & Records department staff increased to 6 moving from the second floor dark little 4 desk office with counter separating us from visitors at the bottom of the northern light well to the luxury of fronting Williams St. An old letter reminded of working in the little office during electricity power rationing which until kerosene lights were found forced us to delay starting work until 10am. I'm also reminded of our attempts to open the windows showering ourselves with cinders from the nearby coal fired power station.

Reading and implementing industrial awards and understanding industrial relations and Company employment policies was added to time spent at night school learning basic accountancy and commercial law at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. Employment policies not acceptable today included - no applicant was engaged over 30 years of age or if a family relative already worked for the company. In an era of post war strikes oil installation fitters shut off supplies for six weeks leading to an understanding of employer strike breaking psychology which anticipated 6 week duration based on the intervention of workers wives. Significantly in the 1940's the Five Towns Basic Wage Fixing System in making the determination used my home town, Swan Hill, as the highest cost of living Town in Victoria. On leaving Shell the weekly basic wage was equal to \$12.50 with the department manager on \$25.

There were many highlights of these years. Politically I recall watching Robert Menzies MP (pig iron Bob, later Prime Minister Sir Robert) flanked by two white uniformed Naval Military Police boarding a tram in Collins Street to the angry boos of all on board and the wartime arrival at Shell House of the Dutch tanker Captains reporting on delivery of fuel from overseas to the Newport Installation.

Wars End Celebrations

At wars end VE Day (Victory in Europe) and VP Day (Victory in Pacific) from the roof of Shell House we watched the Spitfire Fighter aircraft fly past the Melbourne Town Hall down Swanson Street. Following the VE Day Swanson St city celebration we clung to the last St Kilda Beach tram and walked home to Brighton Beach.

Celebrating VP Day (Victory in Pacific) with thousands of others we flocked into the city by tram and train to Swanson Street and over Princess Bridge in the Domain Gardens. The huge crowd one lot heading for the City the other for the Gardens met on the Princess Bridge bottleneck with frightening results. People pushed and shoved their way in both directions with some being trampled. We were caught on the bridge and escaping unharmed headed straight for the train at Spencer St and home.

A Point Ormond night time celebration involved a spectacular tracer bullet display over Port Philip Bay.

From a letter to Mum and Dad thought to be early November 1945

On Monday they had a big air display over the City hundreds of war planes using hundreds of gallons of petrol etc. There were spits, cats, mustangs, libs, beauforts, beaufighters etc., flying in close formations of about 12 each. It was pretty good.

Also that night they had a display at Point Ormond. The aircraft carrier 'Empress' was standing in the Bay with all the shore searchlights playing on it. It was a pretty good sight. The only trouble was that the 40mm tracer bullet shells started to go too close to her and they had to stop firing them. It wasn't bad but after you had seen the first half hour you'd had it firstly because it became monotonous secondly because it was too cold.

We watched it from the Middle Brighton Pier. When it started we walked right to the end of the pier and then out along the breakwater which was about 2 ft 6 inches wide. We had to walk at a very acute angle as the wind was pretty strong and watching the waves caused us to sway. We got out of it all right nobody falling in. .

As I got to Brighton Beach Station at 7.30 am on Monday the battleship King George 5th was a sight coming up the Bay It looked real good. We couldn't see it very well from the roof at work except through the glasses, it was just on the wrong angle.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

It rides lower in the water than the Yank Cruiser “Birmingham” of 13,000 tons therefore we can see the Cruiser better. Also it is black and KG5 is light grey.

Some of the chaps at work were saying that the best sight they have seen in the bay was in 1942 when the Yank convoy came in. They say that the bay was just one mass of ships of all types. To look at the Bay now you can imagine how it would have looked covered with ships.

Photos – our war planes over Swanson St from the roof of Shell House.



Oxford formation under the Australian Flag
In distance close to & behind the flagpole.



Flying the French Flag as Paris fell to
Free French Forces



A Spitfire and two Kittyhawks.



Mosquito formation.
St Patricks Cathedral spire centre background.



Oxford formation.



Mosquito formation

***Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -***



**Lunch time on
the roof of Shell
House on a good
day 1940's.**



Junior Clerks – John Browning,
Ken Schultz, Harry Beitzel

Junior clerks at play.- Looking south down William St.
Continuous silk stocking thread aided by used penny ha'penny tram tickets floating
down into the Burke St intersection among Shell workers returning from the lunch break.

Among those of my generation who also hit the headlines in later life was John Browning of
the Operations Department who remained with Shell moving to Shell's Western Australia Oil
Refinery and I understand taking up recreational square dance calling across that State, Ken Schulz
who returned to wheat farming and I understand served as a Warracknabeal Shire Councillor and
Harry Beitzel of VFL football umpire fame.



Keith Greenham centre in shadow

Junior Clerks – Writer; Keith Greenham,
Ken Schultz on the left. Others from later year appointments. Must have been a windy day.

**I joined the chorus line singing the wartime favourites in a re-enactment [3 nights] in the
theatrette of the Frank Cave "Shell Show" a popular prime time 1930's pre-war radio show**



Lasses of Skaters Waltz



**Three of the five lads of the male chorus.
Keith Greenham centre.
RAAF pilot uniforms were props.**

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

Post war staff recreation included a cricket team based at a Domain Gardens pitch off St Kilda Road, tennis tournaments at courts in the Eastern Suburbs, table tennis tournaments in the 10th floor theatrette all of which I was involved in and in lighter mode at the post war revival of the Shell Ball in the St Kilda Town Hall we young guys provided the floor show in Egyptian dancing girl drag (wigs, billy lid bra's and harem pants) to the music of a leading big dance band of the era. At a rehearsal our floor show director whistled the haunting Middle Eastern tune for the band leader who instantly played it on the piano and created the big band musical score. I was impressed.

Following the war, of the 5 juniors who joined the company in 1944 only one continued in service. The pressure of returning servicemen made this inevitable. Post war restructure of the Victoria Branch Staff Pay & Records Department staff from 4 to 6 saw our highly respected wartime leaders Bob Salt and Olive Sharp move upstairs to the Australian Head Office replaced by Alan Tassell wartime Sundry Returns Dept. leader assisted by ex RAAF Officers Alf Allen and Bill McNeil and the appointment of ex RAN Officer Stewart as Personal Manager. Returning servicemen and their wives housing aspirations were interesting 13 squares was adequate 15 squares a mansion.

Shell Corner and Shell House on the corner of Burke & William Streets along with the Menzies Hotel and other buildings have long since disappeared. Our 9 stand barbers shop, cigarette stalls where war time queues formed sometimes led by junior clerk pranksters and the lunch tuck-shop where the vanilla slice was popular and rationed butter was thinned with milk are no more. After 60 years all that remains is the heritage blue-stone Goldsborough Mort building redeveloped for uses other than wool storage for sale at the King St Wool Exchange.

On entering service with Shell my 16 year olds weekly pay packet was equal to \$3.80 with expenditure on private board \$3, weekly train ticket 50 cents and 30 cents left over. A wartime pie on RMIT school nights cost 9c and sometimes contained left over sausages, a seat in the gods at the Tivoli Theatre 9c, quarter lb chocolate coated toffees at Coles 4c. Later age incremented weekly pay packets were boosted by an 80 cents over award bonus. A catalyst for resignation was advice that on turning 21 my pay would be the basic wage (minimum wage).

Boarding with relatives, firstly at Brighton Beach later Malvern, Dad & Mum presented me with a new Malvern Star bike for a social life based on the Weir St (Brighton) & Spring Road (Malvern) Methodist Churches youth groups, cricket and tennis. Cricket was with the church team in the Brighton area and the Shell team on the overlapping pitches of the Domain off St Kilda road. The bike also got me to work when railway workers went on strike. Time was also spent in learning the basics of ballroom dancing which proved itself on return to Swan Hill where Saturday night dances and the winter ball season dominated the search for female company.

Holidays at hometown Swan Hill were by wartime mixed passenger & goods steam train stopping and shunting (adding & removing rail trucks) at all stations, a 12 hour each way trip sometimes interrupted by servicemen slow to leave station hotels and due to drought wind driven sand over the rail line having to be shovelled off by the engine fireman. Worse still one year despite overnight protest action at Spencer Street a Christmas passenger service was not provided.

THE SHELL COMPANY OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED
(INCORPORATED IN GREAT BRITAIN)
SHELL CORNER, 163 WILLIAM STREET,
MELBOURNE, C.I.
RD BOX 872H

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE
ADDRESSED TO THE COMPANY
IN REPLY PLEASE REFER TO
ATTENTION AHA/OR

TELEPHONE CENTRAL 8000
TELEGRAMS ADDRESS
'SHELL' MELBOURNE

11th December, 1947.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

This is to certify that Keith Allingham Greenham
whose signature is shown below, was employed by us as a
Junior Clerk from 29th February, 1944,
to 11th December, 1947.

It is against the practice of this Company to issue
open testimonials, but we should be glad to answer questions
concerning Mr. Greenham on personal application
being made.

For THE SHELL COMPANY OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED.

Specimen Signature.

Keith Allingham Greenham

On leaving Shell with less than 4 years of service I was not entitled to the Companies contribution to superannuation which was said to be invested in the Royal Dutch Shell ongoing world-wide search for oil. My contribution of 4 pounds equal to \$8 or a 20 YO's weekly wage was received. Superannuation has evolved over the years from this small beginning to dominate our economy. I am reminded of a pay clerks problems pre decimal currency when one pound = 20 shillings = 240 pennies and the mental calculation of superannuation which led to difficulty in balancing payrolls.

In appreciation for service I was presented with a leather tennis racquet case, the 'TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN' letter and much was made of my return to the eggs & butter rural economy. It led to successful debt free self-employment and becoming a Shell Swan Hill Depot customer.

Swan Hill 1948 to 1952

Pental Island Irrigation Farm

Sister Dorothy had been with me in Melbourne extending her education at the Emily MacPherson School of Domestic Economy which included large quantity cooking and brother Peter was in Bendigo extending his education at the School of Mines aiming to become a Civil Engineer.

Returning to Swan Hill after 4 years had its problems. As others have found most of those we had grown up with had moved away and new friendships had to be developed. Initially there was plenty to do on the Pental Island irrigation farm. With 4 draft horses Dad & I constructed channels with a delver and hand scoop, laid out much of the land to the border check system with a buck board and planted winter pasture and lucerne. I even lost control of the horses and scooped a chunk out of a leg and spent a week in hospital.

It was a 380 acre Murray River frontage sheep property running ewes and lambs. In addition store lambs were purchased and fattened for the winter markets. I learned to manage the horse team, operate equipment, shear & crutch sheep, mark (castrate & tail) young lambs, drench and inoculate sheep and cut thistles by hand with a mallee shoot slasher a terrible but necessary task. The friendly Police Constable after a test drive on Christmas Eve 1948 gave me my driving license.

The 1500 acre Goshen mallee dry land which had provided income through a share farmer, who became a successful Tyntynder dairy farmer, was finally sold for 6 pound 5 shillings equal to \$12.50 or the then weekly basic wage an acre under continuing Government wartime land price controls and our Swan Hill home mortgage discharged. Over-night the post war boom increased the price of cross bred greasy wool from equal to 12 cents a pound weight to 52 cents with government withholding some of the increase to control post war inflation and no doubt help pay for the war.

A feature of these years was the great rabbit plague and how cash strapped Swan Hill organisations, churches & sporting clubs, boosted their finances with rabbit drives in the Lake Boga / Fish Point area. Thousands were trapped, gutted and sent to the freezers for skinning and human consumption.

Wheat Growing Bulga

A short time in the Woorinen South office of the Woorinen Fruit-growers Co-op during the dried fruit packing season was followed by an opportunity for self-employment as a mallee wheat grower in the Bulga area west of Swan Hill using the new Fordson 40 HP kerosene tractor and second hand machinery.

I camped on the job in rough make shift huts we made from the concrete remnants of abandoned homes bought a second hand mini 8 HP Morris 2 seat utility motor vehicle for the exorbitant price of 300 pounds, equal to \$600, and quickly learned that football injury and self-employment as a wheat grower did not mix.

It was a bonanza, firstly as a share farmer of 320 acres then leasing 1240 acres from the Crown (land surrendered by failed settlers) for 1 shilling and three pence an acre annually, equal to 13 cents an acre. Following many years of drought a prolonged wet period set in producing 8 bag to acre wheat crops, like wool grain prices more than doubled and after costs and tax there was enough in the kitty to on October 12 1952 purchase the 233 acre Pental Island, now Greenham Lane Property for 8,000 pounds (\$16,000). 16 months and another crop later shared with brother Peter the Bulga Mallee lease expired and the Government sold the land.

Income Tax was a problem. Taxable income for financial years 1951 to 1954 was 20,016 pounds with the tax paid 8.894 pounds. One year I grew 160 acres of oats and sold it for cash to a merchant who was subjected to a tax audit and I got nicked by the tax commissioner. The evaded tax equalled half the proceeds and the penalty fine took the other half. A lesson well learned.

Along the way the Fordson tractor was upgraded to a 55HP Lanz Bulldog single cylinder tractor. Starting it up before daylight in Swan Hill heading for Kerang and Teal Point with 4 wheel trailer for a load of seed barley I caused a stir as I headed out of town via Splatt, Gray and Campbell Streets. Households alarmed by the 'pop' 'pop' of the single cylinder engine all turned on their lights as I progressed at 16 MPH to the Highway.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

Recreation

Socially I was a member of Murray Masonic Lodge, lead singer for Methodist Junior Choir, singing the base line and solos in the 12 voice Methodist Choir (four part Anthems, Stayners Crucifixion and Halleluia Chorus), a Male Quartet (Alexanders Male Chorus), with the Swan Hill Brass Band and Choral Society (Gilbert & Sullivan), playing tennis & football and, being flush with cash, with 23 people, chartered an Australian National Airlines DC3 passenger plane for a 10 day tour. Departing from Swan Hill Aerodrome we took in Adelaide, Whyalla, Leigh Creek, Alice Springs, Katherine, Darwin, Normanton, Cairns, McKay, Brisbane, Sydney and home, cost 125 pounds.

I also hopped on a bus to see Len and Elaine Smith in Wodonga and then on to Sydney's Kings Cross where there was no electricity and hot water at the hotel with Buninyong Power Station workers on strike. Nevertheless I had a good look around the city the golden grain made it possible.

The winter ball season hunt for a partner was dominated by the Country Womens Association Younger Set fancy dress ball where we lads entered into its spirit as convicts, Egyptian billy lid bra-d dancing girls and on one occasion dressed a mate as a napped and bonnited bottle fed baby wheeled in in a pram designed for twins. A beer or two gave him the courage.

The football highlight was the Swan Hill FC seconds grand final win. I was 19th man called on as ruck man in the last quarter and believe it or not earned a place in the best players.

Tennis highlight was being called on to umpire a Swan Hill Riverside Easter Tournament mixed doubles final featuring high profile Melbourne lawyers and their wives J X O'Driscals v's J Galbally's. Unfortunately by this time some of the grass court line markings were not clear from the umpire's elevated chair and I had to rely on their call.

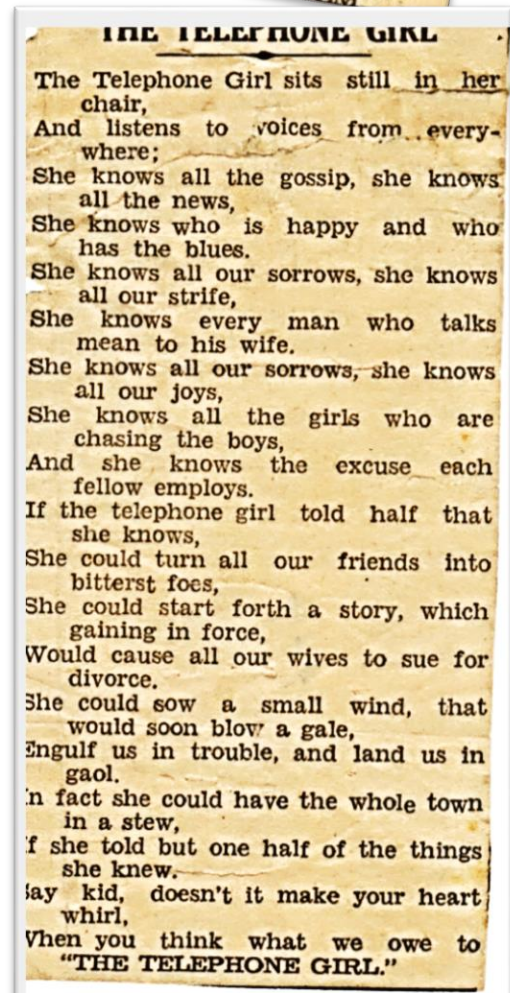
Nancy

Nancy and I had met again after school days during the 1952 winter ball season in the Swan Hill Town Hall became friends and in November were engaged to be married. Nancy was among those in my Grade 1 Swan Hill State School 1934 year. She had finished her Swan Hill High School education in the commercial stream and became a "hello" girl at the Swan Hill Telephone Exchange.

Following time spent in Melbourne at the Elizabeth Street & Lilydale Exchanges and at the Brisbane Exchange and a holiday in her homeland New Zealand with workmates including visits to New Zealand relatives she returned to Swan Hill to care for her mother on the sudden death of her father Frank taking the position of Senior Monitor at the Swan Hill Telephone Exchange.

There are many happy pictures of Nance's time away from Swan Hill with her telephonist friends. Prior to the loss of her father she had written to her mother indicating that she was considering a career in the Australian Navy.

I recall Nance telling how "The Telephone Girls" were treated with boxes of chocolates at Christmas by the local Starting Price Bookmaker (SP Bookie).



*Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
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**The Telephone Girls – Swan Hill
Exchange
Dorothy Frazer and Nancy Dowling**

Nancy was the third of the four children of Frank & Barbara Dowling (White), born in Dunedin on New Zealand's South Island. Father Frank was a slaughterman / shearer born in Inglewood Victoria who had returned to Australia and Swan Hill from New Zealand in 1932, as he had done as far back as 1921, this time to work permanently as a shearing contractor.

He was a dedicated solo slaughter-man and introduction of the chain system in Dunedin is understood to have influenced his decision. During the 1930's he was a successful shearing contractor. In later years he mixed shearing, specialising in stud rams, with local slaughterman positions. On Frank's purchase for 950 pounds (\$1900) of the 442 Campbell Street home in 1933 Barbara with great courage, packed up their 4 children Matt, Eunice, Nancy and Frank Junior for the voyage to Australia and followed him.

Barbara was a soprano singer with the Swan Hill Presbyterian Church Choir having trained in Dunedin and sung in a great 1918 choir of some 280 NZ voices. When needed she became the shearing teams cook and nursed Frank through some severe illnesses while struggling to keep food on the table for the family.

Over the years as a family we visited both Frank and Barbara's Australian relatives in Inglewood, Gippsland and elsewhere. Uncle Harry Dowling's 80th birthday was a highlight. His family presented him with a leather bound gold lettered bible like book entitled "Sex after Eighty". Harry who had dementia was not interested in a good read however everybody else was only to be disillusioned by hundreds of blank pages. It was probably an old trick.

In later years we were visited by Nan's New Zealand and Canadian relatives. Cousin Bob Chartris and his wife were NZ North Island Wanganui dairy farmers. Bob looked at our Murray River and promptly named our property 'Wainui' or 'big water' of the NZ Maori language. The Canadians spoke of life on the arctic oil fields where their homes sat on the frozen tundra and if the heating was turned up too high the houses sank. Needless to say these people in retirement followed the sun in motor homes driving to the Southern States of the USA and coming to Australia in the northern winter.

**The Telephone Girls Reunion 1979
"She knows all the gossip, she knows all the news"
V Nancy (back row)**



*Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -*

Pental Island 1953-62

DAVIES & HAYES
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS
PHONE 45

Nº 5149

BOX 325
SWAN HILL

27 11 1954

Re *K. A. Greenham from G. R. X. Corneil*

Received by *CASH* from *the sum of* *thirty three hundred five* pounds
twelve shillings *from* *one* pence
being *amount of deposit paid for*
purchase of Pental Island farm

Special Receipt Form
Authorised by
The Law Institute
of Victoria.

£ 305:12:4

DAVIES & HAYES
Trist A/c



*Southerly aspect - Original 4 room cottage
with 1953 added back and front verandas
washhouse and bathroom*

*Add another 800 pounds deposit already paid and
we started married life debt free. Lucky us.*

In Readiness for Married life

The 228 acre irrigation property purchased was a Murray River water's edge Government Agricultural College Council Leasehold similar to dad's with recently passed legislation (1950) transferring ownership from the Agricultural College Council to the Board of Land and Works and Department of Lands and Survey and enabling future grant of 20 year interest free purchase lease and ultimately freehold land title.

An old unpainted 24 X 24 foot (6 square) 4 roomed cottage (above) originally transported from the Bendigo goldfields and recently re-located from a nearby site and re-blocked, shearing shed with 3 stand overhead machines and yards and rough machinery shed were the only buildings. A right of way through the property between the house and irrigation channel gave our northern neighbours access to their property.

Border check irrigation was by annual permit from the adjoining Murray River with a 50% shared Robinson 15 inch centrifugal pump belt driven by single cylinder 50 HP 400 rpm McDonald fuel oil fired diesel engine which had replaced a wood burning steam engine. A feature of the diesel engine was the use of the casing of a naval wartime sea mine to deaden the noisy exhaust system. Ultimately, when an electric pump was installed, it found its way to a museum somewhere.

The cottage, in use as a men's hut and to rear chickens with walls splattered with swallow bird droppings was restored ready for occupation, 9 gallons (40 ltrs) of paint straightened and preserved the raw weatherboards, dust was removed from the lining board ceiling and sheeted with aluminium insulation, verandas were added along with new windows, wash house with copper and a bathroom.

The vintage Ronaldson Tippet shearing shed petrol engine and new belt driven piston pump & 150m suction line with overhead tank provided water supply from the Murray River. A household rain water tank was added along with an outdoor toilet (thunderbox) which strategically passed the wood heap. A chimney was rebuilt and slow combustion wood stove and hot water service were installed along with kitchen sink.

Floor coverings and curtains finished the interior off. Without electricity kerosene lighting and refrigerator and petrol iron were the order of the day. In those post war days it was all a DIY effort without need of big brother council permit.

*Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
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Mainly for Women

By "ELIZABETH"

BRIDE WORE GOWN OF WHITE LACE

Large bowls of spring flowers decorated John Knox Presbyterian Church, Swan Hill, for the marriage of Nancy Frances, daughter of Mrs. Dowling, of Swan Hill, and the late Mr. F. Dowling, and Keith Allingham, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Greenham, of Swan Hill,

Rev. J. W. Beecher performed the ceremony.

The bride entered the church in a gown of white lace and tulle designed in Edwardian style falling into a deep train.

A Juliet cap trimmed with orange blossom held her full length tulle veil. She carried a bouquet of gardenias, hyacinths, and heather centred with an orchid.

Mrs. R. Brady, sister of the bride, attended in a gown of silver grey Italian brocade designed with a matching bolero.

Pale lemon daisies trimmed her small cloche hat, whilst a spray of daffodils and primroses were attached to her tulle muff.

Mr. Peter Greenham was best man whilst Messrs Neil Vains and Frank Dowling were ushers.

Ninety guests were received at the town hall supper room where Mesdames Dowling and Greenham were present to welcome all guests.

Mrs. Dowling was wearing a tailored birds eye suit with white blouse, navy accessories, and she pinned a spray of white hyacinths to her suit.

Mrs. Greenham favored a navy crepe ensemble with matching accessories and a spray of pale pink carnations and hyacinths.

Mrs. F. Davis rendered "For You Alone," during the signing of the register and during the reception Mrs. A. Prince rendered "Beloved, It Is Morn."

The bride, on leaving for her honeymoon, which was spent at Albury and Warburton, was wearing a grey faille ensemble featuring unpressed pleats, with a bodice and cummerbund of grey and white striped tie silk, black suede accessories, and a black velvet hat.

Mr. and Mrs. Greenham will reside at Pental Island.



Our Wedding Day -

5th September 1953

We were married in the Swan Hill Presbyterian Church with traditional cold meal reception in the Swan Hill Town Hall supper room. Brother in Law, Ron Brady, gave Nance away, her sister Eunice Matron of Honour, my brother Peter Best Man and my father's speech warned of Pental Island's fearsome tiger snake reputation. My Methodist choirmaster, Fred Davis and Mrs A Prince, sang the traditional wedding songs and someone put coins (pennies) in the Austin A60 utility wheel hub caps causing a great clatter as we took off.

We honeymooned in Albury and Warburton, travelling in the Austin A60 utility which to my embarrassment gave trouble. A fuel blockage thought by the Albury garage people to be a handful of confetti turned out to be swollen grains of wheat.

The Rev J W Beecher's gift of a Holy Bible inscribed with the words from Galations V1, v2 '**Bear one anothers' burdens**' guided our married life.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

On the Home Front

Starting out married life without electricity and the telephone was a trial but was overcome by kerosene lighting including an antique Aladdin Lamp from Grandfather Peter's 1893 Goshen homestead, candles, a kerosene refrigerator and petrol clothes iron.

A party line telephone service to Lake Boga and extension of Council's electricity supply grid was planned and became a reality in the future. On coming to live on the Island, duck season opening mornings saw the house showered with shot gun pellets from shooters on nearby riverfront swamps.

We missed our Swan Hill toilet system holding our noses while pulling the chain and made do with a thunderbox and can at the bottom of the garden for some years. (see next page)

Nancy gained her driving licence, was a homemaker, loving wife and mother of our children. These years of debt free subsistence fat lamb and wool farming were ideal for bringing up our family together. Four children were born Jeffrey 1954, Andrew 1957, Bruce 1960 and Meredith 1962.

We shored our own sheep, with an Owner Classers License classed the wool, killed our own meat, milked a cow, made butter, collected eggs from the chook run and killed the tiger snakes as they appeared. (1954, 30 were killed within 50 metres of the house). We were lucky having wonderful friends and neighbours. One raised 4 children in 2 rooms another in Swan Hill started out married life renting bed space on a veranda and sharing other facilities.

With the addition of 2 detached bedrooms the old house was extended to 14 squares, community cooperation gave us electricity from Council's Swan Hill's power station, (Power Engineer Wal Smith grabbed the unconnected low voltage power lines felt a tingle and declared that the power had arrived at the transformer above), we built an 8 mile overhead telephone line connection to Lake Boga (the Little Murray River crossing lines got tangled up by birds flying up and down the river), road conditions improved and a school bus service was established. The black smoke of the Council operated power station burning down indicated where we lived in relation to Swan Hill. Fortunately the State Electricity Commission grid was nearby and power quickly restored.

With improved pasture productivity based on improving irrigation lay out and system upgrade, drainage, fertilizer and fodder conservation a carrying capacity of 550 fat lamb breeding ewes was achieved. Topping the Newmarket winter sucker lamb sale price at 5 pounds 10 shillings equal to \$11 each was a highlight. Agricultural Professor Sir Samuel Wadham and his radio show was our mentor. I always remember his doomsday pessimism vs. cockeyed optimism observations as our fortunes waxed and waned and his call for students on excursions to drink up, not down, start with beer drinking up to wine whisky and Champaign rather than get tipsy the other way round.

The 1955 flood gave us a taste of the future, worse in 1956 with the situation so serious that livestock were moved to the lush green mallee while we settlers in teams topped up many miles of levee banks with shovels and manned the make shift drainage pumps as the rain continued to fall (every Thursday as I recall) and paddocks and roads suffered. Our wives reached the maternity ward in time and all survived.

These events and the land tenure issues were the catalyst for my future leadership involvement in community development which led to the great honour of Swan Hill Rural City Council National Australia Day Council Citizen of the Year 2000, my 2006 Appointment by The Governor-General of Australia as a Member of the Order of Australia in the General Division and at 84 years of age 2011 nomination by Swan Hill Rural City Council for Victoria's Senior Citizen of the Year followed in 2014 by the naming of a Tower Hill park "Greenham Park". I had made a conscious decision to go down the path of voluntary community service rather than sport and recreation.

*Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -*

GETTING YOUR OWN BACK

By Alan A Gale 1995

(A true story)

There was squawking in the chookhouse,
You could hear it now and then,
"It'll be that blasted wildcat
Trying to get another hen."

So he loaded up the shotgun
And he gave it double charge,
He'd seen this wildcat before
And knew 'twas pretty large.

Then he crept out in the garden
Where the spuds were growing well,
And he lay there waiting for it
He would give that big cat hell.

As the cat came from the henhouse
With a chicken there in tow,
He carefully aimed along the sights
And let both barrels go.

It demolished half the spud patch
And the chicken went a-flying,
While there among the garden wreckage
The wildcat was lying.

So now he had to dig a hole
To remove the evidence,
And bury that old chicken stealer
That was stretched out by the fence.

Now a country boy is pretty bright
When it comes to dodging work,
For the toilet down the back was full
'Twas a job he couldn't shirk.

So then he thought a little while
And knew what he could do,
He would place them in the hole together
That would save him digging two.

The contents of the thunderbox
Was poured into the hole,
Then in went giant wildcat
What hadn't yet turned cold.

But the big cat hadn't given up
Although his eyes were dimming,
'Twas not a place for one to be
And so he started swimming.

Now the country boy thought pretty fast
Grabbed the shovel standing near,
"When his head comes up again
I'll whack him on the ear."

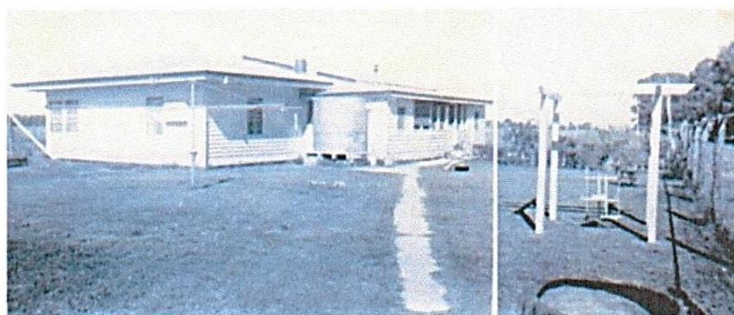
'Tis here I'll add, the hole was full
And level to the ground,
As the shovel swung down to the mess
It splattered all around.

Well the contents of the thunderbox
Went flying everywhere,
It was on his clothes and on his boots
It was even in his hair.

Now the cat shot through, it'd had enough,
No chicken's worth this strife,
But you can bet he'll not forget the day
That he nearly lost his life.

**On chickens, wildcats,
shotgun and emptying
the thunderbox.**

**Life on the Pental Island
farm in 1950's before we
could afford the porcelain
and a septic tank.**



**Thunderbox at the end of this
cement path well away from our
1950's Pental Island house.
The burial pits through the corner
gate outside the house yard.**

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

Community Development

The imperatives other than electricity and telephone were freehold land tenure, a secure irrigation water allocation, a school bus for the many young families growing up and the formation of a Rural Fire Brigade. All involved negotiation and confrontation with the Victorian Public Service.

Swan Hill Rural Fire Brigade

I became the first Secretary of the Volunteer Swan Hill Rural Fire Brigade. In later years as a Shire Councillor I was invited to the opening of a new fire Swan Hill Fire Station reading the honour board reminded me of the early role where I first encountered the power of the public service. They were upset by the number of people I had included in the brigade membership roll. I also learned not to make assumptions in reporting on attendance and cause of a wheat land fire.

Irrigation Water

In 1953 we accepted a SR&WSC offer of a 400 ac /ft. (498 mega litre) irrigation diversion licence for our 233 acre Murray River patch. The SR&WSC offered Pental Island landholders a 15 Year Water Diversion License replacing the Annual Permit. In imperial measure from the Murray River 400 acre feet for holdings of 200 acres plus and from the Little Murray River weir pool 200 acre feet for holdings of 100 acres plus. Most accepted the offer. The Island was allocated in metric terms some 14,000 mega litres underpinning its post war development.

School Bus

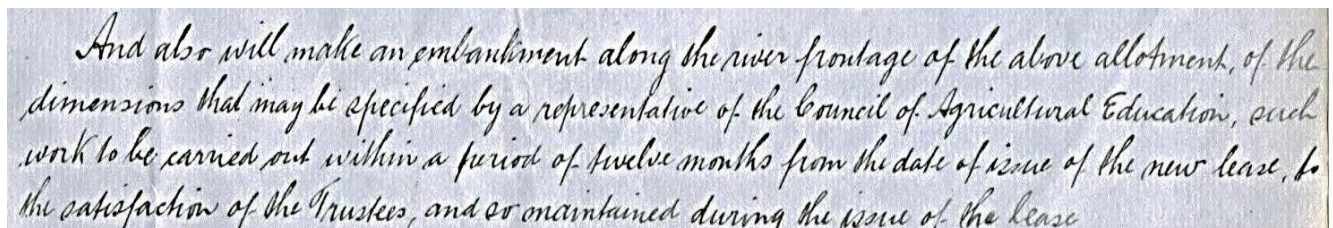
In securing the service I personally I carried out a door to door detailed written survey of families in the Fish Point / Pental Island area for use by the Swan Hill High School Principal, whose grandchildren also lived on the Island. Being a political greenhorn I managed to upset the Principal Fred Wells by seeking the support of our local politician.

Pental Island Settlers Association - Land Tenure

In 1955/56 I was invited by my peers to serve on the Pental Island Settlers Association Committee then accepted the position of Secretary.

The Association, led by John Teague with William Caelli Secretary and local Shire Councillor Thomas Bright, had led negotiations with the Secretary of the Department of Crown Land & Survey (Lands Department) and the Shire Council on the future of land tenure.

The Pental Island Agricultural College leasehold land having been rejected (too hard) for soldier settlement was permitted by Act of Parliament to be made freehold subject to the flood protection requirements of the State Rivers & Water Supply Commission (SR&WSC) and its Chairman Ronald East (later Sir Ronald) who were constrained by the 1926 NSW/Victoria Interstate Levee Agreement which replaced the original handwritten 1914 lease agreement condition below.



And also will make an embankment along the river frontage of the above allotment, of the dimensions that may be specified by a representative of the Council of Agricultural Education, such work to be carried out within a period of twelve months from the date of issue of the new lease, to the satisfaction of the Trustees, and so maintained during the issue of the lease

Source: 1914 Agricultural College Council Lease Agreement Allotments 20 & 21 – Chisholm

As 1965 lease expiry approached settlers and financing banks became more nervous of the future leading to economic and social development stagnation. My mother became alarmed talking to dad's bank manager. Another bank manager (not mine) invited me in as a community leader to discuss the problem.

The Association sought the sponsorship of Swan Hill Shire Council in meeting the requirements of the SR&WSC who despite their senior officer's opposition to the concept of freehold land title on populist socialist philosophical grounds asked for the formation of the Pental Island River Improvement Trust, a water authority enabled by Victorian Act of Parliament.

*Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
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Pental Island River Improvement Trust

Victoria Government agreed and the Trust came into existence in July 1957 under the supervision of the SR&WSC (Water Commission).

The new Trusts financial arrangements based on a **public benefit/private profit formula** provided for initial survey for new levee sites \$5 Government for \$1 local contribution, new levee capital contribution was in two parts strategic levees \$5 for \$1 (cross Island floodways) other levees \$1 for \$1 with local contribution borrowed from Government at four (4) percent interest and quarter of one percent (1/4) sinking fund repayment, in practice an almost 90 year loan, with ongoing operational and new works maintenance fully funded by local contribution.

In the years ahead the capital works funding formula collapsed following the severity of the record 1975 flood (Pental Island levee failures) due the increased flood capacity (dredge deepening) of SR&WSC irrigation carrier streams to the Trust River Improvement District.

The Trust comprised 9 voluntary Commissioners, 7 elected & 2 Government nominees.



From left: H.G.Strom (SR&WSC), F.B. Womersley (Secretary), Comm. K.A. Greenham, Chairman; Comm. T. Bright (Govt. Nominee), Comm. H.S. Loader, Comm. M. Adams, Comm. E.A. Abbott, A.H. Hicks, (SR&WSC), Comm. H.W. Dunstan, and T.R. Evans (SR&W). Absent: Comm. H.S. Brooke, Comm. W.A.N. Whitlock (Govt. Nominee), Comm. G.H. Willox.

Source of photo & following quote: October 1957 Journal of SR&WSC 'AQUA'.

"The jurisdiction of the Pental Island River Improvement Trust was to extend over both rivers from the upper junction near Benjeroop to their lower junction at Swan Hill. The length of the Murray River between junctions was approximately 33 miles, while the length of its anabranh (Little Murray River) was approximately 40 miles. The pioneering Commissioners of the Trust and their supporters had committed themselves to the task of remodelling or replacing existing levee banks and construction of new levees to be placed on new alignments. Other works to be included were erosion prevention and general removal of obstructions from the free flow of river channels extending over 17,521 acres which comprised Pental Island. Approximately 13,800 acres or 75% of the Island was below known flood levels, which made Constitution of such a Trust in unusual circumstances largely experimental."

The immediate task was to fix sites for the 56 mile long new flood protection levee bank system involving 112 miles of on ground survey in compliance with the NSW / Victoria 1920's Interstate Levee Deed of Agreement (ILA) which permitted the reclamation of Pental Island flood prone land for irrigation agriculture under strict conditions.

Murray River waterway minimum 15 chains (300 meters) from NSW licensed levee Little Murray River waterway minimum 5 chains (100 meters) from 1930's Victorian Board of Works mainland levee with a requirement for two leveed linking flood ways, to transfer Loddon and Avoca River floodwaters across the Island to the Murray River. Effectively three ring levees.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

Water Commission attempts to control the outcome by seeking Trust appointment of retired Commission Officers as consultants was resisted and an independent Civil Engineer E. V. Johnston was appointed. With the refusal of the Surveyor General to undertake the survey work he also became our surveyor and his levee line became known as the 'Johnson Line'.

Local Government Nominee, Councillor/Commissioner Thomas Bright owner of an existing 1870's Pental Island freehold and Loddon Floodway leasehold land was the Trusts first chairman, I was an elected Commissioner, became his Deputy and was elected Chairman when it became clear that his conflict of interest with the Water Commissions Interstate Levee Agreement floodway requirement was becoming a problem for the critical negotiations ahead.

Although I had had experience as secretary of local organisations chairmanship was a new role. Fortunately a Public Authority Chairman's role was set out in the Government Regulations linked to the enabling legislation, the River Improvement Act 1958, which I was required to administer with the assistance of a part time secretary/accountant and a consulting engineer under the overall guidance of the State Rivers & Water Supply Commission Rivers and Streams Division.

The experience was pivotal in community development roles in the years ahead.

It also became clear that implementation of the High State Policy NSW/Victoria Interstate Levee Agreement involving relocation of virtually all the existing flood protection system developed as a lease condition over the years and now overgrown with red gum trees would cause much landholder anguish with some arguable compromises inevitable.

An additional key issue in the saga ahead was Parliaments recent statute law reversal of the Common Law 'onus of proof' in the event of damage by a flow of water intentionally or through failure of a Water Authority or Trust works with the plaintiff no longer required to provide proof of negligence. This effectively gave no defence against claims for compensation. SR&WSC Chairman Ronald East faced with a mounting indefensible compensation bill in irrigation areas was in bitter dispute with Parliament who had acted to protect landholders including soldier settlers from poor works construction and management from the overpowering might of the State.

The formation of the Pental Island River Improvement Trust, made up of a majority of landholders, met Parliaments new 'onus of proof' test that works design & construction take into account local knowledge along with scientific knowledge leading to much higher construction standards and costs than originally envisaged in the application to form the Trust which was based on use of bulldozers which had replaced horse teams as earth movers.

The Water Commission rightly insisted that waterways, levee bank and access tracks remain on Crown Land and be managed by the Trust arguing that individual landholder responsibility led to weak links in the chain of flood protection works.

During this era there was no requirement to consider the impact of works on the environment, that is, tree removal, borrow pit location, or indigenous heritage issues in siting of levees or winning clay & topsoil for levee bank construction.

.By 1960 leaseholders had unanimously approved new levee site on ground survey documentation and the Trust made application to the SR&WSC for NSW/Victoria Interstate Levee Committee approval.

The Trust had been provided with a copy of the 1920's Interstate Levee Deed of Agreement with the NSW Government relating to Pental Island and with a composite whole of Island aerial photograph put together from many individual prints onto which the NSW Licenced Levee, the Trusts "Johnson Levee Line" and Victorian Mainland levee locations were imposed and was signed by me as Chairman.

The photo/plan provided all including landholders with a clear picture of the impact. SR&WSC Chairman Ronald East due to two arguable compromises (NSW concave river bends) involving reductions in the 300 metre Murray River waterway on the eastern Island requiring compensating changes in NSW licensed levee location rejected the Trusts application.

Our local politician and mentor Percy Byrnes MP (later Sir Percy) with Premier Henry Bolte MP (later Sir Henry) devised a dramatic strategy to end the deadlock over this and the wider 'onus of proof' dispute with Parliament.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

As Percy explained, ***‘the more a public servant understands a problem the less likely he/she is to solve it.’*** SR&WSC Chairman Ronald East was called before the Bar of the Victorian Houses of Parliament at 10 PM one night and accused of being a dictator.

At 10 AM next morning all Trust Commissioners had discussions with him at Parliament House. Queens Council opinion that the Trust should not proceed with works without a State indemnity protecting ratepayers from negligence claims was discussed. At about this time Swan Hill City Council in its Sewage Authority function lost a case against it for negligence in water management with ratepayers paying dearly. We were advised by Chairman East that the State would not indemnify the Trust and were urged to ***“shelter behind the high cost of the law”***.

A further meeting was arranged for 2 weeks later between Chairman East, myself as Trust Chairman and fellow landholder Cmr. David Chisholm at SR&WSC Orrong Rd. HQ’s where to our surprise he advised his Rivers and Streams Division Manager by telephone without further discussion to ***“give the Trust what it wants”***.

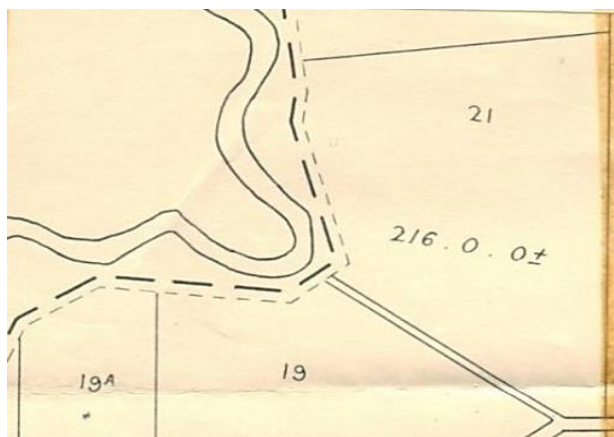
As Trust Chairman I felt that the outcome signalled Chairman East and the Water Commissions confidence in Trust Commissioners a position which despite our being forced to terminate the contract of our Consultant Civil Engineer/Surveyor by his successor and appoint a new one for the levee bank construction phase continued for some 40 years.

Having at one time met Chairman East (now Sir Ronald) by chance in the grounds of his Melbourne Orrong Road head-quarters I received an invitation to his retirement dinner which I was unable to attend due to the demands of dairy farming. It was interesting to read the eulogies of those who followed him in leadership roles. Promoting independent thought he never criticised their work, simply said ***“try again”***.

Parliament in the years ahead amended the statute law maintaining the principle of Water Authority /Trust bearing the ‘onus of proof’ but with further safeguards against wrongful claims. Water Act 1989, S157 @28 July 1997..Despite the difficulties and risks, driven by the critical land tenure issue, we pushed on.

The Reward for 5 years volunteer effort.

Copy of the Lands Department draft plan and letter set out the principles established for our Pental Island CA21 freehold land title.



*Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -*

DEPARTMENT OF CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY,

Melbourne, C.2, 28th May, 1962.

(When replying please quote NORTHERN 68A/AC.)

Mr. K. A. Greenham,
SWAN HILL.

Dear Sir,

re Allotment 21 Parish of Pental Island.

I desire to acknowledge the receipt of your application for an Agricultural College Purchase Lease of the above-described land.

Since my letter to you of the 12th February 1962, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, on the recommendation of the Pental Island River Improvement Trust, has varied the basis upon which it is prepared to agree to land being made freehold.

The Commission has now indicated that, provided the three (3) chain permanent reservation to the Murray River and the two (2) chain permanent reservation to the Little Murray River are preserved, the above-described allotment which you hold under Agricultural College Lease may, so far as the Commission is concerned, be freeholded, using the line of the proposed levee, with a margin of 1½ chains on the side remote from the river, as the boundary for alienation.

I attach for your information a sketch plan, the long-dash heavy lines on which represent the line of the proposed levee, the short-dash light lines the boundary of the 1½ chain margin, and the figures the approximate area to be considered for alienation.

This change of approach has held up the preparation of plans for valuation, and following a consultation between the Pental Island River Improvement Trust and officers of this Department, your co-operation is being sought to furnish the approximate areas of various classes of land within the boundaries of the area proposed to be alienated.

This information of course will be confirmed by the valuers on the ground, but will be a considerable help in saving time in the making of the valuation. Enclosed is a pro-forma of the type of information desired. It would assist if this information could be supplied before the 15th June 1962. Compliance with this request is purely voluntary, and if you prefer not to supply the data, the Department will not regard it adversely.

In view of the likelihood that the Valuation Panel may take up to three or four months to deal with all valuations on the Island, and the fact that a large proportion of the existing Agricultural College Leases are due to expire by effluxion of time on the 31st May 1962, the Department, after very careful consideration, has decided to extend the existing leases with existing boundaries and existing conditions for another twelve months from 1st June 1962.

- 2 -

Your existing lease, which is not due to expire until 30th November 1965, will be continued pending investigation as to free-holding. Rental is not due for re-fixing until 1st December 1962.

Your account at present stands thus:

Quarterly instalment due 1.6.62	£16 9 8
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Early payment is requested.

Further notices will be sent as formerly on a quarterly basis.

Yours faithfully,

Ann J. Holt
pro SECRETARY FOR LANDS.

ENCLOS.

*Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
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*Excerpt from Victoria/New South Wales
Pental Island
1962 Interstate Levee Agreement
Recomendations*

- 3 -

generally adhered to but that minor variation in a particular case could, at the discretion of the Committee, be allowed, each special case for reduction of this flood waterway to be considered by the Committee on its merits. Furthermore, the Committee considers that an increase in the flood waterway over and above the 15 chains width would not be warranted as to be effective as flood storage it would result in the reservation of a considerable area of land developed for irrigation on the Island.

Summarizing, the Interstate Committee finds that -

(i) The Pental Island River Improvement Trust's proposal to construct a levee across the Murray River Frontage of allotment 23, 473 to 476 miles, being part of the Loddon flood waterway, is reasonable provided the height of the levee is such that it will not unduly obstruct flow through the flood waterway across the Island under exceptional flood conditions;

(ii) From the aspect of flood-carrying capacity the heavily timbered flats between the levees 15 chains apart along the Murray frontages on and opposite Pental Island would carry a small proportion only of total flood flows;

(iii) Obstruction to flood flows occasioned by the proposed minor encroachments on the 15 chain flood waterway along the frontages of allotments 32, 36, 37 and 38 as shown on the Trust's plan number P3-C4 would be negligible;

(iv) The amended alignment along the portion 483 to 493 miles as an alternative to the line of the admitted levee, would be permissible;

(v) The policy laid down by the 1925 Interstate Committee as to the minimum 20 chains waterway to be provided between levees along the Murray River insofar as it relates to Pental Island is sound in principal and should be generally adhered to. Minor reduction in width of waterway could, however, be permitted in special cases, each such case to be considered by the Committee on its merits; and further

(vi) The previous policy of counting the Little Murray waterway of an average of 5 chains as portion of the 20 chains waterway along the Murray River is acceptable.

This Committee, therefore, RECOMMENDS, that:-

(i) The alignment of levees proposed by the Pental Island River Improvement Trust from 459½ miles to 473 miles and from 476 miles to 493 miles as shown on Plans Numbers P3-G4 and P3-M2 be approved;

(ii) Allotment 23 from 473 miles to 476 miles, being part of the Loddon flood waterway, be partially protected by a levee along the Murray River frontage on the alignment shown on Plan Number P3-G4, the height of this levee to be subject to review by the Committee;

(iii) The policy that a minimum 20 chains waterway shall be provided between levees along the Murray River insofar as it relates to Pental Island levees should be generally adhered to, but that minor reduction in width of waterway in special cases could be allowed at the discretion of the Committee having regard to the circumstances in each case.

P.E. Olsen,
Victorian Representative

A.F. Burne,
New South Wales Representative

9th March, 1962

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

Lands Department

Immediately following the Parliamentary confrontation with East and pressing our case a bit too hard with our landlord Secretary of Lands Klenner led to a bitter verbal response *‘the Lands Department is the grandmother of all land in Victoria, how dare you try to teach your grandmother her job.’* Answering a telephone call in our presence presumably from East he counselled *‘Parliament rises tomorrow the dust will settle.’*

At the time the position of Secretary of Lands was short term. During the 1930’s great depression no new officers were appointed for some years leading to seniority based late 1950’s appointments being short term. Klenner’s term of office the last in the depression years sequence was only 8 months and was followed by a new generation of long term appointment which was much appreciated. New Secretary of Lands Holt spoke of his experience with tenants of NW Mallee leaseholds and of his respect for their views on land management.

The NSW/VIC Interstate Levee Committee approved the ‘Johnson Line’ sites and negotiations began with Secretary of Lands Holt and the Surveyor-General for a new Pental Island Parish Plan reserving land permanently to the Crown in accordance with the provisions of the Land Act, including statutory riverfront reserves, waterway, flood protection works & access and new road alignments, and setting out water, drainage & electricity easements in preparation for issue of 20 year Purchase Leases in 1965. Basic survey instructions were undertaken by surveyor Brown a highly experienced and competent officer.

Our leasehold property was heavily involved with an extension of Greenham Lane to service our northern neighbour dividing the property into 2 allotments. Despite my later withdrawal from active involvement I was called on from time to time by the surveyors to assist with onsite information throughout the Island.

As survey work for the new Parish Plan commenced a bitter dispute with the Department over the asking price for the unimproved land erupted. It was an extension of a wider land valuation dispute across northern Victoria triggered by economic recession caused by the emergence of the European Economic Community and loss of agricultural markets.

As secretary of the Settlers Association I was deeply involved, our case was argued before the Minister for Lands by a local law firm and my mentor Percy Byrnes MP once again stepped in to break the deadlock through Premier Bolte who reputedly would not read anything longer than a single page with one line sentences.

I signed a 9 one line sentence letter to Bolte on behalf of the Association seeking appointment of an inter-departmental Public Service Committee of Inquiry. The Inquiry upheld our view and the asking price for the bare land was reduced by one third.

At the height of the confrontation following a departmental briefing tour of the Island Nancy and I entertained the Minister for Lands and his minders along with Percy Byrnes at morning tea in our humble cottage. Nancy of course produced our treasured wedding present cups, saucers and plates for the occasion. At the evening meeting in Swan Hill he referred to the weighty issues under discussion as a “dry argument”, having much preferred a cold beer.

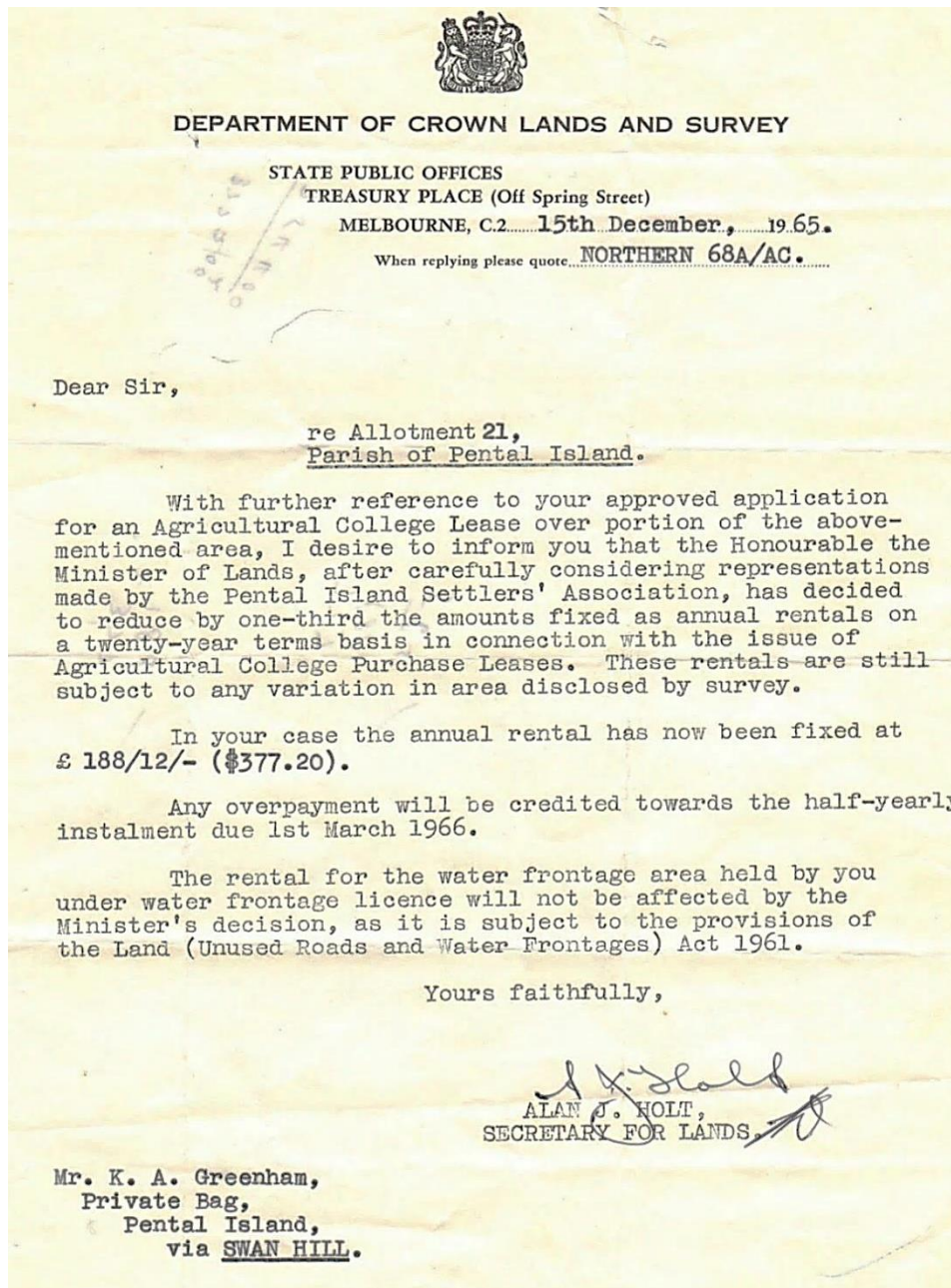
As a measure of the intensity of infighting with the public service over the valuation issue, many years later, I was made aware that a member of the inter-departmental committee had quizzed people in Swan Hill’s Campbell Street on who I was, my integrity and community standing.

Despite the confrontation at the end of the day a good co-operative working relationship with all the players ordered well for the future.

*Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
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*The Reward for a further
2 years effort.*

The price of the bare land is tentatively fixed at \$7,544



1984 - Jenny Greenham brother Peters daughter for her University Thesis produced a History of the Pental Island River Improvement Trust 1957 – 1975 entitled

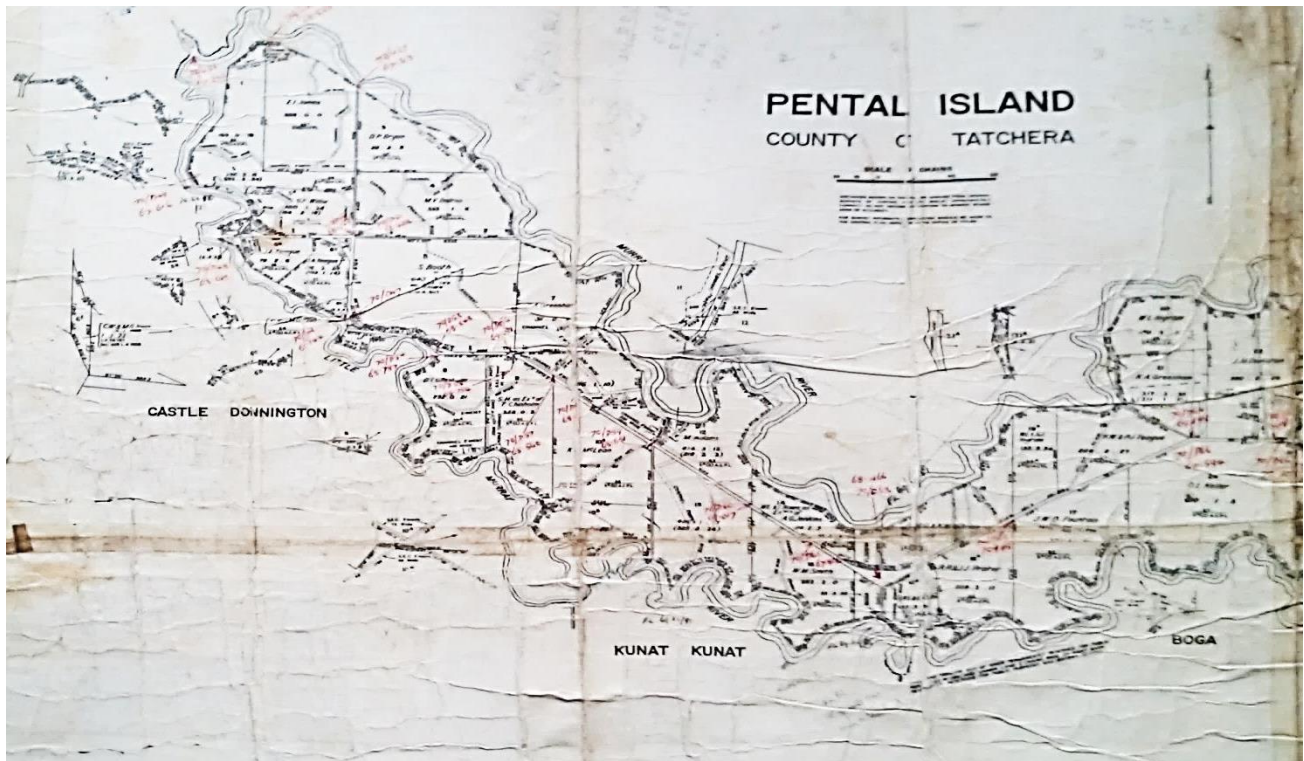
THE PENTAL ISLAND SETTLERS GRADUALLY ACHIEVE THEIR AIMS.

This document draws on Government archival material as well as local knowledge.

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Pental Island Parish Plan 1964

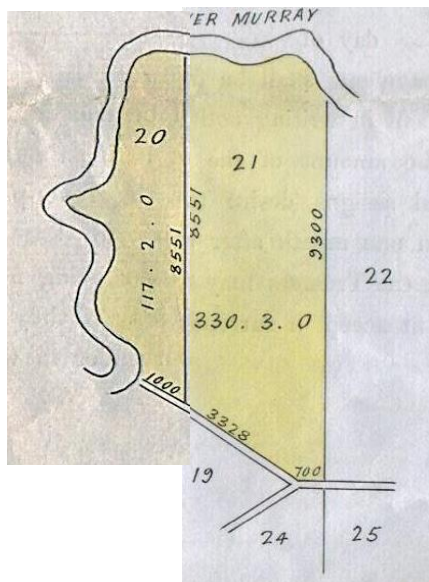
Six years of voluntary community service by members of the Trust led to Government survey team production of the 1964 Pental Island, County of Tatchera, Parish Plan. The copy of the Plan reproduced below was used by my brother Peter Greenham using his Civil Engineering education, in reconstruction of the levee bank system as the post 1975 flood, works supervisor.



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Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

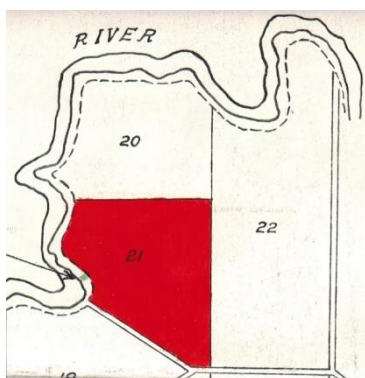


These plans indicate the extent of change accepted by tenants of the Agricultural College Council Trustees and later Board of Land and Works / Lands Department in achieving Freehold land title for the economic benefit of the Swan Hill Region

1914 - Original CA 20 & 21 waters edge NSW border Parish of Pental Island subdivision

Future Greenham Lane

Pental Island Road



1950 - Parish of Pental Island Plan tenants re-subdivision of Allotments 20 & 21 including Murray River frontage

Allot. 21 K A Greenham purchased 1952

233 acre Agricultural College Council Leasehold – 1952 to 1964

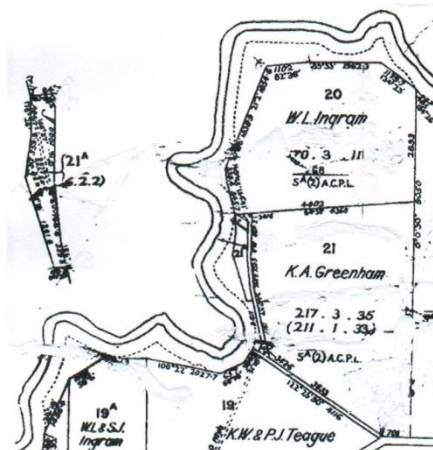
Arrow points to water diversion (pump) site servicing Allts 20 & 21

Note: access to All. 20 by right of way through All 21

Pental Is Road. Swan Hill to Fish Point

1964 Parish of Pental Island Plan
Allotment 21 & 21A New Murray River frontage
K A Greenham
1964 218 acre Purchase Lease
1984 conjoined Freehold Land Title
2000 Split into 2 titles, 21 & 21A

NSW
Murray R Vic. 1964
Public Purpose Reserve, 2010
Murray River Park



2010 SHRCC Planning Scheme Mapping

Source: Planning Scheme Amendment Documents recognising the existence of CA21A our home site.

NSW Victoria Pental Island



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Dotted - Land Liable to Indundation Overlay

Clear - Greenham Lane red soil hill & Murray R. Clifs.

CA 21 Flethcher Lane Subdivision Overlay



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Regional Post War Development

In the wider community running parallel with the Pental Island problem post war and post 1956 flood event redevelopment of irrigation areas was proceeding in the region. As Trust Chairman I was involved in all these issues finding myself speaking and waving the hands around on the new media 'box' (TV). It was suggested I stand for Local Government. I declined.

Mentor Percy Byrnes MLC advised me on his method of dealing with public servants who talked rubbish at public meetings. *Acknowledging that as a politician he had to deal with them every day rather than confront and embarrass them in public he simply walked quietly out of the meeting*

Unfortunately as a community leader faced with the conflict between waterway management and improving the lot of Swan Hill irrigation district farmers I failed to alert a Parliamentary Committee Inquiry of the likely impact of dredging the Pyramid Creek irrigation water carrier on the flow of flood water with disastrous consequences in the 1973/4/5 floods. Its purpose was to reduce Swan Hill irrigation response times from 12 days to 2 days, My Uncle Bert Thompson of Kerang had drawn the attention of the Committee to the ground water problem of dredging into the Pyramid Creek's underlying sand layer with its saline water table with little notice being taken.

I began using the Letters to the Editor columns of *The Guardian* Newspaper. An early print media experience involved a letter tabled at a Shire Council Meeting. Picking up my copy of *The Guardian* at our Pental Island Road mailbox I found a two inch high front page headline **RATEPAYER ATTACKS COUNCIL**. I nearly died.

I also did a series of three radio 3SH interviews with local identity Ross Mellor discussing the then principles of reclamation by levee banks of the Murray River Flood Pondage Basin in NSW & Victoria for irrigation agricultural purposes.

It is probably of interest to restate those 1960 flood plain management principles.

A great river system like the Murray rises in the mountains with reducing gradients (speed of flow) as it flows to the sea.

Before the mountain dams were constructed following WW1 and WW2 the greatest free flow recorded flood was 1870. It remains the benchmark flood level in the Swan Hill Region where rainfall events in the Loddon and Avoca Rivers mainly determine outcomes.

Pental Island is part of the 4,000,000 ml Murray River flood pondage basin. In the 1920's, before construction of the great mountain dams, the NSW/Victoria objective was to maintain pondage capacity by controlling the construction of levee banks. The reclamation target was 4% with contour surveys of reclaimed land determining pondage reduction. Average depth of pondage was greater in Victoria resulting in more land being reclaimed in NSW than in Victoria.

Engineers claimed that if the Murray River was confined to its bed and banks levees in the Swan Hill region would be 26 feet or 8 meters high.

Despite the flood mitigating impact of construction of the great Murray and tributary mountain storage dams, the cumulative year on year effect of flood events during 1955 and 1956 when all rivers in the Murray Darling Basin ran caused serious levee failures. Some of course could be attributed to the rabbit plague of the 1950's, landholder and government complacency and inability of NSW & Victorian legislation to control the activities of landholders constructing levees ever closer to the river bed & banks.

The great floods of 1973, 74 75 drove the message home and in 2013 law makers continue to grapple with the issues through Land Use Planning Controls and the Victorian Environment Assessment Council.

Pental Island 1963 to 1972

Overview

In 1963 serious personal and financial problems emerged. Nance's health suffered following Meredith's birth in November 1962 requiring a number of difficult surgical operations followed in the years ahead by a hysterectomy and the European Common Market in seeking to promote self-sufficiency avoiding the warfare of the past shut out imports of Australian agricultural products, lamb and wool prices collapsed.

European Common Market - Impact

We had three choices, get bigger going into debt, take a job offered by a stock agent or turn the property into a dairy farm producing cream with the skim milk fed to pigs. We chose the dairy option because it continued to receive government subsidy support.

On receiving the approval in writing of our landlord Secretary of Lands Holt for the required buildings as an insurance policy against failure of our bid for a Purchase Lease and a loan from my mother (proceeds of sale of the Splatt St tennis court block) we proceeded to construct the dairy buildings and pig sties on the red land hill and purchase stock commencing operations in 1964.

To enable this to happen I withdrew from public life, resigning from the Pental Island Settlers Association, Pental Island River Improvement Trust, and Swan Hill Rural Fire Brigade.

With great relief the Lands Department issued 20 year Purchase Leases in 1965 for a price we considered reasonable.



On the Home Front

The new way of life milking a winter producing dairy herd and tending the pigs was unrelenting 7 days a week 15 hours a day with a well-earned break mid-January to mid-March.

The Swan Hill Co-op Dairying Company had 240 cream suppliers and our production peaked at 4 x 8 gallon cans a day with some finding its way into the fresh cream market due to the high hygiene standards I had adopted and we turned off 100 bacon pigs a year having grown them from 'suckers' purchased at the Swan Hill market.

The household switched from wood to electricity for cooking and heating and the outdoor dub (toilet) was replaced by an indoor septic toilet system.

Floods – Pental Island River Improvement Trust

The existing cycle of fighting floods every four years was impacting severely on farm management and productivity. A Television crew appeared on our doorstep and off we went to the Loddon Floodway for an onsite interview which we saw on our new TV.

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To our relief the River Improvement Trust led by Jim Teague then Keith James along with Consulting Engineer Ian Drummond and Secretary Bob Burns commenced construction of a new two ring levee flood protection system using the new technology of the self-propelled scoop, the scraper, imported from America to construct the Lake Eildon earthen dam wall and high technical construction standards involving 1956 flood level plus 40cm freeboard and 3 metre crest topsoiled clay core banks compacted to 95%. Following the record 1975 flood the level was raised to 1975 flood level plus 60cm freeboard with the highest banks exceeded 3 metres.

Hunting, Fishing, Shooting and Tiger Snakes

As recounted earlier the island was well known for its tiger snake population. The house yard was protected by a galvanised iron fence and under the house by bird netting. I always wore leggings whether leather or cut down rubber boots. Two of our neighbours were bitten and spent a night in hospital. I applied a tourniquet and rushed a neighbour's child to the doctor in Swan Hill. Fortunately it was a false alarm. A neighbour claimed he killed 300 a year and they were so thick in NSW that pig hunting enthusiasts were forced to abandon the chase. Thrashing around in the grass with a shovel looking for a tiger at the house yard back gate I found it lying peacefully under the instep of my rubber boots and a niece sunbaking and reading on the lawn was confronted by one.

By the 70's the boys were into hunting, fishing and shooting. Tiger snake skins were tanned and Swan Hill's Pioneer Settlement Gem Restaurant bought the meat in 3 inch portions til one day they brought in an emaciated specimen which when skun revealed it was being attacked by white worms under the skin. From the time of this discovery our area of the Island has been for the most part free of tiger snakes. Fishing led to a near tragedy as a large red gum fell on their favourite fishing hole minutes after returning home and shooting led to anxiety as one of the boys failed to return home on time.

Red Cross Canoe Marathon

In 1969 we began hosting the Red Cross Canoe Marathon at the Greenham Lane check point 'Charlie' the last before the gruelling paddle to the Swan Hill finish line 26 kms away. In the early day's support crews were not permitted to enter riverfront reserves and were welcomed onto private land, later the rule was relaxed and we continued to host some 400 vehicles for a few hours on New Year's Eve in a controlled parking area on the riverfront licensed leasehold land.

In 2008 we were honoured with a Certificate of Appreciation and the Red Cross announced it will sponsor the last Canoe Marathon and Doreen & I were for the last time involved. Late 2008 it was announced that the Marathon will continue under the banner of the YMCA so we continued until moving to Swan Hill. Bruce carried the flag for us making the Swan Hill finishing line on more than one occasion.

United Dairy-farmers of Victoria (UDV)

As the dairy farming operation became firmly established I returned to public life in an entirely new role, agricultural politics, as Secretary of the Swan Hill Branch of the United Dairyfarmers of Victoria. The issues under debate included industry restructure as the Murray Goulburn Coop Dairying Company took over the operations of the many small Coop's including Swan Hill and the future of the contract liquid milk trade including pasteurisation of town milk supplies.

Swan Hill Irrigators Research Farm

I accepted Committee Membership and later became President of the Swan Hill Irrigators Research Farm an operating dairy farm located on the Tyntynder Flats north of Swan Hill. The following speech tells the farms story.

*Annual General Meeting opening remarks by Keith Greenham President
Swan Hill Irrigators Research Farm - early 1970's*

Ladies and Gentlemen

In opening the meeting I wish to spend a few moments looking into the past 30 years of irrigation in Victoria and relating it to the Research Farm.

During the latter half of the 1940's following the war and it's decimation of world agriculture and the 2 year drought the expansion of irrigation was of utmost

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importance to our economy. Soldier settlement areas were opened up, the Lake Hume enlargement and Lake Eildon projects were planned.

The 1950's saw a boom in agricultural product prices in a low cost period, completion of the great dams and soldier settlement moving along. The Snowy Mountains hydro project made big news

"51, '55 '56 were flood years in the Murray River system with each bringing higher flood peaks. Water table and salting problems were aggravated by the high rainfall and lack of drainage. Many of our farms were still being managed under the Debt Adjustment Act of the 1930's

Swan Hill was by passed in the development of new irrigation areas for soldier settlement. The Pental Island area adjacent to Swan Hill was considered but abandoned due to the many unique and seemingly insoluble problems.

Swan Hill felt that it had been left behind in agricultural development and in a spirit of self-help the whole community, farmers, businessmen, bankers, councils, public servants and the general public got squarely behind the rehabilitation of our irrigation areas; horticulture, dairying and grazing.

The 1950's also saw amendments and consolidation of the Victorian Water Acts, the statute law under which the SR&WSC and local water authorities operate.

Enshrined within these Acts are the great principles which enable the State and private enterprise to work together in the conservation and use of our water resources.

The most important is the statutory direction to take into account local knowledge in the planning and operation of water engineering projects.

The need to take into account local knowledge has provided the meeting ground between the civil engineer and the man on the farm or on the street. The civil engineer (politico) has to be firstly convinced that the landholders of a prospective drainage, flood protection, sewage, water supply etc area really want it and are prepared to cooperate in the solving of the many problems and secondly that the State who provides the capital cost will reap benefits from its outlay.

And so the Research Farm was born to provide a meeting ground which was further strengthened by agricultural scientists (CSIRO & DAV), bankers and businessmen. The purchase of a rundown dairy farm in 1954 provided a community project dedicated to convincing farmers and the State that drainage was a practical proposition and reclamation of salted lands feasible.

The flood years of '55 & '56 drove the point home and led to a pilot drainage scheme in 1959. Its success led to allocation of funds over a number of years for the drainage of the Swan Hill Flats Area.

The Research Farm now became the meeting ground in the self-help side of the job, modernisation of dairy farm improvements, management & methods and reclamation of saline lands and other problems. The importance of this cannot be underestimated for it may well be that if politico engineers judge our farmers efforts poorly the State will find it difficult to carry out such costly projects in the future.

The influence of the sister research farms, Swan Hill & Kerang, has spread from Piangil to Echuca on both sides of our life line the great Murray River.

When we bring all the Swan Hill Vic/NSW region rehabilitation and new private diversion irrigation projects into view – Swan Hill Flats, Woorinen, Nyah, Piangil, Kyalite, Koraleigh, Boorangee, Murray Downs, Mellool, Fish Point, Tresco, Pental Island plus Torrumbarry system reconstruction, salinity control works, electrification and roads, is it any wonder that Swan Hill a pepper tree lined north-west dust bowl in 1945 is now a thriving City whose secondary school population has risen from 300 to 1,700 in 30 years.

The recipe for our success: Leadership, political muscle, community effort, co-operation.

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Murray River Salinity Management Dilemma. - Background & Outcome.

With the 1904 creation of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission (SR&WSC) funded directly from a State Consolidated Revenue budget allocation into which service charges were paid and statutory formula based allocation of irrigation water supporting subsistence farming was the basis for the expansion of irrigation agriculture in northern Victoria. By the 1930's Swan Hill irrigation areas were serviced by infrastructure linking the many Loddon River valley lakes and streams into irrigation water as well as flood water carriers.

1914 or so – Swan Hill steam engine pumped Irrigation areas became serviced by gravity from the Little Murray River Irrigation Diversion Weir fed from the Lower Loddon River and Lake Systems. A low level weir above Loddon Junction ensured no loss of water back to the Murray River.

1930's - Under primitive flood irrigation water tables were rising and land becoming salinized. Lake Tutchewop our childhood sandy beached swimming playground and irrigation water carrier became the focus of attention as the surrounding land became salinized. In the late 1930's mallee farmers and their horse teams under SR&WSC contract constructed a contour channel linking Kangaroo Lake directly to the Little Murray River Irrigation Pool returning Tutchewop to a flood mitigation role.

1950's – The future of the Lower Torrumbarry Irrigation District was under the microscope. A proposal for a Murray River Irrigation Diversion Weir (Marraboor) upstream of Pental Island at Benjeroop servicing NSW and Swan Hill was abandoned in favour of NSW private diversion by riverfront landholders. The downside was landholder interference with the floodplain waterways in provision of irrigation pumps and channels resulting in impact on flood levels.

A 20 year flood free period 1931 – 1951 gave way to floods every 4 years for the next 40 years. Increased allocation of irrigation water justified the building of the great mountain dams, Hume, Eildon, Dartmouth drove post war economic prosperity leading to acceleration of rising water tables and salinization leading to greater activity by the SR&WSC & successor bodies in the provision of drainage infrastructure and what to do with the highly saline water collected.

For Swan Hill it was collecting in our irrigation agriculture lifeline the Little Murray River Irrigation Pool fed by Kerang's Barr Cr salt drain. Pool salinity levels reached 900ec units against a maximum safe level of under 200ec units. The problem was dealt with by reconfiguration of the Little Murray Irrigation Pool low cost Loddon system gravity water source to high cost pumping from the Murray River on Eastern Pental Island and Tyntynder Flats and the construction of the Winlaton Regulator to turn the small saline residual flows of the Loddon back to the Murray River.

Turning to the big picture Murray River water users were alarmed at rising salinity levels resulting in the establishment by the River Murray Commission, a Federal Government Agency, of off river salinity management evaporation basins. Lake Tutchewop became the outfall of our nemesis the Kerang Barr Creek salt drain whose flows were such that consideration had to be given to its sustainability that is the process of evaporation of the water leading to the production of salt.

What became the Tutchewop Mineral Reserves Scheme aimed to treat a large volume of saline water by moving it to further basins and ultimately Lake Tyrell in the dryland Mallee to the west and was vigorously opposed by landholders and the community who feared that they were only transferring the rising water table problem to their patch leading to abandonment of the proposal part constructed and threatening to halt all further off river disposal along the Murray River.

To preserve what had been achieved by the commissioning of Tutchewop a successful smaller scale evaporative salt production scheme involving Lakes Kelly and William south of and linked to Tutchewop was established. On farm salinity management involved vastly improved flood irrigation land layout, laser grading, which aimed to reduce the amount of water reaching the underlying saline water table. It was heavily subsidised by Governments in the interests of food and balance of payments security. By 2000 its benefits were obvious.

1990's – 'Green' politicians and public servants always have the last laugh. Boom bust economic cycles led to a balance of payments crisis. Aiming for the most economic benefit of water use it became an unregulated tradable commodity releasing unused or uneconomic entitlement on to the irrigation agriculture, urban & investment markets. The environment through the Federal Governments Murray Darling Basin Plan took advantage removing a large volume from basic pasture based food security and the Murray River Salinity Management problem was largely solved.

Pental Island 1973 - 1982

On the Home Front - Progress and Set Backs.

Nance her health restored convinced me that we needed a new house, we chose a modern *The Age* newspaper small (2 BR) home design to go with the freestanding 2 bedrooms of the mid 1950's and built it. The new home featured sliding doors to increase space, 2 toilets & bathrooms (one en-suite), walk in wardrobe pantry & linen press, sewing room/office. We needed a small bank loan, the local managers reluctance was overcome by his Melbourne superiors based on our family history with the bank and our agreement to repay within 2 years which we did. Basic cost was \$14,000 finished for occupation \$18,000. The new home was Nance's pride and joy.

The 1970's expanded 1920's cottage 10 meters north of the new home was demolished revealing under the plaster which had replaced the original jute hessian and wallpaper sheeting an *Argus January 7 1930* newspaper recording Bradman's feats with the cricket bat in England. The original 24' x 24', four roomed cottage was a flimsy construction of 3" X 2" red gum mortised studs 36" apart. No wonder we could shake the walls.

In the aftermath of the Whitlam Labour Government years the rural economy true to the 10 year recession cycle hit the wall with much livestock valueless. Being debt free enabled us to ride out the economic troubles.

By this time cream and pigs had been replaced with installation of a 3000 litre refrigerated bulk milk vat and the walk through dairy upgraded to a 5 a side 10 unit herringbone and the irrigation pumping and drainage pumping systems replaced and electrified.

Jeff on finishing Year 12 entered the State Electricity Commission as a trainee power operator technician in Melbourne. Andrew also entered the State Electricity Commission but as a trainee civil engineering technical officer in Melbourne. Bruce found an apprentice fitter & turner position with Australian General Electric also in Melbourne. Meredith could not resist a Swan Hill position as a dental nurse and spent her first day caring for patients in recovery following dental surgery under general anaesthetic.

Return of Flood Years

1973, 74, 75 were serious flood years with 1975 levee bank failures upstream of the Loddon Floodway on Eastern Pental Island and elsewhere. The situation was compounded by increasing the capacity of irrigation/flood carriers, Pyramid Creek and Lake out fall channels to enhance irrigation water delivery to the Swan Hill area.

For the first time the State Emergency Service and army style sandbags were used in the emergency/fight and the Little Murray R. Loddon Floodway landholder constructed levee was deliberately blown. On Central Pental Island Murray River levees were overtopped and repaired and on patrol following the peak I found a 3 metre break in the Loddon Floodway red soil 1 metre high west bank which we repaired with minimum damage. With Lake Boga full easterly wind driven waves overtopped levees drenching the Murray Valley Highway.

The 1956 benchmark flood levels were replaced by the higher 1975 levels and led to accelerated reconstruction of the Islands flood protection system boosted by a \$500,000 Government capital contribution to the River Improvement Trust as compensation for irrigation works increasing inflow capacity. Brother Peter now the owner of our childhood Pental Island farm whose background was Civil Engineering became the Trust's works supervisor.

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Nancy

Nance tried golf but settled for using her telephonist communication skills with the State Emergency Service attending the 1975 Mt.Macedon training school.

The greatest blow came in October 1975 within months of attending this school. As flood conditions intensified she fell seriously ill with an inoperable brain tumour with the speech canal embedded requiring Radiation Therapy which prolonged her life to June 26 1982.

Her initial night time seizure and failure to quickly regain consciousness paralysed me with fear. Nance with great courage faced 6 years of grand and petite malls with embarrassing loss of speech and periodic treatment in Melbourne, unable to drive the car while continuing to run the household and organise our shopping trips to town together.

Early in her illness Nance recognised its terminal nature writing letters to us all and prepared her own thank you note for use on her passing with the words "To be loved is everything." and urged me to seek companionship and remarry.

We received great assistance from neighbours and relatives during crisis periods. On one occasion I found myself driving the ambulance and on others neighbours spotting it on the road followed it to help. Then there were the times when a trip to Melbourne to a specialist for treatment resulted in neighbour's assistance in milking the herd being great-fully received.

Nancy's lifelong telephonist friend Nell Frazer took care of her when hospitalised in Swan Hill. While in Melbourne we were especially thankful for the help of her sister Eunice and husband Ron Brady who then lived in Preston.

In the later years of her illness when all our children had left home Nance brought morning tea up to the dairy and we had some quiet reflective time together before her final month long hospitalisation.

During her illness Jeffrey & Roslyn were married in Melbourne and Andrew & Janet were married in Fiji, granddaughter Nicole and grandson Steven were born and we celebrated Nan's mother's 80th birthday. We laid to rest my father Bert, mother Lillian, and Nan's mother Barbara. At one time I had three hospitalised in Melbourne, Nance in St. Vincent's, mother Lilian in Cabrini, brother Peter in Peter McCallum.

Needless to say I had once again withdrawn from all community service activities and with the assistance of my parents legacy a second house (108 sqm) was built on the hill overlooking the Murray River for a workman to assist in running the dairy farm leaving me to care for Nancy.

We laid Nance to rest in the Swan Hill Memorial Park following a moving service in the Presbyterian Church we were married in almost 30 years before.

It was a cloudless winter day in keeping with the serious drought which gripped the land. I was dry-eyed having shed tears during the early years of her illness.

Three days after the funeral in a peculiar sensation I saw Nance rising into heaven and the depression of many years lifted from my shoulders.

R.I.P 26 June 1982



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DEATHS

ALEXANDER — (nee Lowan), at Swan Hill on June 27, Emily Isobel (Dolly), late of Bright. Loved wife of the late Jim and loved mother of Wilma (Mrs Klee-hammer) and Robert (Elsternwick). Loved Gran of five grandchildren. Loved sister of May (Mrs Diss). Aged 90 years. Remembered always. In God's care.

BEDGGOOD — Ray. Suddenly on June 19. Deepest sympathy to Mrs. Bedggood, Neil and family. —Donna and Jillian Bennett.

GREENHAM (Dowling). — Nancy Frances on June 26. Dearly loved wife of Keith. Dearly loved mother of Jeff, Drew, Bruce and Meredith. Loved mother-in-law of Roslyn and Janet. Loved Nana of Nicole, Scott and Steven. Aged 54 years. Dearly loved and remembered by us all.

GREENHAM — (Dowling) Nancy Frances. Dearly loved third daughter of the late Frank and Barbara Dowling. Dearly loved sister of Matt (Mrs K. Hogan, Mentone), Eunice (Mrs R. Brady, Preston) and Frank, Maryborough. Sister-in-law of Kevin, Ron and Neeta. Lovingly remembered.

GREENHAM — Nancy Frances. Loved sister-in-law of Dorothy and Ian, Aunt Nan of Paul, David, Malcolm, Susan and Rosemary. Loved and remembered always.

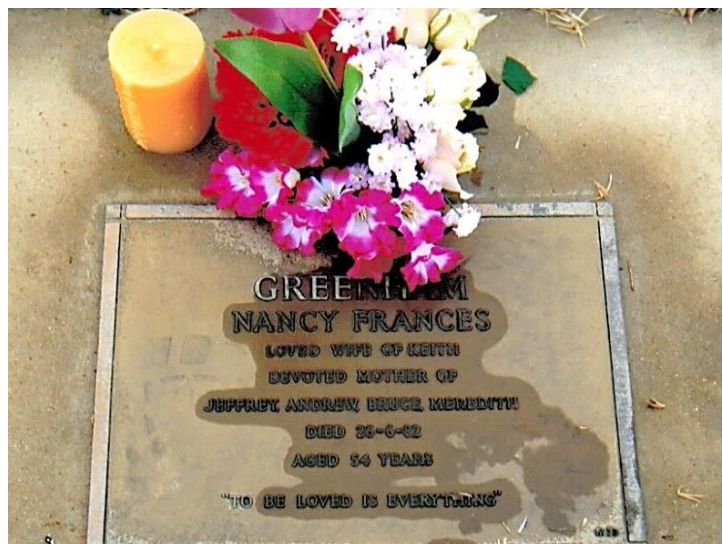
GREENHAM — Nancy. On June 26, 1982, loved sister-in-law of Peter and Ethel, fond aunty of Alan and Jenny.

Sweet memories of a very brave lady.

Sleep peacefully Nan.



The Guardian June 28 1982



Pental Island 1983 to 1992

Overview

The Cain / Kirner Victorian Labour Government decade was for country Victorians dominated by the economic impact of adoption of the State Conservation Strategy and the continuing boom bust cycle.

On the Home Front

On recovery from the loss of Nance while continuing to run the dairy farm with the assistance of a housed workman I was invited to resume voluntary community service activity as secretary of the Swan Hill Branch of the United Dairy Farmers (SH UDV), was again elected as a Commissioner of the Pental Island River Improvement Trust (PIRIT) becoming Deputy Chairman, accepted the positions of secretary of the Swan Hill Masonic Company (SHMC), appointed Murray Lodge Ceremonial Choirmaster and resumed my early interest in the music of the Uniting Church.

First son Jeff as a State Electricity Commission power operator and Union leader was made redundant in the mid 1980's economic recession and after creating a small business enterprise developed a highly successful place in Melbourne's Eastern Suburbs as a self-employed household and garden maintenance man.

Second son Andrew had been head hunted by Mildura City Council from the State Electricity Commission as an Engineering Technical Assistant continuing his Civil Engineering University education by correspondence. His service to Mildura Airport development is acknowledged in publication of his report on *the internet* and a plaque on the Terminal Building.

Third son Bruce on completion of his apprenticeship was made redundant as the company moved off shore to New Zealand and returned to the farm only to badly break his leg in an on farm motor bike accident. Following 5 months hospitalisation and a couple of months at home he headed for Western Australia with a Melbourne mate and a new successful life firstly in the brick industry then the mining industry as a fitter & turner working in that State and overseas in Armenia, Singapore and Malaysia.

1984 daughter Meredith and Ross Mobilio were married and she became a valued part of the Italian fruit growing family. Their wedding was a great family occasion with more than 200 guests. I am great-full to Jack & Phil Fountain and the women of Ross's family for their help in preparing Meredith for marriage and to sister in law Eunice Brady for partnering me.

Our northern neighbours Bob and Dot Taylor were dairy farmers and racehorse breeders and named a new foal 'Wainui' our property name. The sire of Wainui was Nicopolis a highly successful stayer. Providing a family connection the owner of Nicopolis was Furza Brady bachelor Uncle to Ron Brady (Uncle Ron) and his Tasmanian sister and reputedly a millionaire. Following a successful Victorian racing season an Age cartoon depicted Furza rolling a \$1m ball home to Perth. Wainui failed as a stayer but was a spectacular success as a steeplechaser in the Grand National.

On the dairy farm herd testing had given a pleasing picture of the quality of the cows being milked with average production approaching 200 kgs fat per head from grass and a small pellet supplement.

United Dairyfarmers of Victoria (UDV)

As secretary of the SH UDV Branch I was heavily involved in the dispute with Murray Goulburn Coop Dairying Company over special long distance milk cartage charges imposed on Swan Hill farmers which threatened long term viability of the Swan Hill milk supply area. Milk suppliers close to the Coops factories were in revolt against their having to subsidise outlying milk supply areas. 1988 I wrote a series of papers on the future of the Victoria Dairy Industry Authority.

At a critical time in the modern dairy industries evolution the Swan Hill UDV Branch hosted the organisation's Annual Conference in the Oasis Hotel complex with more than 600 attending. The conference proved a turning point in the history of the national industry (de-regulation) and a prolonged period without rain throughout Victoria ended during the conference putting a smile on the faces of all despite the weighty issues being debated.

In 2002 I was honoured with a Certificate of Appreciation at a UDV Dinner in Kerang.

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Pental Island River Improvement Trust /Management Board

On being re-elected to the Trust in 1982 I found that with changing personal it had over the past 20 years lost the 1957 early principles which governed its purpose and was in conflict with a new generation of landholders and public servants. My task was to restate those principles.

The Cain Labour Government having adopted the State Conservation Strategy, created the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, replaced the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission with the Rural Water Corporation (RWC) and sent critical documentation to the State Archives resulting in bitter conflict with public servants charged with administering the Strategy. The early Trust/Board NSW/Victoria Interstate Levee Agreement documentation had been lost in a fire at the secretary's office. The Rural Water Corporation cooperated in retrieving the documents.

The 1980's economic recession led to corporatisation of government water industry body's. The Victorian Government appointed Dr Patterson from NSW to lead the process. By physical stature he was a dwarf by intellectual capacity along with his team of four women he was a leader of dramatic change. The River Improvement Trust sector was the Governments pilot program. They consulted with Trusts and I was through the pioneering Pental Island Trust involved in the development of the 1985 River Management Act. On 5th August 1986 the Trust became a Waterway Management Authority managed by a River Management Board with members appointed by the Minister rather than elected by the community and the Rural Water Corporation became the Board's supervising authority.

Through the Association of Victorian River Management Authorities I gained detailed knowledge of the industry throughout Victoria and was involved in consolidating the 1985 River Management legislation into the new Water Act 1989. In response to continuing National economic difficulties the Water Act 1989 set the precedent throughout Government for much higher levels of governance, operational and financial accountability based on annual production of Business and Financial Plans incorporating a four year Forward Financial Look for the approval of the Minister and an Annual Report to Parliament. In the next decade I undertook on a reimbursement of costs basis the production of these pioneering ground breaking documents. The emergence of computer technology through a Brother Word & Spreadsheet Processor made it all possible.

During this decade I entered the written debate on behalf of the Board on topics like, the benefits of river improvement works to society, identification of beneficiaries, new Australian Accounting Standards and the vexed question of how to fund asset depreciation a special problem for the pioneering Pental Island Board who were alone in the Waterway Management sector creating long life flood mitigation infrastructure.

Local Government Land Use Planning -

Rural land liable to flooding Overlays

An objective of the Cain Labour Governments State Conservation Strategy was to replace engineering works with Local Government land use planning controls. Swan Hill Shire Council in implementing the strategy proposed unacceptable land use planning scheme controls over floodplain land developed under irrigation and protected by levee banks. The issue was part of a full rewrite of the Shire Planning Scheme.

I accepted a leadership role in this fight by activity in public meetings and the media, formal objection writing for an Action Group and finally sitting through a 5 day planning panel hearing with some minor success. The bitterness of the debate was characterised by threats of legal action by a council officer with receipt of apologies some years later and the defeat of Councillors at subsequent elections.

State Emergency Service - Municipal Flood Response Plan

I had been involved in the service for some years as a flood monitor in the Pental Island area. During the latter part of the decade a series of local and regional flood studies by consultants was commissioned and the initial Municipal Flood Response Plan was developed by Council and the State Emergency Service. Using my experience in waterway management I was heavily involved with all stakeholders in developing these documents. The role is acknowledged in the documents

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Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement

Folk Museum, Authority, Council Enterprise

The Pioneer Settlement was among those challenging the role of the Pental Island River Improvement Trust and attracted the attention of the Swan Hill Residents & Ratepayers Association.

The history of the Settlements establishment Committee, the Government Authority and its successor Council owned Pioneer Settlement Museum located on riverfront land permanently reserved to the Crown has been turbulent. Keep in mind that the times were economically challenging as we coped with the 10 year boom and bust cycles.

Its emergence was the result of the 1960's economic crash following the post war boom and the formation of the European Economic Community which shut out our export agricultural produce and the urgent need to diversify Swan Hill townships economy.

1960's - The depth of the resulting recession found all but one of Swan Hill's café's closing down and community leaders through a Swan Hill Cultural Centre Appeal Committee moving to secure the paddle steamer Gem tow it to Swan Hill from Mildura and locate it on a parcel of Crown Land adjacent to the Little Murray River at Horseshoe Bend in an excavated man made pond as the nucleus of a tourism industry. The project was supported by governments and the community who donated historical items. See: *The Log of P.S.Gem – The Last Voyage – 1962*

“The story of the Settlement is of itself remarkable. In 1961 it did not exist but by 1970 \$600,000 had been spent on it and 200,000 people were passing through it annually”.

Source: Page 190 Feldtman's Swan Hill.

1974 -The Swan Hill Cultural Centre Appeal Committee was replaced when in May 1974 the Victorian Parliament enacted the *Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement Act 1974* creating the Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement Authority managed by a Board of Directors.

1978 - Under Land Act 1958 - Orders in Council - March 1978 the Authorities jurisdiction was extended to include CA 1A Parish of Pental Island comprising 10 hectares of Crown Land opposite the Settlement most of which was permanently reserved flood pondage within the Waterway Management District of the Pental Island River Improvement Trust with a small area protected by the Trusts levee bank. A wooden walk bridge was constructed over the Little Murray River to access the area from the Settlement. From Pental Island access is via James Lane.

1981 - Under the Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement (Amendment) Act 1981 its Directors powers were extended to include hospitality.

1982 – After a 20 year period dealing with restructuring farm operations and family illness I was again elected a Commissioner of the Pental Island River Improvement Trust and became Deputy Chairman. With other Commissioners I was faced with a proposal by Pioneer Settlement Board Consultants to divert the course of the Little Murray River to its Murray River junction in extending the Settlements operational area to the 10 hectares on Pental Island. This confronted the objective of the Trust which was to implement in its Pental Island District the NSW/Victorian Interstate Levee Deed of Agreement using land permanently reserved to the Crown for the purpose.

The aim of the Interstate Agreement was to limit the amount of Murray River Basin flood pondage which could wisely be reclaimed by levee banks. Despite being on the one hand criticised publicly and the other wined and dined by the Settlement Board we stood firm forcing review of the proposal.

Ultimately agreement was reached on an alternative raising three pads above flood level for development by the Settlement Board and maintaining the pondage capacity by relocation of the Trusts levee bank onto land reserved under the Land Act in 1964 beyond the Trusts requirements thought to be for recreational purposes. A Settlement benefactor donated the some \$26,000 cost of relocating the Trust levee. Having reached this point with some activities being conducted on the land Settlement management over time has lost interest in the area and red gum trees appear to have taken over making approval of future development even more difficult.

The Settlement Board's application for Planning Permit to relocate their Federal Square Accommodation Lodges to a mainland Little Murray riverside flood prone site resulted in objections from the Pental Island Trust and others and an Administrative Appeal Tribunal Hearing where the Settlement Directors briefed a QC to support their case and wined and dined the Judge.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

While objectors did not achieve their aim significant change to permit conditions were achieved and for me valuable experience was gained in the planning permit process.

1985 - The Pental Island River Improvement Trust became a River Management Authority and its River Management District redefined excluding the Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement Pental Island land and the Little Murray River bed and banks from the Pental Island bridge to the junction.

At some point in time the Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement Act 1974 was repealed and the Settlement brought under the management of the Swan Hill City Council and ultimately under the Swan Hill Rural City Council. As a Shire Councillor (1993 – 1995) we resisted Swan Hill City Council calls for financial assistance in the operation and development of the Settlement.

The amalgamated Swan Hill Rural City Council under Compulsory Competitive Tendering (CCT) government policy aimed at fighting economic recession by bringing costs under control turned the Settlement into a Business Unit and exposed its performance to public scrutiny. Ultimately CCT was abandoned in favour of Best Practice targets. New Australian Accounting Standards aimed at fighting periodic recession but also called for Local Government funding of asset depreciation to relieve big government of future responsibility. The Settlements assets had to be valued. In practice a system was devised to allocate funds to maintain infrastructure assets in an as new status.

The Settlement is heavily reliant on a volunteer workforce who must work in harmony with Council staff which at times is not easy. The Settlements employed workforce was moved to Local Government Awards and Council's Enterprise Bargaining Agreement increasing operational costs, patronage continued to fall resulting in ratepayers being called on to meet financial losses of up to \$500,000 annually and provide the capital to maintain assets and make changes necessary to attract new generations of tourists. Consultants were engaged to advise with mixed results and despite renaming to the Pioneer Settlement Museum an annual business case continued to fail to attract up to \$5M Government capital for major upgrade.

To an organisation like the Swan Hill Residents & Ratepayers Association of which I was secretary cost control was a prime target for criticism. Council's introduction of a Swan Hill Business Differential Rate premium of 20% eased ratepayer equity concerns and steady progress in change is being achieved from rate revenue operational and capital allocation of more than \$1m annually. In 2013 the total annual cost to rate revenue exceeds the rates paid by Swan Hill's Business Sector the principle beneficiaries of the tourism generated. The Settlements location on land permanently reserved to the Crown seriously limits options for change involving the private sector. In 2014 major upgrade was finally funded by big Government.

Scottish tractor now restored.

1960's My father Bert on behalf of the Greenham family donated the Glasgow tractor which was restored at the Settlement. He drove it from Pental Island to its new home. Immediately after the war 1946 he had purchased it at a clearing sale for belt use in driving drainage pumps however I recall using it in about 1948 to plow/cultivate a paddock in readiness for irrigation layout with a team of 4 draft horses. buck board & delver. As the post war boom gained pace it fell into disuse with lack of replacement parts and purchase of a modern tractor.

1990's "*Scottish Tractor Now Restored*" *Source: The Guardian headline* (see following page)

1997 – "*The Pioneer Settlement's Glasgo tractor ripped through the competition at the recent World Ploughing Championships in Geelong. The tractor won the trophy for the best presented pre-1930 vintage tractor. Made in 1919 the 'Glasgo' is one of only 8 remaining in the world of the original 300 made in Scotland.*" *Source: the Guardian.1997++*

2014 - "*The 3 all-wheel drive Glasgow was the brainchild of William Guthrie and was produced in a disused munitions factory at Cardonald, near Glasgow, Scotland, from 1919 to 1924. The front-drive axle was unique in not incorporating a differential, instead each wheel was fitted with a pawl and ratchet drive, permitting smooth turning by allowing the outside wheel to speed up while the other continued at a sustained speed in relation to the rear wheel. Interestingly though, in reverse gear the ratchets disengaged the front wheel drive so the Glasgow became a single wheel drive. At the Lincoln tractor trials in 1919, a Glasgow recorded the highest pull to weight ratio of any tractor*"

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -



Source of picture & history. "The Magic of Old Tractors." Ian M Johnson 2014

2014 – The Glasgow now painted green wheels and all features in a television advertisement seeking visitors to the Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement Museum.

Source: The Guardian Newspaper

Scottish tractor now restored

A rare piece of agricultural machinery built some 70 years ago has been restored for display at Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement.

The machine is a three-wheel-drive Glasgow tractor, restored by Settlement staff member Mr Newton Williams.

Mr Williams and the Settlement have a long history of unusual machinery restorations, borne out by the Settlement's collection of working steam and petrol-driven machines.

Mr Ron Young, a dedicated worker at the Settlement, who was responsible for research into the Glasgow's history, said it remained the only Scottish-built tractor.

"It is believed that only 300 were manufactured — between 1919 and 1924 — and we are reasonably sure that, including ours, only seven still exist and none in Scotland," Mr Young said.

"The tractor's rarity is due in no small part to its relatively unpopular reputation.

"A high initial purchase price of 550 pounds, uninspiring performance and a rather alarming habit of overturning when working with a load behind may have had something to do with this.

"This machine overturned only when turning too far to the right, but farmers would have quickly learnt to only turn left.

"Weighing in at just under two tons, a team of two or three horses was required to right it," Mr Young said.

Internal troubles within the organisation also ensured a short career for the Glasgow tractor.

At various stages the project was supported by no less than five different firms.

The Glasgow has been

fully restored over the last few years.

It was driven to the Settlement 30 years ago from Pental Island, where it was owned by Mr Bert Greenham.

Mr Williams said the most difficult aspect of restoring such rare equipment was getting access to original drawings, photographs and specifications for the purpose of maintaining absolute authenticity.

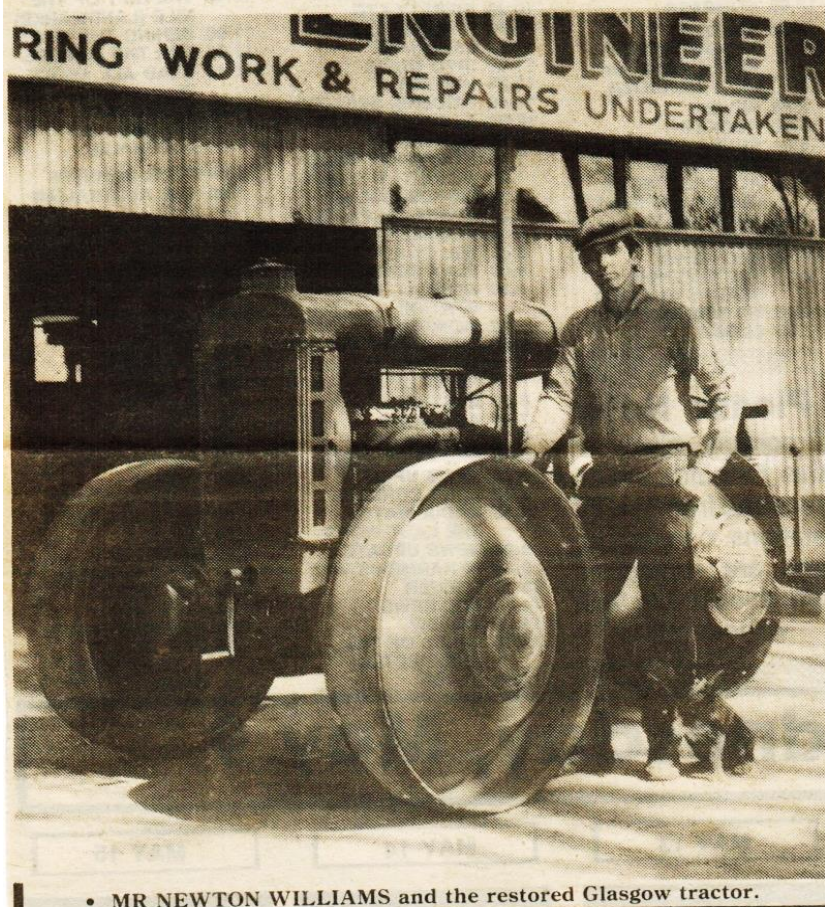
"When original parts are missing and unobtainable, accurate specifications are required for reproductions to be made," Mr Williams said.

"Over the years non-original parts tend to be added, colors are changed, unauthentic extras are fitted and so good records are essential," he said.

The Settlement's next unusual creation nearing restoration is a 1919 Titan.

"The only component needed is a KW Model T magneto," Mr Williams said.

"This is proving to be extremely elusive, but that's what restoration is all about," he said.



• MR NEWTON WILLIAMS and the restored Glasgow tractor.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -



Doreen Our Friendship and Marriage

Returning to involvement in Agricultural Politics as secretary of the Swan Hill Branch of the UDV led to Doreen Schifferle (Shepherd) a fellow dairy farmer and I becoming friends, then engaged and married on the 7th February 1987 with a honeymoon touring Tasmania. While on the Gordon River we found ourselves being filmed for a Television Documentary which we were lucky enough to see on TV.

Our marriage was conducted by Fr. Rod Shepherd, Doreen's brother, in St. Mary's Catholic Church Swan Hill with all our families and friends attending. Our reception was in Cousin David and Lynne Dunoon's Silver Slipper Restaurant. As we set out on our honeymoon it was 45 degrees the hottest day of the year.

On our way to Tasmania we visited brother Peter at the Peter McCallum Hospital Isolation Ward and on our way home found his condition much deteriorated. Shortly after our return to Swan Hill brother Peter died from a melanoma and complications.

Doreen & I have much in common we were dairy farmers, had tragically lost our partners, were of similar age, were born and raised in the Mallee along the Swan Hill/Lalbert Road and by the late 1980's different Christian backgrounds were not a problem

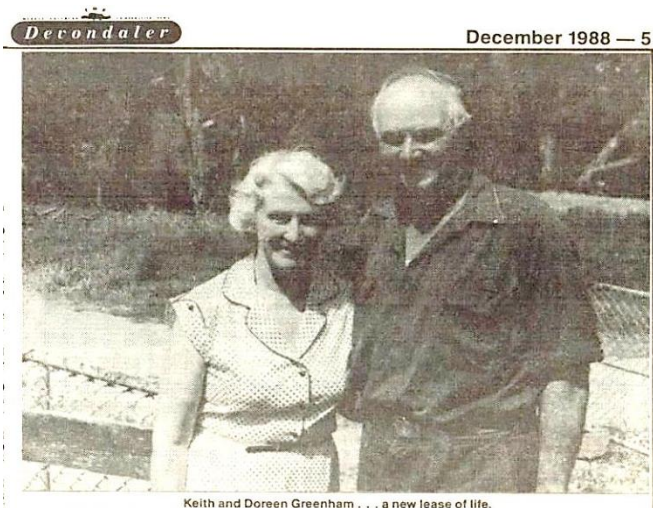
Doreen grew up at Meatian in the Lalbert district, the third of 5 children of Rex and Eileen Shepherd, was educated in Meatian and as a boarder at the Bendigo Catholic College and on marriage to Tom Schifferle became share dairy farmers milking 40 cows on the Tyntynder Flats, finally purchasing a 60 acre farm of their own at Murraydale. Their children; Carmel received Degrees in Economics and Social Studies at Melbourne University, Rodger completed his apprenticeship as a motor mechanic, Danny died while swimming and Christopher died in infancy.

On the death of Tom, Doreen and son Rodger extended and ran the 120 acre dairy farm, was a tour guide at Tyntynder Home-stead, volunteer secretary of the Swan Hill Branch Victorian Farmers Federation and member of the Penguin Club a public speaking organisation.

Doreen's strong Catholic Christian faith involved her in the activities of the Church and carried her through many crises during her life. In the coming years I joined her in these activities mainly through the provision of music through lead singing, choir and overhead power point projection systems which replaced hymn books and transparency projection.

Her father Rex lost his hand in a chaff cutter accident soon after marriage in the 1920's and was transported to Swan Hill Hospital from Meatian off the Lalbert Road by horse and gig. They made a stop at the Greenham family Goschen homestead where a new horse was provided. In hospital his life was saved by direct blood transfusion from the local Catholic Priest.

In retirement in the 1970's my father Bert and Rex Shepherd were to be found with others of their generation in Swan Hill's White Swan Hotel having a quiet drink.



Keith and Doreen Greenham . . . a new lease of life.

Chance meeting brings dairy couple together

Source: 1988 *The Devondaler* –
Supplier magazine of the Murray Goulburn
Co-op Dairying Company.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

By ROBERT WHITE

THE annual United Dairyfarmers of Victoria meeting held at Swan Hill three years ago brought together more than just delegates from throughout the State.

It brought together two people who had each suffered family tragedies and who immediately found in each other the love and the spirit to become firstly close friends and later, husband and wife.

Keith Greenham and Doreen Schifferle were both widowed. Keith's wife had died in 1982 after a long illness while Doreen's husband died in a farm accident 12 years ago.

The couple married 21 months ago after meeting at the UDV conference and now live on the property that Keith bought in 1952.

Doreen said that a special committee was established to organise the conference and both she and Keith were elected. At the time, Keith was secretary of the UDV's Swan Hill branch while Doreen was secretary of the VFGA (now the VFF).

"We met and we found that we had everything in common," Doreen said.

Both have strong dairying backgrounds but each confessed that they had considered moving from their farms following the deaths of their first partners.

Doreen and her husband operated a dairy farm at Murraydale, near Tyntynder.

"My parents had been dairy farmers and from the time I was a small girl, that's what I also wanted to do," she said.

"When my first husband died, I didn't know what I would do and then my son, Roger, returned home. I still wasn't sure of the future and I took a six week job as a guide at the historic Tyntynder homestead. I ended up staying eight years and that really got me through."

When she married Keith, Doreen moved to his Pental Island property but did not desert the family farm.

Four days a week she commutes the 25 minutes to Murraydale for morning milking. But that is all expected to stop on December 7 when she and Roger conduct a clearing sale on the property.

"Roger isn't married and milking cows is very tough on a single person," Doreen said.

The sale will include 130 head of Friesian and Friesian-cross cows which have all been AI bred. Two milk vats and other equipment will also be sold.

"It will be a sad time but I am looking forward to finishing up. There comes a time when you have to look at how you are going to spend the rest of your life — and that time has come," Doreen said.

For Keith, the death of his first wife almost ended his time in dairying.

"I seriously thought of giving dairying away and moving into town to live," he said.

"I guess I just fell in a heap and I didn't really know what to do."

Keith's third son, Bruce, 28, came home to the farm to help out but an accident of the property resulted in a badly broken leg. The break was so bad that Bruce could not continue farm work.

It was soon after that Keith met Doreen

and the Pental Island farm is now back in full production.

Both Keith and Doreen are now aged 60 and as Doreen starts to unwind from her busy working life, Keith is starting a similar process.

A young neighbor, Colin Fletcher, milks the herd five days a week, leaving Keith to handle weekends.

"I guess I just cut the hay and work the farm now," said Keith, almost apologetically.

Keith was raised on a wheat farm and bought his present farm in 1952 with the proceeds of four years of cropping.

"I used the farm for grazing for about 10 years but the collapse of the post war boom in the early 1960s changed everyone's life — mine included," he said.

"In 1964 I decided to build a dairy and just started from scratch. We milked 70 cows in the first year and now we milk 135 off the 86 ha.

The Greenham farm is organised around a winter milking schedule. The herd is calved in March and dried off at the end of January.

The farm is irrigated through a 496 diversion right from the Murray River which is divided into 150 megalitres for spring use; 150 megalitres for summer use and 200 megalitres for autumn use.

"The land has always been pretty good. There are Murray River black to grey soils but they don't lend themselves to large scale landforming," Keith said.

"We have found that the soils and the climate have made winter milking an efficient option and it is currently more profitable."

But both Keith and Doreen did concede that the pressures of farming were increasing all the time.

They believe that too many farmers are opting out of the industry because of the pressures.

Keith said he was also concerned about what he described as "one of the great agricultural disasters".

"Prime agricultural land is now being allowed to be subdivided, mainly into smaller hobby farms," he said.

"Cutting up larger farms into smaller ones is no good for agriculture or the economy and it is time we all started to address this problem."

Doreen has two children — Roger 34, and Carmel, 37. Keith has four children — Jeff, 34, Drew, 32, Bruce, 28, and Meredith, 26.

Keith said he had not been disappointed that his sons had decided not to return to the farm.

"The kids grew up at a time when I was starting work at 6am and finishing at 10pm," he said.

"By the time I had worked through these hours day after day, they weren't particularly interested in following on — and who could blame them. They have no desires to come back to the farm when they have those sort of memories."

Keith and Doreen have no immediate plans for the future. They have been able to scale down their workload and now aim to make the most of their time together.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

On the Home Front:

Pental Island – Road and Lane Naming

The Shire Council called for suggestions for the naming of Pental Island roads. I put forward a proposal that the pioneering leaders of the Pental Island Settlers Association and Commissioners of the Pental Island River Improvement Trust be honoured.

Ballroom dancing

Socially Doreen and I had renewed our younger days interest in ballroom dancing at Tyntynder South and Lake Boga. On our Tasmanian honeymoon at Hobart's West Point Casino we danced alone, a lively foxtrot, to the big band until an extremely lucky punter was ushered in to recover from his good luck. Having a night out at the Tooleybuc Club when a Television crew were at work led to us dancing across our TV screens advertising the Club for some years, and:

In the next decade as a Shire Councillor Doreen & I were invited to a Swan Hill Town Hall Ball to with City Councillor Andy & Mrs Millar and MP Barry & Mrs Steggall present the prizes. When our turn came the MC, to the embarrassment of all, introduced us as Cr Greenham and Mrs Millar. Despite this we had a great night out some even remarking on our skills as we danced.

Pental Island Farm Lease.

In 1990 neighbours Fletcher Brothers leased the dairy farm, cows, machinery and hay for \$50,000 P.A., initially for 6 years later extended for a further 3 years to 1999.

Over the coming years with my approval they improved the cow throughput of dairy buildings and irrigation land layout. Firstly they extended the 5 a side herringbone dairy to 10 a side then constructed and installed a second hand 60 cow rotary dairy ultimately milking 1,200 cows off more than 400 hectares including adjoining land.

Doreen and I travelled extensively during this decade.

Continuing Christian Church Music Journey

As recorded earlier I joined Doreen in regularly attending St Mary's Catholic Church becoming involved in the provision of music, reading scripture from the lectern, development of evolving overhead projection technology replacing Hymn Books and use of recorded music.

Coming from 60 years of Methodist four part Anthem and Wesleyan music background the sung Mass and the Chorus based Hymns of the Catholic Church was a challenge.

Initially I undertook the role of lead singer accompanied by accomplished organist Mrs Peg Richards joining a singing group for special occasions. In the years ahead I introduced new Hymns on request and despite intermittent voice problems (largely solved by new dentures) I continued to enjoy singing to my 90th year.

These 30 years saw great change in the configuration of the Church and its sound systems, electronic organs replacing wind based, overhead projection replacing congregation hymn books, organ musicians augmented by disc based sound system music. All are a challenge for operators.

As hymn books with words of both music and the Mass were replaced with overhead transparency projection I prepared the clear transparency sheets firstly hand written then as word processors emerged in large print lettering.

On the emergence Microsoft Power Point computer generated overhead projection a 1500 slide program from the Hamilton Catholic Church was our introduction the new technology. In the years ahead I became its author. It grew to some 3000 slides then culled back to some 1600 including seasonal Welcome to Mass & Gospel Acclamations, Mass Responses, Hymn words, archival Christian Art Works and required copyright information. Hard copy indexes incorporating links to recorded music and weekly running sheets for the use of operators were also produced.

Technology enabled me to do these tasks at home on my personal computer transferring the data to the Church computer with a USB stick. In the years ahead recording technology enabled the Church to continue to worship through music despite the shortage of accomplished organists.

In retirement I much enjoyed the challenges of undertaking these Church community development tasks.

*Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -*

In Retirement Pental Island 1993 to 2002

Overview

This decade was dominated politically by the emergence of the Kennett/McNamara Liberal/National Party Government, another deep financial recession, the use of “Thatcherism” in attempts to control costs and the return of a labour Government under Premier Steve Bracks.

Pental Island River Management Board - Flood Management:

I was deeply involved in the continuing fortunes of the Pental Island River Management Board till 1997 when the Authority was subsumed by the North Central Catchment Management Authority based in Bendigo. Business and Financial Planning, Annual Reporting and Asset Register production continued into 1998 on a transitional basis.

Over the years I had operated manual and electric typewriters, a Brother Word Processor with floppy disc memory & spread-sheet capacity enabled me as a Board Member to take on the complex ground breaking task of production of newly required accountability documents on a volunteer reimbursement of costs basis. The task was undertaken from 1992 to 1998 when the Authority was subsumed into the North Central Catchment Management Authority. The Board received great help from Local Government who made available their high speed printer and

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21 July 1997

Mr. Keith A. Greenham,
RSD Greenhams Lane,
PENTAL ISLAND 3585

Dear Keith,

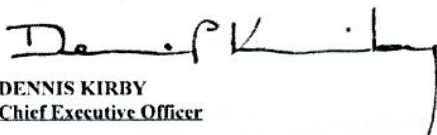


Council Chamber for meetings. This cutting edge experience became invaluable in later community leadership roles when other organisations including Local Government began to grapple with the urgent need for better business and financial planning and accountability.

PENTAL ISLAND RIVER MANAGEMENT BOARD

I have recently taken the time to read the documents lodged with my office being the Business Plan 1997, the Asset Register including the schedule of ongoing capital works program and the schedule for works maintenance, and the Annual Report 1996 which it was obvious you had a large role in preparing. May I extend to you my congratulations on the completeness and presentation of the documents which are a fitting tribute to the way you approach such tasks. Obviously the enthusiasm of the members of the Board including yourself has placed the Board in a very sound position on behalf of that community. You are all to be congratulated accordingly.

Yours faithfully


DENNIS KIRBY
Chief Executive Officer

Providing Swan Hill Rural City Council with copies of these documents led to receipt of the 1997 congratulatory letter from newly appointed CEO Dennis Kirby who was grappling with the development of similar accountability documents for the new municipality.

1993 was the last great flood year in the wet & dry cycle. In the previous 40 years we had floods of varying intensity every 4 years.

The flood protection engineering principles under-pinning the Pental Island Trust and Board's 40 years capital works and maintenance program were proven in the 1993 flood event to be of great benefit to the region. Despite this environment orientated “green” public servants administering the State Conservation Strategy took the advantage declaring the Boards levee bank flood mitigation works to be for the benefit of landholders, of no benefit to public land and therefore not public utilities with entitlement to occupy Crown Land. My role was to in writing successfully challenge this assertion with cost/benefit and historic argument.

The Labour Government refused further capital contribution and unwisely honoured their election commitment to remove the Catchment Management Authorities power to raise service tariffs and in 2013 completion of the final 9 km's of the 78 km flood protection system remained on hold. The Catchment Management Authority has great difficulty in meeting the mandatory requirement of balancing the competing social, economic and environmental impact of engineering works. While the Water Act 1989 saved past works approvals an amendment took away those savings forcing the application of what became known as the Triple Bottom Line Test.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

Pental Island River Management Board 40 year achievements.

**1997 Facing page - Cutting edge Business Planning
documentation – Strategic, Financial, Activity & Performance
Plans to enable smooth transition of operations to the North
Central Catchment Management Authority.**

1997 From – Annual Report to the Victorian Parliament

ABOLITION OF THE BOARD

By Order (operative 1 July 1997) Dated 23/6/97, the North Central Catchment Management Authority is constituted as an Authority under the Water Act 1989 taking over all the property, rights, liabilities, obligations, powers, functions and staff of the Pental Island River Management Board which is abolished as an Authority under the Water Act 1989.

ABOLITION MEDIA RELEASE 16th June 1997

One of the Swan Hill Regions quiet achievers the Pental Island River Management Board will disappear from July 1st.

The Board after 40 years of service will hand over to the North Central Catchment Management Board the responsibility for management of Pental Island's 78.5 kilometer levee bank flood protection system.

Flood events of the 1950s led to the formation in 1957 of the Pental Island River River Improvement Trust with a charter to implement the 1925 Murray River Interstate Levee Agreement in partnership with Government.

The 1957 edition of "Aqua" (State Water Industry Journal) described the Trust's formation as "largely experimental".

Six years of on site survey and planning, scheme approval and a new Parish of Pental Island plan of subdivision reserving land to the Crown for the Trust's use, enabled construction to commenced in 1964.

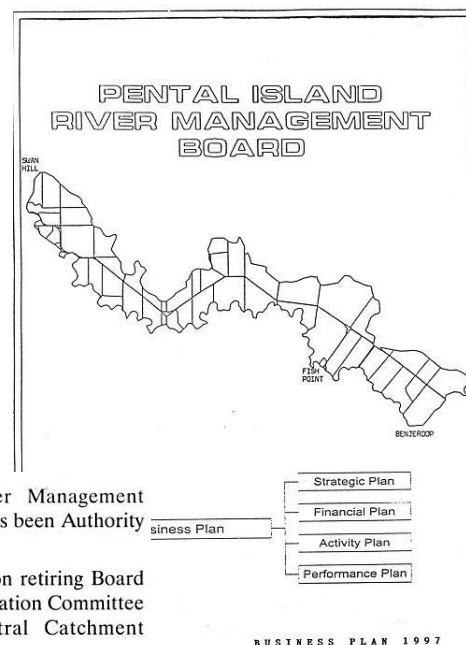
876,000 cubic metres of earth fill has formed 68 kms of levees on new sites and major concrete structures built. These assets with a replacement value of \$3.2 Million will transfer to the new authority.

The Pental Island community has contributed more than \$1 Million (1997 dollars) to the scheme in rates and voluntary service by the 23 landholders who served on the authority during it's 40 year life.

Levee failures and over topping in 1975 resulted in an intensive works program. In 6 months April to September 1976, 350,000 cubic metres earth fill formed 25.5 kilometers of new levees. During May, 12 earth moving machines were in action supported by forward planning and survey teams. Local landholders were employed on the project.

As a pioneer of modern flood protection works management the Board who succeeded the Trust has successfully resisted attempts to downgrade the economic and social benefit to the region of floodplain lands protected by levee systems.

The Authority has had 5 leaders, the Late Cr Thomas Bright, Keith Greenham, the Late James Teague, the Late Ted Abbott and Keith James who has been Chairman for the past 30 years. Mr. James is an Executive Member and Past President of the



Victorian Association of River Management Authorities. Mr. Robert Burns has been Authority Secretary since 1958.

To enable the schemes completion retiring Board Members will become Implementation Committee Members of the North Central Catchment Management Authority.

Keith James (Chairman) Keith Greenham (D.C.), Rob Hallam, Barry James, Don Wilkie.

ORGANIZATION

Date of Establishment	25th July 1957
Address	48 McCallum Street, Swan Hill. 3585
Telephone Number	03 5032 2333
Facsimile Number	03 5033 1588
Office Hours	9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday
Principal Officer	Member K.L. James
Members of the Board	Member K.A. Greenham Member R. Hallam Member B.W. James Member D.G. Wilkie
Officer of the Board	Secretary Robert Burns
The Board services	the Pental Island River Management District.
Consulting Engineers	Van Hoof & Byrne Consultants Pty. Ltd.
Bankers	Commonwealth Bank of Australia
Solicitors	Dwyer, Mahon & Robertson, Swan Hill
Currency of Statement	30th June 1997

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

Pental Island River Management Board	
Secretary	Consulting Engineer
Clerk of Works Patrol Maintenance Worker	

STAFFING

The Board had no full time staff. Secretarial and Accounting, and Engineering services are part time contract positions. Clerk of works and patrol maintenance worker are appointed on a casual or part time basis as needed.

VOLUNTARY SERVICES

Chairman: Management and operations coordination. Deputy Chairman: Annual Reporting, Business Planning, Asset Register maintenance.

**Writer: Keith A
Greenham Deputy
Chairman**

*Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -*

Intro. To Local Government

*1993 Guided tour
Shire of Swan Hill
Splatt Street Office*

A new Australian – a Dutchman struggling with
our Ausie language – sought our advice – *if the
front of your house is the front-side, why don't
you call the back the back-side?*

*Beveridge or Splatt
Back-side or front-side
This door or that?*

Ratepayer

Weekday April nine, at the White Swan.
A couple of drinks and out the back door
Across Beveridge Street
to pay the rates, before the axe falls.
Approach the Shire Office,
through the car park “at your own risk”,
001, Fairlane and Jag,
Cages on utes, must be wrong place
No 007 sign of James Bond, ASIO or MI5.
Take a punt probably right place.
Past the bike rack to the grey wall
‘Visitors Splatt Street’

*Beveridge or Splatt,
Backside or front-side
This door or that?*

Ignore the sign and away to the left,
up eleven steps
“Staff Only Visitors Splatt Street”
Must be the back-side entry door
down the steps, now for the right,
around the corner, follow the path,
leads to a door and more steps.
“Staff only Visitors Splatt Street”
where to now, down the steps,
west-ward is Splatt Street I think.
Follow the path or across the lawn
staff only again, an outdoor glass hut,
smell coffee and smoke,
then another car park, but most are all white
all starting with F, and, a little white ute.
At Splatt Street it says ‘Visitor Car Park’.
Approach auto doors with canopy,
Must be the front-side door.

In the door, cheque book ready
wait in the queue, and keenly observe,
air conditioning with natural light,
with plants in pots, not pot in plants,
and palm trees under arched canopy
front-side to back-side, all in a neat row.

but, something is missing.

Now for the doors
Doors to the left and right,
where do they go?
And in the distance,
under the canopy must be,
the back-side entry door
I know where it goes.
And who are these people
All dressed up in suites
with brown plastic cases?
And who are the others
with black leather cases?
Approach the cashier, greeted with smile,
pay up and out,
out the back-side door or not.
Which will it be?
Play the game, follow the rules,
take the long walk out
the front-side auto door
back to Beveridge and White Swan
for a welcome drink and home.

*Beveridge or Splatt
Back-side or Front-side
This door or that?*

Would be Councillor

In the now familiar front-side auto door
under glass canopy, at reception desk,
drawing lots for a place
on 1993 election ballot papers.
Slips of paper, one, two, three,
in a bucket held high in the air,
all fair and square, none up the sleeve.
I'm first dip, number one comes up,
a real chance now.
Election over, in by a whisker,
Now to find out, what it all means.

*Beveridge or Splatt
Back-side or front-side
This door or that?*

*Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -*

Councilor Enlightenment

From Beveridge Street,
Private car park, Council insurance,
and nearby Council debating Chamber.
001 the President's Fairlane
No ASIO, no MI5, no James Bond
Cages on utes for
run-away dogs & sometimes cats.
Away to the left up the steps,
puffing a bit, the back-side door
with arched glass canopy and all.
A caring Office & outdoor environment,
Mops, buckets, liquid cleaners
Reln drains, mosquito cure,
adulterated sausage and dog catcher
With ghosts squashed in files
wafting upstairs, from deep in archives.
and the cashier, no wonder it's
"Staff only, Visitors Splatt Street."
Away to the right and around the corner,
up the steps the other "Staff Only" door
needs warning 'Smokers Commuting'
as staff stampede impedes.
On through the car park
F is not what you think
It's the latest batch of
rolled over new vehicle plates,
the stranger Councilor Ted's ute.
And Splatt Street it is.
In the front-side auto door.
Receive with pleasure a cheery
'Good Morning Councilor',
identified by brown plastic case.
Responding; 'Good Morning Team'
identified by black leather cases.
In the left door without invitation
CEO and Councilor guidance,
Computers, community service
And a back passage
For those caught short or craving
caffeine or nicotine fix.
In the right door, without invitation,
enclosed counter, more doors to explore.
Engineers, planners, inspectors galore
And the back passage
past the back-side entry /exit door
to staff amenities mentioned before.
Back to arched canopy, pot plants and palms,

But something is missing

Other Offices and Casinos have them,
just to compete,

A clap of thunder,
the rain begins,
a rush for buckets,
The Water Feature?

Or just a
Leaky Roof Waterfall?

Tour complete, which way out.

*Beveridge or Splatt
Back-side or front-side
This door or that?*

Backside of course,
dodging the buckets,
It's raining remember,
and,
I'm a proud Councilor now.

Former Councilor

Term at an end,
Swan Hill Rural City is born,
three Commissioners rule.
Our eco - friendly building, will it survive?
or become a supermarket as some suggest.

But what will I do?

Weekday April nine, in the White Swan,
A couple of drinks, and out the back door
to pay the rates, before the axe falls,

*Beveridge or Splatt
Back-side or front-side
This door or that?*

or
pop in the mail for forty-five cents,

Cr Keith Greenham January 1995

PS. The White Swan became a Supermarket/
Discount Department Store with 60 vehicle
basement carpark and our Shire Offices
expanded to meet the Rural City challenge
without a water feature or water-fall.
Entry; Splatt Street front-side auto door with
gated staff & office delivery only car park and
rates paid from home on the internet.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -



Swan Hill Shire Councillor 1993 -1995

Driven by the land use planning scheme review experience, stagflation & economic recession and Local Governments inability to control costs and therefore rates I stood for and was elected a Councillor of the Shire of Swan Hill opening up a whole new area of community service. At that time it was a volunteer reimbursement of costs role.

Monthly Council Meetings took up a full day 9,30 AM to 5 PM or longer with appropriate adjournments and were held in the Beveridge St Council Chamber with Agenda's delivered some days earlier. 'Feeding the chooks' I provided the media with written copies of my contribution to debate. Like the water industries, in response to National economic troubles, Local Government was implementing over a five year period the new Local Government Act 1989 requiring much higher governance, operational and financial accountability ultimately leading to Council amalgamations. I supported the need for such action using skills gained in the Waterway Management sector.

Officers proposed a budget requiring a 4% rate rise. For some years the vote had been 5/4 in favour. My entry into the debate led to 4/5 loss, embarrassment for the Chief Executive Officer and derision by favouring councillors who declared us "lumps of lard" unable to raise our hands in favour. Ultimately we backed down and passed the budget. It was a defining moment, while the initial confrontation in the debate was lost, within weeks the war was won as an unsolicited formal officer report to Council revealed that almost \$1 million was held in an unneeded plant replacement reserve, enough to fund 4% rate rises for 4 years.

In speaking to the following year draft Budget Estimates in October 1994 I said:

"I take off my South Ward hat and look at the outcome in broad regional economic terms.

In the euphoria of the achievement of a nil rate increase, largely through the identification of excessive reserves we must not lose sight of the options available to council in the use of these reserves.

It has now been shown that Local Governments critics were right. With every other municipality, council and its then advisers failed to recognise that high inflation was a thing of the past. Year after year inflation projections proved to be wrong. We regularly increased rates in real terms unnecessarily.

We joined others in putting self-destructive pressure on the consumer price index leading to higher wages and salary demands on small and medium sized business including agriculture to restructure, to get big or get out. Ironically it took the restructuring of local government itself to flush out the reserve funds.

These estimates allocate the reserve funds to an expanded capital works program which will inject a one off \$1 Million into our economy. If our merger partner the City of Swan Hill has done the same the injection will be doubled.

I believe that all councils in the restructuring pipeline will have tackled the accumulated reserves in a similar way that is, seeking to protect the narrow interests of their own rate-payers and not consider the regional interests of the new municipality.

Is this 'narrow interest' the wisest option? The alternative option is for the greater part of accumulated reserves, the part not required to catch up on a real works backlog, to be retained in reserves for use in absorbing inflationary cost increases over the next five years or so.

This key question in my view would be best answered by forward overall financial planning similar to the 6 year forward look used by the engineering department in arriving at the decision to substantially lower the plant reserve.

The Commissioners of the new merged municipality will have the capacity to carry out this financial planning quickly and make informed judgements on whether or not to revise our capital works budgets. I for one will be urging that this review take place."

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

The urgent need for business and financial planning and economies of scale had caught up with local government. We appointed a qualified Accountant finance manager, computer systems were upgraded, I attended Local Government Board regional meetings with other councillors and despite bitter opposition from the Swan Hill City Council the Shire and City were amalgamated in March 1995. Their bitterness was expressed by holding a Town Hall wake using a black coffin from the props of the Swan Hill Shakespeare Society era to lay the City to rest.

Social Justice & Community Development Organisations

As a Shire Councillor using knowledge gained in the River Management sector I found myself as Councils representative a leader in restructuring social justice provider and community development organisations and representing Council on other issues when required.

Murray Mallee Regional Housing Council Inc. was a government funded organisation involved in advocacy for provision of low income earner public and community housing in North West Victoria. 10% of Swan Hill dwellings were low rental Housing Commission public housing. I chaired the Swan Hill/Kerang group of the Mildura based organisation. Highlights were charring meetings in the historic Kerang Council Chamber, provision of a rooming house in Gray Street, development of a plan for housing development of Swan Hill North's Mundarra (Prickle) Park reducing it to manageable size (project ultimately abandoned), involvement in the public housing audit process and attending conferences in Mildura and Melbourne.

Mallee Employment Options Inc (Formally-Employability). A Swan Hill employment service for disabled people was also a government funded organisation. It provided supported employment opportunities for people with physical and mental disabilities. Most work was found in the recycling service and gardening enterprises.

Regional Mobile Pre-school Service – I found myself involved in the regional committee of neighbouring Councils managing the service.

Lake Boga Community Development – I was closely involved in the pioneering formation and development of the Shire Council's pioneering experimental Lake Boga Community Development Committee. It aimed to lift the fortunes of the district and its icon regional playground & tourist lake. Events leading to its formation are of interest. Council CEO Neil Knolker on a flight to America was sitting next to a Melbourne University lecturer interested in community development who agreed to come to Lake Boga to assist in its formation.

Irrigation Water Trading - I was called on to attend a Government seminar on the future trading capital value/cost of water per mega litre and whether it should be regulated to ensure a continuing mix of low and high value use, pasture through to horticulture, viticulture, vegetable, with human household the highest value. Government driven by stagflation and national external balance of payments difficulties determined on unregulated resulting in the price rising from \$200 ml to \$2,400 ml over the next 15 years pricing its use out of the reach off all pasture based enterprises. Sleeping water allocations became active with loss of the systems drought reserve and severe rationing in the dry years ahead. . By 2013 it had fallen to \$1,450 m/l. 2016 back to \$3,300.

Murray River Flood Emergency - As a Council we were called on to prepare for the possible failure of the Lake Hume dam earthen wall which was moving under the pressure of waters stored during the 1993 flood. 1 million ml of water was released and lost to the system to reduce the pressure and save the dam wall for repair in future years. The loss of this water also impacted heavily on the systems drought reserve.

Building Regulations Development – With an officer I was called on to attend government briefings in Melbourne and report back to Council.

Swan Hill College Presentation Day - It was a great thrill as a former student (1940-1943) to be invited to represent the Shire along with a City Councillor colleague at this Longhurst Hall event to speak and make the Physical and Sporting presentations. Two full house sessions Junior and Senior filled in the day. My speech was recorded earlier in the 1940's narrative.

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Civic Receptions – Promoting unity between the municipalities we attended Swan Hill City Council Civic Receptions noting the discipline imposed by their Municipal Clerk on his troops (Councillors) ***“Put your coats and ties on boys in readiness for The Guardian photo shoot”***.

Many of these activities continued during the 2 year Government Appointed Commissioner phase of the creation of Swan Hill Rural City Council.

Swan Hill Shire Council – Final Speech

On January 19 1995 I addressed Council for the last time:

Mr President, Fellow Councillors, Management Team.

The Swan Hill urban area split from the Shire of Swan Hill in 1939. My father, on the final distribution of preferences having polled 13 first preference votes was the 9th Councillor elected to the first Borough of Swan Hill. A ‘gentleman’s agreement’ was to have ensured a minimum term of 14 months. It failed and he was defeated at the normal statutory election two months after his election. I recall his comment after two council meetings and his defeat “they didn’t have any money anyway.”

His eldest son 55 years later having served 18 months of a 3 year term is, with Councillor Colleagues, being stood down because the twin municipality system is inefficient and too costly to retain.

From sand, cyprus hedges, pepper trees, hitching rails and self-reliance to nature strips, concrete & bitumen, computers, tele conferences and community support.

From muddy thinking, woolly thinking, political thinking to, compassionate thinking, clear thinking and problem solving. As councillors we look for the last three qualities in management but need to indulge in political thinking ourselves to retain voter support.

Doomsday pessimism – cock-eyed optimism with realism wedged in between. Voters rate realism with pessimism but if problems are to be solved we have to start with realism. Realist assessment goes with community consultation and is time consuming, people loose heart, a catch 22 situation.

Agriculture is the powerhouse of the region’s economy but its political clout is diminishing. Prima faci some 600 businesses provide this council with 50% of rate revenue.

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural Economics has said: “There is unlikely to be any let up in the severe adjustment pressure facing Australian farmers over the rest of this decade. It is going to be a long hard grind for much of Australian Agriculture.”

An ACIL Consultant has said: “To capitalise on its potential the Australian dairy industry will need to keep improving its international competitiveness. Change will need to be continuous because competitiveness is a race without a finish. Furthermore, doing it better than last year is usually not sufficient – competitiveness is about relative performance. This means doing as well as competitors and preferably better.”

This quote can well be applied to all export industries, business generally and to Local Government.

We are all in the same boat. Local Government must compete with neighbours and other municipalities for new industry and the sometimes forgotten continual roll over of existing rural and urban business. We have substantial handicaps to overcome. Maybe we need a specialist coach.

The transition to agribusiness of the small farms created under earlier subsistence settlement schemes will continue well into the next century. The region will be poorer for this painfully slow rate of change.

I repeat the part of the ACIL address which first caught my eye. “Change will need to be continuous because competitiveness is a race without a finish.”

I thank and congratulate my councillor colleagues for the forward thinking, sense of humour and high ethical and debating standards which characterise this Council.

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Some highlights of my near record short term, the appointment of a Finance Manager, voting down the 1993-94 budget and its aftermath, the experience and insight into Local Government gained as a panel member for senior management appointments, Cr Ryan's receipt of the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) and the beauty of the medal itself and the insight into the social fabric of our community through the committee, delegate and representation of Local Government system.

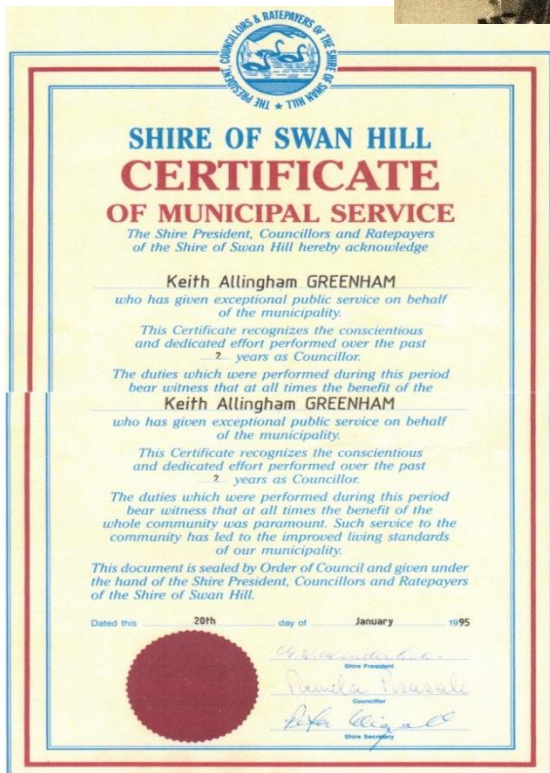
I thank the management team for your part. I have especially drawn your attention to the agricultural problem which is central to the Swan Hill regional economy. I guess your life's work, training and private urban environment is far removed from a detailed understanding of the social and economic issues involved nevertheless you must come up with some clear thinking on how best to deal with them and their relationship to Local Government. v

It is simply not good enough to brush the issues aside as we did in 1993. The combined power of your urban environment and likely mix of Commissioner and later Councillor back ground interests of the new municipality is of concern.

We look to your professionalism. In this capacity you must confer widely. Do not dismiss the Manangatang agribusiness revolt lightly. Good luck as you enter your new working environment.

Finally I thank you all for the special relationship which exists between those who serve their community at the highest local level. To the voters thank you for the opportunity.

Cr Greenham - tallest, grey suit, 4th from left back row.



**Another speech another day.
Lake Boga**

*Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -*

Swan Hill Rural City Council

On amalgamation 18 councillors were replaced by 3 Commissioners for a period of 2 years.

Government Appointed Commissioners – 1995 -1997

Australia Day 1995 – A few days after taking office Commissioners promoting unity invited Doreen and I representing the former Shire and Andy and Mrs Millar the former City to the then Swan Hill Campbell Street Celebration and Citizenship Award Presentations. We arrived in splendour as was traditional alighting from the Pioneer Settlement horse drawn coach for breakfast. Poor Chief Commissioner Roy Burr opened his tomato sauce capsule the wrong way splattering his white shirt. A delay while repairs were undertaken in H A Woods office then on with the speeches and presentations from the tray of a truck. Then poor Andy forgot I was there to assist, remembering just in time I finally got my turn. We all congratulated John Monahan on being awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM). In following years the celebration was held in Riverside Park.

Their task and outcomes

The economic dividend to ratepayers was a mandatory 20% rate reduction driving efficiency and increased emphasis on promotion of economic development in combating economic stagnation.

The drive for efficiency was spearheaded by the adoption of the English disease 'Thatcherism', Compulsory Competitive Tendering of service provision based on 'in house' business units. The dominant role of local government municipal clerks and engineers was overtaken by qualified accountants and an Economic Development Unit answerable to the CEO was established. The then CEO (Dennis Kirby), from a Mildura local government engineering background, reflecting on the complexity of local government amalgamation wished he had taken a job in an organisation providing one rather than one hundred services.

Commissioners made two blunders which cost ratepayers more than \$600,000, a failed

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20 February, 1997.



regionally promoted and underwritten outdoor concert at Robinvale (a former Shire proposal) and in attempting to maintain staff employment as sub-contractor to a contractor who went bankrupt.

Mr. Keith Greenham,
RSD Pental Island,
SWAN HILL 3585

Dear Keith,

COUNCIL REPRESENTATION

As we approach the election for the new council in March, 1997, it is appropriate that we place on record the Council's sincere thanks for the work that you have done in representing Council's interests within various Committees and organisations since January, 1995.

You have more than ably taken Council and community issues through the processes with the following organizations and Committees.

Lake Boga Community Development Committee
Mallee Employment Options
Swan Hill Rural City Mobile Pre-School Committee
Pental Island River Management Board
Southern Mallee Regional Housing Council

It may be that in some instances you will maintain close liaison with the organizations because of the role you have held, despite the role as the Council representative concluding. Such action would confirm your commitment to the community.

Once again, please accept our appreciation for the work you have done on Council's behalf.

Yours faithfully

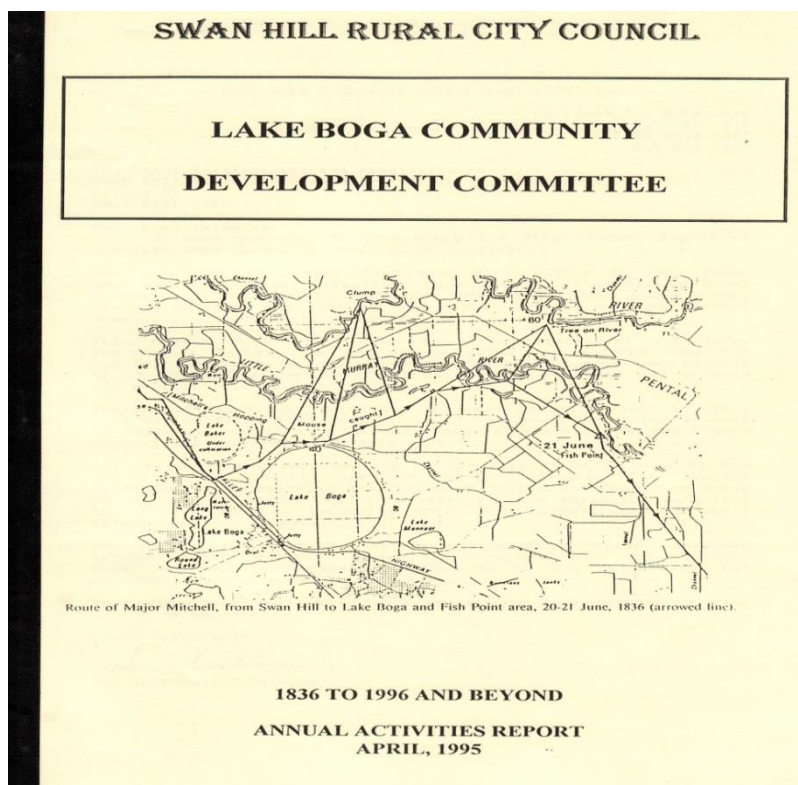
ROY BURR
Chief Commissioner

They also called together the former City and Shire Councillor Directors of their Tourism Company whose troubled enterprise on the corner of Campbell & Rutherford Streets was no longer required. In a spirit of unity we voted for the enterprise to be wound up.

During these two years I contributed to the debate through formal submissions and the media and at the invitation of Commissioners continued to represent Council on the Social Justice, Mobile Library and Community Development organisations involved in during my term as Councillor.

The Reward

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -



Lake Boga Community Development Committee

The facing page of my 1995 Annual Activities Report records Major Mitchel's 1836 exploratory journey through the Lake Boga area

I provided voluntary secretarial services to the continuing experimental Lake Boga Community Development Committee under Chairman Ian Monkhouse writing its first Charter and Annual Reports based on experience in other fields.

Sadly both commissioners and later elected Council were pre-occupied with other issues and had little time for their committee who worked mainly with Goulburn Murray

Water on preservation of the lake as a recreation water body and minimising closure due to toxic blue-green algae outbreaks.

Ultimately lack of progress, elected council's disinterest and withdrawal of access to copying machines and a travelling allowance which I had enjoyed in servicing the committee for Commissioners led to my resignation. Nevertheless the ground work and archival documentation was laid for significant progress in later years.

One of the lessons learned was the great care which needs to be taken by complaining communities. Lake fore-shore erosion due to high lake levels led to attempts to minimise its impact with lower running levels. Ultimately in 2008 the lake due to 15 years of low river flow was dry for the first time in almost 100 years.



Murray Mallee Regional Housing Council Retirement

KEITH Greenham will be sadly missed following his recent retirement from the Murray Mallee Regional Housing Council.

Members said although he served for only three years, his depth of knowledge and understanding of local issues gained as a former Swan Hill shire councillor was a great asset to the housing service.

His experience with the Association's Incorporation Act (Victoria) was also valued.

Mr Greenham served as an executive committee member, secretary of the Incorporated Association and chairman of the Southern Housing Services Advisory Committee.

MMRHC chairman Ken Jillard and chief executive officer Colin Thompson thanked Keith for his participation and presented him with a certificate of appreciation in acknowledging his contribution.

The Reward

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

Elected Councillors - 1997

With the Commissioners role completed I stood unsuccessfully for election in Lakes Ward a 60/40 mix of Swan Hill urban and rural voters. I was bitterly disappointed.

To the surprise of the rural sector the electoral system gave power to those in Swan Hill City/Township who opposed the amalgamation and was used ruthlessly in defiance of the Local Government Board's expectations and the provisions of the Local Government Act. Traditional council chamber debate was replaced by back room decisions and the rubber stamp lowering the standards we expected of democratic government.

It was impossible for 7 councillors to contribute the necessary local knowledge and checks & balances to management and big government's agenda with community consultation limited to the statutory requirements of legislation and by time frames for adoption of budget documents compounded by their annual trip to Japan or China.

The media found itself in conflict with council over the back room decision making process which shut it out of the robust debates on which they had fed to sell newspapers and support true democracy for more than 100 years. I was reminded of Queensland Premier Joe Beilke Peterson and his lesson on feeding the (media) chooks. Put simply take it or leave it media releases could not replace full blooded open debate. A Bendigo Councillor speaking in Lake Boga justified the new order claiming that the media had to be shut out of debate to enable progress.

Swan Hill Rural City Residents & Ratepayers Association

In response in 1998 Doreen and I joined the SHRC Residents & Ratepayers Association led by President Neil Mesley. I accepted the role of Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. Using experience gained over the years I served the Association in partnership with President Brian Carty and a band of loyal members using the statutory right and community obligation to forcefully comment on local government issues using written formal submissions and the media for the next 12 years.

The core issue was enforcing Local Governments statutory objective to provide equitable services with equitable payment for those services.

For a rural municipality comprising a regional centre, a number of small townships, irrigation and dry land farming and lifestyle living where voter numbers gave control to the regional centre Swan Hill it was not easy.

Association objectives were defined as; community advocacy and preserving democracy, community watchdog, promoting community and open council debate.

To carry out the role it was necessary to monitor all council's public documents. Councillors initially were hostile to the Association however over time they came to recognise the importance of community consultation and an external watchdog organisation.

Financial issues

The principle target was the annual budget and the urgent need to activate Local Governments statutory objective of 'equitable service provision and paying for those services' by introduction of differential rating which was opposed by commissioners and councillors on the specious grounds that exclusive use of a general rate promoted unity between the urban & rural sectors.

Year after year councillors and officers complained of the mandatory loss of 20% of rate revenue on amalgamation. They simply did not understand that greater efficiency was the objective and without a ratepayer dividend the amalgamation would have been politically impossible.

Compulsory Competitive Tendering, the product of the then English disease 'Thatcherism', for an organisation providing 90 community services without the necessary background tender documentation and probity skills was far too complex, not cost effective or local business friendly and was replaced by Best Practice Cost benchmarking. In hindsight the State Government had made a serious mistake which delayed the local government reform process.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

While persistent written annual budget submissions supported by verbal presentation at formal council meetings failed to change immediate outcomes their message did impact on longer term financial planning with direction change in following budgets.

Through no fault of Council two serious economic investment return downturns resulted in ratepayers having to contribute almost \$2,000,000 to the staff Defined Benefit Superannuation Fund (closed in 1993) to meet unfunded liabilities. The total cost with interest on loans probably \$2.6 million. By 2013 investment returns had not improved with calls for some \$4 million and the matter has become a long term contingent liability with many former employee beneficiaries receiving lifetime pensions.

The multi-million dollar Swan Hill Town Hall refurbishment ran into financial trouble with a failed contractor and union action. Similarly the Pritchard Street Leisure Centre overran its budget.

With the rapidly increasing value of irrigation water included in the Capital Improved Value of irrigation land council had little option but to introduce a 14% differential rate discount.

Electoral Issues

For the Association my submission to the then Councillor controlled 6 yearly Electoral System Review based on population movement called for change to the 7 Councillor, 3 x 2 councillor and 1 x 1 councillor ward structure. Needless to say Councillors protected themselves making no meaningful changes.

Land Use Planning issues

Car Parking

For the Association I formally objected to issue of a White Swan/Target development Planning Permit arguing for adequate car parking. The developers came to the party with a 60 space underground car park at a cost of \$500,000. Under the planning scheme it would have cost them \$26,000 in lieu of provision of 26 spaces. With issues like this we resisted pressure from competing developers to oppose the development.

Pritchard Street Closure

Finally, the Swan Hill controlled council in its second term shot itself in the foot with the Leisure Centre Pritchard Street closure issue. It was later disclosed that the former City Council had under the Swan Hill Planning Scheme designated the section of Pritchard Street a recreation reserve along with adjoining reserves giving officers under delegated power to without Council or community scrutiny issue a planning permit to build the Leisure Centre over the road reserve. The community with the help of the Association argued successfully for a narrowed road to remain open giving residential areas to the west continuing direct access to the Central Business Area.

Contributory Heritage Precinct

Then in the lead up to Council March 2003 elections another contentious planning issue emerged a State Government requirement for Contributory Heritage Precinct Overlay Planning Controls. For the Association I lodged an objection which with the support of others was following the election of a new Council successful.

Pental Island Loddon Floodway Flood-prone Road.

I became aware that the Victorian Government had set aside a fund to provide for compensatory infrastructure.

A personal submission to Council advocated the raising of the road level to Little Murray River concrete spillway level (70m AHD) and provided the necessary historic rational/justification for the works.

In the years ahead Council received some \$400,000 for provision of a bitumen surfaced higher level road. Unfortunately earth moving costs were inflated by refusal by authorities to allow fill to be obtained from nearby Crown Land forcing cartage from private land where an on farm drainage basin was developed for irrigation water reuse.

*Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -*

*Local Government Citizen of the Year 2000
National Australia Day Council – Citizen of the Year 2001*

Contacted by the Mayor Albert Heslop in late 2000 I agreed to accept the award of Citizen of the Year to be announced Australia Day January 26 2001.

It was an enormous surprise and honour involving a two minute acceptance speech before some 2,000 people gathered for the Australia Day Breakfast in Swan Hill's Riverside Park. The following is a short version of the Citation and the Acceptance Speech.

CITATION

MR KEITH GREENHAM is hereby awarded the **AUSTRALIA DAY CITIZEN OF THE YEAR FOR 2000**, in recognition of his outstanding community service as an active member of many organisations in the Swan Hill district.

Keith Greenham's lifetime commitment to serving the community and its development, his keen watchful eye on matters that affect his fellow citizens mean he is held in high esteem and has the utmost respect of his community and this makes him a worthy recipient of the Australia Day Citizenship Award for 2000.

Dated this 26th day of January 2001.

The COMMON SEAL of the
SWAN HILL RURAL CITY COUNCIL
Was hereto affixed in the presence of –
Albert Heslop MAYOR
Andy Millar COUNCILLOR
John Webb CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH
Australia Day 2001

*"Mayor Cr. Albert Heslop,
Australia Day Ambassador Mike
Brady, fellow citizens of our wonderful
Swan Hill Municipality,*

*To listen to the citation and accept
this award brings back memories of a
long active lifetime spent among you.
I sincerely thank all who had a role in
its presentation.*

*I thank my wife of the past 14 years,
Doreen and my children and their
families for their encouragement and
Brian & Elva Carty and the Ratepayers
Association for their special role.*

*Many of my generation have served
the community with distinction. I have
enjoyed the challenges and friendships
of my contribution.*

*I thank my peers, those of my father's
generation, who invited me 45 years
ago to take a leadership role in the*



Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -



development of Pental Island where Nancy and I had settled and raised a family. It became the training ground for later community service.

On this Australia Day as we celebrate a Century of Federation it is appropriate to remember Sir Percy Byrnes Swan Hill's only Knight Bachelor who gave us leadership, political skill, vision and wisdom as we lifted our municipalities out of the terrible legacy of the first half of the century; drought, war, depression, flood then war and

drought again.

I pay tribute to all who over the past 50 years followed their vision creating with pride all you see around us.

I pray that others from across the municipality will take up the voluntary community service challenge leading us to a prosperous 21st Century.

Mayor Councillor Albert and Councillors; I sincerely thank you as representatives of our people for honouring me with this award.

God Bless you all."

The Swan Hill Rural City Residents & Ratepayers Association as the award sponsor presented me with the documentation which led to this great honour.

Association of Independent Retirees. (A.I.R.)

Doreen and I were founding members of the Swan Hill Branch of the Association which was formed in December 1998 opening up a new area of community service.

Being a member of the formation Steering Committee I initially accepted the positions of Hon. Secretary, Treasurer, Delegate and Membership Officer. As the branch grew I handed the Treasurers role on.

The National Association seeks recognition as a peak body servicing fully and partly self-funded retirees developing and supporting by personal appearance, pre-budget submissions for consideration by Federal, State and Local Governments arguing for "a fair and just economic taxation and social environment that recognises and compensates for the special problems of fully or partly self-funded retirees."

At Branch level we seek and act on the concerns of members and 'provide information on all matters pertaining to retirees' through engagement of local and out of town guest speakers at monthly general meetings, an annual bus trip day out and production of newsletters incorporating our guest speaker messages.

Serving the interests of this sector of retirees is complex requiring an understanding of the many retirement income sources of former, business people, public servants, farmers and workers generally as well as the retirement welfare and health care system. I contributed to the ongoing debate at national, state and local level.

Doreen and I attended National Conferences in Tasmania and Victoria as Delegates.

National Party

As lifetime members concerned at the direction of the Party in coalition with the Liberals under Premier Kennett, Doreen and I renewed our direct interest in the Swan Hill Branch accepting the position of Branch Treasurer attending conferences across Victoria and continuing to act as scrutineer during vote counting following close of poll.

At one time I found myself at the Fish Point polling booth where some 60 people voted scrutineering in the 100 year old school building. Papers spread over the tables were wee'd on by possums through the cracks in the lining board ceiling. Over the years the same task was carried out at Woorinen South State School, Swan Hill Longhurst Hall and Swan Hill State School.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

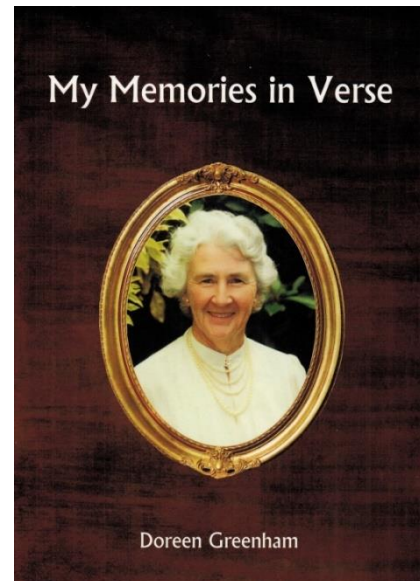
Penguin Club

Doreen had continued her interest in public speaking through the Swan Hill Penguin Club. We both regularly attended the Clubs Annual Dinner. The 1995 newspaper cutting tells of her progress to the State final of the Encore Speaking Competition in Melbourne.

She went on from this competition to Melbourne again to compete in the Dietrich Memorial speak off with Rostrum Club the male public speaking equivalent of Penguins. While the Club has gone into recess Doreen continues to use the skills she learned in Church Reading from the Lectern and other interests.

Poetry

Doreen continued her interest in writing poetry publishing them in a booklet in 2016



MOTHERS CWA
DAYLIGHT SAVING (AND THE DAIRYFARMER)
OUR TOWN IS UNIQUE 1989/2009
MASS SUNDAY 1991
RETIREMENT 1992
THOUGHTS 1993
FATHER ROD THREE SCORE & TEN 1994
THE SPIRIT OF WALTZING. MATILDA 1995
VOICES 1996
THE BELL 1998,
MY BROTHER MY SISTER AND ME 1998
PADDY'S ST PATRICKS DAY 2002,
AN OASIS IN THE DESERT 2002.

Doreen and son Rodger sold their Murraydale dairy herd and ultimately the two 60 acre blocks of land and Roger went to Papua New Guinea and the Fly River where with a mate they operated a commercial fishing boat with the Papuan people moving from village to village providing nets and buying and freezing the catch.

On life on the Fly River Roger commented "**you have not lived until you stand on the foredeck of a fishing boat under a shower of arrows.**" such was the competition between villages for their services. In the years ahead he worked with the Papuan people in many places and occupations.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

PENTAL ISLAND.
...ing held on 6th of June 1906, four residents of Pental
... T. Old, T. Guilmartin, J. Boulton, E. Barker - with 13
... school age applied for a school. Three acres on the property
of T.H. Ould - 15 chains from the SW corner of Allotment 19,
Parish of Pental Island - were leased for fourteen years at 1s p.a. from
the Trustees of Agricultural Colleges. To this site SS2552 Capel's
Crossing was shifted and re-erected by C.M. Kenzie for £35, of which
the Department paid only £15. The school opened on 20th of January
1908 (officially established on 18th of January 1908) with Katherine
O'Brien the HT. She was followed by Frank J. Baker. On 19th of
March 1910 the NE was 19, and families were returning after floods.
John Adams was Correspondent of the 1911 Committee. DI Russell
recommended closing in 1914 when there were 12 enrolled. The
school closed in March but reopened in May, because of increased
attendance. This school in spite of its low and fluctuating attendance
received special consideration on account of its isolated position, wet
weather, impassable condition of the roads and the long distances
children had to walk. It closed on 19th of January 1916, became a
subsidised school on 29th of May 1916, was closed on 2nd of
October 1916 owing to a very heavy flood when women and children
on the Island had to leave their homes, reopened on 3rd of November
1919, was unstaffed on 31st of May 1920, reopened on trial on 12th
of August 1920 and finally closed on 31st of December 1924. The
building was bought by John Adams and the 3 acre lease was cancelled.

Council's brass plaque was attached to a large block of ironstone obtained from the nearby Shepherd property, Doreen's childhood home, by a Swan Hill stone-mason, A roadside gathering of interested people attended the official unveiling.

Historic School Site Memorial Plaque Markers Pental Island - 1908

Doreen and I with Council's brass plaque and cement donated by a local company placed a roadside memorial marker at the 1908 - 1924 central Pental Island school site where some playground trees remained. We placed a sealed tube of documents under the cement block.

Pental Island School's Official History

Fairfield (Fidges Barn) - Later Lalbert Road - 1894 -

The school site is located on the Lalbert Road in the Meatian District. Doreen organised the placing of an on-site memorial marker at the roadside site among the remaining playground trees.

On the Home Front

In 1999/2000 the 9 year lease of the property expired. Fletcher Bros with my consent had carried out extensive improvements to the property including the construction of a 60 unit rotary milking shed and plant, purchased adjoining properties and were milking more than 1,000 cows.

Having earlier split the conjoined land title divided by Greenham Lane into 2 lots, our Murray River frontage home was retained and the balance sold to Fletchers along with the value of the irrigation water and residual value of machinery and hay which were also leased in 1990.

The inclusion of water value set us up with a good retirement income based on the advice of a financial planner with investment in cash, superannuation and a master trust of managed funds.

While the master trust component was a bit like share farming with fees paid to 13 or so managed funds as well as the master trust and had its ups and downs in periodic boom & bust cycles it freed me from the unknown and complex task of direct share & property ownership.



Cairn marks site of former school

THREATENING skies could not deter four former pupils of Fairfield State School from returning to the scene of their childhood learning centre on Sunday.

And they were joined by about 50 members of their families for a picnic lunch after the unveiling of a marker cairn at the former school-ground site, on the Lalbert Road 24km south-west of Swan Hill.

Mrs Leila Power, of Swan Hill, Mrs Janey Power, of Meatian, Mrs Ida Power, of Lalbert, and Mr Howard Brown, of Swan Hill, were the surviving pupils present from State School No

3223 that operated from 1894 until 1923.

The school was also known as Fidge's Barn because Mr Edward Fidge's barn accommodated the children from 1894 to 1905 when a

permanent building was opened.

The oldest of the four - Mrs Janey Power - had the honor of unveiling the cairn that will mark the site of the school for posterity.

*Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -*

In Retirement – Pental Island 2003 – 2010

Technology: During this period I updated the Microsoft Works computer system to Microsoft Windows XL

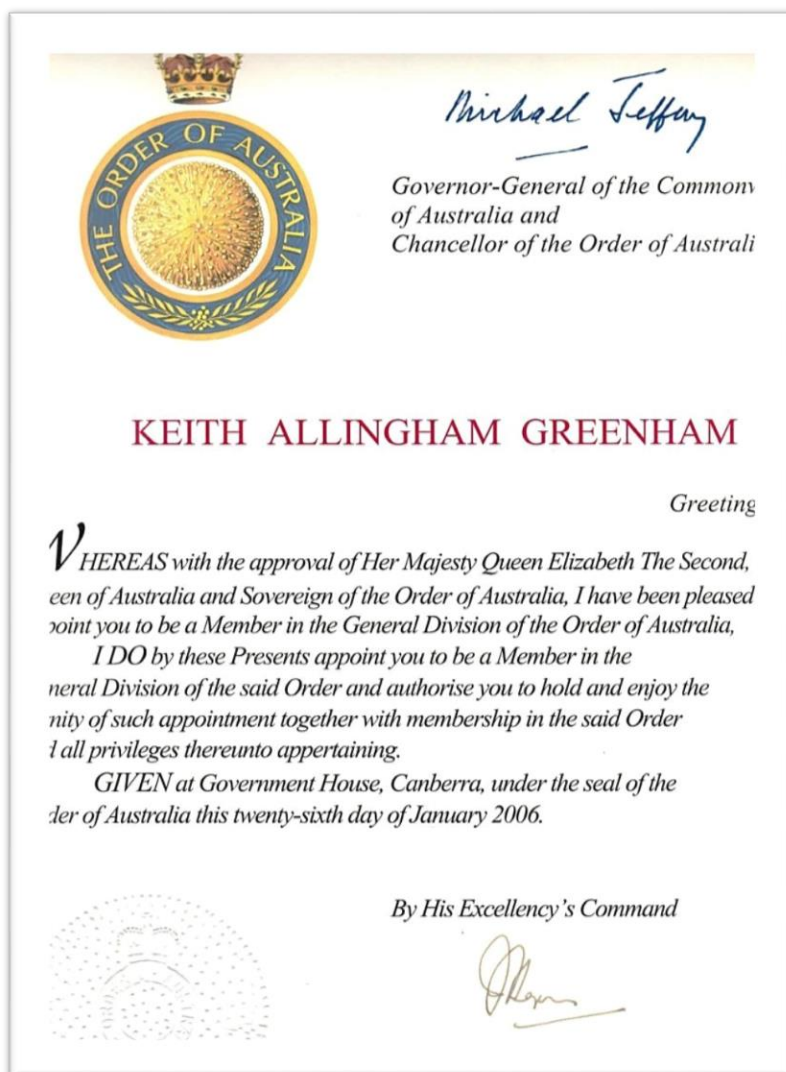
Overview:

These years were dominated by continuing voluntary community service through the Residents & Ratepayers Association, the Association of Independent Retirees, VicRoads Bridge Replacement Community Consultation Study Group, Council Flood Warden responsibilities and a surprise invitation from the Office of the Governor General to accept Appointment as a Member of the Order of Australia in the General Division and on the home front the bursting of the world financial bubble and resulting financial meltdown which effected everyone with no end in sight in 2013. Fortunately as retirees we were insulated from the financial problems by being part pensioners.

***Appointment as a Member of the Order of Australia
in the General Division Australia Day 2006***

CITATION

“For service in the Swan Hill district through leadership within a range of organisations committed to community development.”



***Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -***

Swan Hill Australia Day 2006 Breakfast

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT SPEECH

“Mayor Cr. Bruce Jones, fellow citizens, our young people and children of Swan Hill. Good morning and thanks Chairman Brian Wood for your kind words and an opportunity to thank the people of Swan Hill.

Three months ago, imagine the surprise and emotion of receiving a letter bearing the seal of the Governor-General of Australia, followed before Christmas with advice of the appointment and the congratulations of the Governor-General.

I am deeply humbled to find that my fellow citizens have seen fit to follow the 2001 Citizen of the Year Award with nomination for such a high honour.

The appointment as a Member of the Order of Australia is, for Swan Hill only the third since institution of the Order by Her Majesty The Queen on the 14th of February 1975.

I sincerely thank you all and earnestly hope the award is accepted by all as recognition of the vibrant forward thinking community we have all created.

It is more than 50 years since I first picked up a pen in voluntary community service. Memories of the cut and thrust and quickening pace of change of those years flood back

I pay tribute to those who so long ago sowed the seeds of community service, my parents and the great band of volunteer men and women, professional, public service and media people I have worked with.

I pay tribute to my partners, wife Nancy who died in 1982 having lovingly raised our 4 children to adulthood and wife Doreen who for 19 years has given me great support in continuing community activity to my 79th year. By their encouragement and that of our combined families, they to, share the award with me.

Many of my generation have served our community with distinction, our school days of the 1930's and 40's shaped our lives.

We children and grandchildren of Swan Hill pioneering families grew up in the shadow of the great depression, drought with blinding dust storms and the anxiety and austerity of WW2, with hardship all around us.

Like generations before us we were driven by hope for a better future.

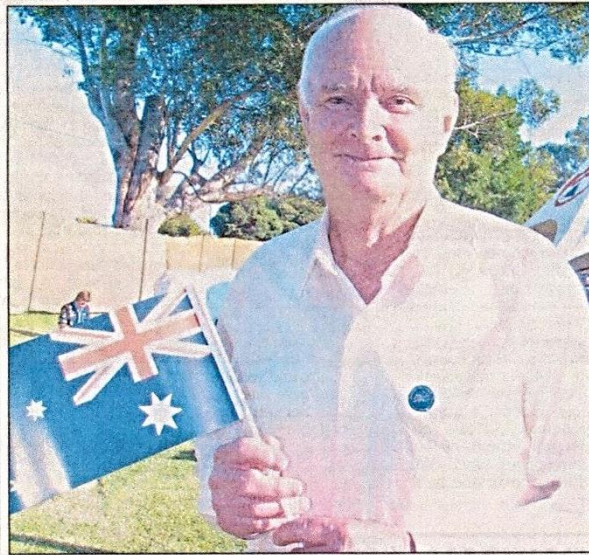
In 2006 Swan Hill Rural City Council's motto “Building our Future Together” is our hope for the future. Building our future together calls for indigenous, old and new Australian volunteers to continue to shoulder, with councillors, the community progress wheel with wisdom, patience and good humour, it is not easy, nor is it instantly rewarding but take heart your efforts are needed and will not go unrewarded.

I again sincerely thank you all, God Bless. And, enjoy this Australia Day with those men, women and children about to be recognised by Swan Hill Rural City Council for their outstanding achievements.”

Keith Allingham Greenham AM 26/1/06

*Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -*

Top honour for Swan Hill man



STORY: Liz Mecham
PHOTO: Pamela Blackman

KEITH Greenham yesterday became one of the newest members in the general division of the Order of Australia.

The highest honour an individual can receive, the AM recognises Mr Greenham's service to the Swan Hill district "through leadership within a range of organisations committed to community development".

He is one of only three Swan Hill residents to ever receive the title in the last 30 years.

"I was greatly surprised to receive the letter (three months ago) and then to have it confirmed the week before Christmas was fantastic," he said.

"You go through a lot of doubts in that time, as to whether you deserve such a high honour — and it is the highest honour an individual can achieve.

"But I am very pleased to receive the award.

"I think it really reflects well on the Swan Hill community and its

forward thinking," Mr Greenham said.

An avid community committee member, 79-year-old Mr Greenham began his community service involvement when he led the charge for the Victorian Government to give up its freehold on the island land to farmers when he was in his 30s.

The Pental Island resident said he was part of a group which lobbied the government to relinquish its ownership of the land and hand out purchase issue leases to farmers in 1964, followed by the freehold titles when farmers had paid out their leases in 1984.

But at that time, Mr Greenham's grazing property suffered from international market pressures and he transformed his farm into a dairy farming operation.

That change in his lifestyle also meant a step away from community involvement for about 20 years, something he rectified by taking on roles in a huge number of community committees in later years.

CONTINUED page 3

Source: *The Guardian* 27/1/2006

FROM page 1

HIS involvement in committees and representative groups over the past 20 years produces an impressive list.

He remains the honorary secretary of the Swan Hill Residents and Ratepayers' Association since he first took up the post in 1997 and has been the honorary secretary of the Swan Hill Association of Independent Retiree's Group since 1998.

Between 1993 and 1997 he held the position of honorary secretary for the Lake Boga Community Development Committee.

He has been a member of the Victorian State Emergency Services for over 27 years, the Pental Island warden since 1973 and was the deputy chairman of the Pental Island River Management Board from 1983 until 1997 when the board was abolished.

Mr Greenham was also the chairperson of the Mallee Regional Housing Council (Swan Hill committee) between 1993 and 1997 and honorary branch secretary of the United Dairyfarmers Victoria during the 1980s and 1990s.

He is also a member of the National Party Swan Hill branch and has been its secretary since 2000.

Adding to the long list of community groups, Mr Greenham also gave time to his municipality when he served as a councillor on Swan Hill Shire, from 1993 until 1995 when the council was abolished to become Swan Hill Rural City Council.

In more recent times, he has continued at the forefront of the Swan Hill Residents' and Ratepayers' Association, and was a founding member of the Swan Hill Main Drain Community Action Group.

In 2000, Mr Greenham was

recognised for his years of community service when he was awarded the Swan Hill Rural City Council Citizen of the Year Award.

His community involvement is something he thoroughly enjoys, however, and something he intends to continue.

"I do enjoy it, and I guess it is a bit of a duty, but someone has to do it."

Mr Greenham puts his high level of involvement in community groups down to his educational years.

"I guess people of my generation — who were schooled in the 1930s and 1940s — had gone through hell with the depression, the drought, hideous dust storms then World War II.

"After that period of education, everyone was looking to move forward, they had hope for the future.

"Someone had to pick up the ball and do the leg work — and it was me doing the leg work," he said.

Despite his age, Mr Greenham said he intended on continuing his community involvement with the city's resident and ratepayers association while he was able.

"It is all becoming a bigger job, a lot more reading to keep abreast of things to do with council," he said.

"I would like to think in the next little while someone would take over."

Mr Greenham will attend an official ceremony in April or May this year, where he said his wife, Doreen, would enjoy her part of the award.

"She can't wait to drive up through the Botanical Gardens and up the driveway to Government House," Mr Greenham said.

Mr Greenham was recognised at the Swan Hill Australia Day breakfast at Riverside Park yesterday.

***Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -***

**Presentation of Australian Honours &
Awards**

**To Keith Allingham Greenham AM
by Professor David de Kretser, A.O.,
Governor of Victoria, 11th May 2006**



A Very Special Day at Government House

Published in *The Guardian* newspaper

Summoned to Government House with 145 Australian Honour and Award recipients and their guests Doreen and I arriving at the gates of Government House by taxi before their 10am opening, listened to the birds of the botanical gardens, watched the build up of people and cars in Government House Drive and were joined by my sister Dorothy and eldest son Jeff.

A short walk to the State Ballroom with seating prepared for more than 600. The Ballroom is dominated by the dais and canopied throne bearing the ER of Her Majesty the Queen where the Honour and Award presentations took place.

Guests were entertained by a Military Band while we recipients were ushered into the State Dining Room at the rear of the Ballroom into two rows of numbered seats surrounding the great dining table. Among us was a familiar face Mr Kevin Perry E.S.M. formally of Swan Hill.

For the presentation ceremony we were grouped by rank – Australian Honour (Order of Australia), Service Cross, Service Award and alphabetically within rank.

The last recipient was seated by 10.55 am when the Governor's Secretary addressed the gathering explaining the ceremony and advised that the first recipient had been given a dry run and we were expected to follow his lead. Applause or use of private cameras during the ceremony was not permitted and we were reminded to turn right for the official photo. Setting us at ease with, obviously, a much used ploy he warned that the age of two decanters of brandy on the side board was unknown and that no one has yet been game to take a drop to calm the nerves.

A hush descended on the Dining Room as the relayed ceremony from the Ballroom began with the entrance of Governor Professor David de Kretser and Mrs de Kretser.

We were ushered into the wings in groups of five. Ranked number 22, I was called by the MC, an encouraging word from gold braided ushers, a short walk with the aid of my trusty walking stick, delivery of the Order of Australia Members Insignia on a velvet cushion as the citation is read "For service in the Swan Hill district through leadership within a range of organisations committed to community development", formal presentation of Insignia by Governor David de Kretser, a warm handshake, official photo, receipt of Insignia Case and Crowned Velvet Folder from an assistant and ushered to a reserved seat in the third row. I'm told the presentation took fourteen seconds no time for nerves, words or the emotion of the very special occasion but I did manage when seated to drop the walking stick with an embarrassing clatter.

Following the 145 presentations, Governor de Kretser in a short address paid tribute to recipients for their special contribution to Australia whether by voluntary service or by service beyond the call of duty.

We rose from our seats as the Governor returned to before the throne with Mrs de Kretser for the opening and closing bars of the National Anthem "Advance Australia Fair" and with his entourage retired.

Relaxing, we shook the hands of those seated closest to us, in my case Mrs Christine Forster A.M. whom I has met many years ago during our water resource management days and Professor The Honourable George Hampel A.M. prominent in legal education.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

Government House staff cleared the State Ballroom of chairs, opened side doors to the fountain and lawn area and a large window for guests to enter from the lawns and explore the State Hall and State Dining Room with their priceless portraits and furnishings. The Governor and Mrs de Kretser mingled with the people, the Military Band entertained, waiters served light refreshments throughout the area and tea was served in the Ballroom supper room. Meanwhile recipients and their guests queued for photos in front of the Ballroom dais and throne.

On leaving Government House we were confronted by our 'dressed for the occasion' image in the great Ballroom mirrors and thoughts of the events which they could have recorded over the years.

Bringing us back to reality we welcomed the comforting presence of St Johns Ambulance volunteers should a mishap occur on the entrance steps.

The walk back to the now quiet main gate was punctuated by turning back to view the grandeur of Government House against the skyline and flanked by the great trees along the driveway.

And for afters a mid-afternoon rest and a very special evening dinner with our immediate and extended Melbourne based families.

Thanks to the people of Swan Hill for this great day.

Keith A. Greenham A.M. May 20 2006

The AM Medal Case



During the following year with daughter Meredith and Doreen's Carmel we accepted the invitation of **City of Melbourne Lord Mayor, John So**, to the Melbourne Town Hall Yarra Room Reception to acknowledge 2006 Australian Honours and Awards. Our attendance was linked to Melbourne's history through my GGG grandparents the Watmough family, who arrived in 1841 when Port Phillip's population was less than 5,000 people and are regarded as pioneers of the City.

Swan Hill Rural City Council acknowledged the Honour where I displayed the contents of the AM Medal Case and we attended a final General Reception at Victoria's Government House for Year 2006 recipients of Honours and Awards where we mingled with prominent people from all fields of human endeavour.

And finally an invitation from Crown Content the publishers of Who's Who to contribute a biography to the Inaugural Edition of Who's Who in Victoria 2008. The surprise on reading the almost 1,000 page publication is how one without a full university education managed to make it.

Leonie Therese Christopherson AM BA a fellow 2006 Member of the Order of Australia in responding to the Who's Who call for "Your own words or thoughts:" put it this way.

"One can only complain about things in this country if you are prepared to stick the stamps and stuff the envelopes to bring about change. Whingeing on the sidelines is not an option."

I guess her observation is the story of my life however by 2014 'stick' and 'stuff' has been expanded to the use of 'internet cyberspace' and its social media, facebook and twitter.

Set out in later pages is a listing of recipients of Australian Honours from throughout the Swan Hill municipality taken from the internet website *'itsanhonour'*. In compiling it using regional post codes I discovered that some recipients are not linked therefore the listing may not be complete.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

Camping on riverfront Licenced Crown Land

Swan Hill RCC Draft Community Local Law No 2 on exhibition attracted a personal submission. The proposal enshrined the principle of landholder onus to ensure that campers had the necessary permit. My submission drew attention to the obligations of landholders under their DSE Agricultural Licence, noted that it would be whistle blower and authorised officer based and for landholders an unwelcome and unhappy task. The outcome is unknown.

Residents & Ratepayers Association

Council Elections March 2003

As continuing Association Secretary & spokesperson I entered the election process mentioned in the earlier account at the invitation of *The Guardian* with a series of letters to the editor (most were published) seeking answers from candidates to specific questions.

At the March 2003 elections voters replaced 6 of the 7 Councillors. Officers were severely shaken by the outcome and it was later reported that they advised newly elected Councillors that *Greenham* lacked credibility.

Land use Planning Issues

Heritage

For the Association as recounted earlier I had formally objected to an amendment to the Swan Hill Planning Scheme Heritage provisions involving creation of a Contributory Heritage Precinct for Swan Hill Township in accordance with the State Section of the Planning Scheme. The proposal conflicted with Council's vision for the future of Swan Hill Township.

The new Council had inherited the issue from the former council and at its first meeting voted the proposal down, the proposing heritage consultant stormed out of the meeting and ultimately the Minister adopted Council's decision. It was a major victory for common sense and the future of Swan Hill.

Wetlands

For the Association I formally objected to the issue of a Planning Permit for a Swan Hill Milloo St Main Drain Stormwater Treatment Wetland which set a precedent for council and developers to provide similar facilities surrounding Swan Hill and other townships in the municipality.

This issue was also inherited from the former Council who to our surprise had entered into a funding contract with the Environment Protection Authority to provide the service.

The core objection related to the health issue of mosquito born arbovirus disease which council and landholders had over the years controlled by draining swamp-land breeding places. Council rejected all objections and determined to issue the permit. The matter was left to a community action group to challenge in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT).

Wetlands Action Group

I accepted the position of Chairman and spokesperson of this group. While the appeal failed to vary the terms of the permit or halt the works the Tribunal judgement highlighted the principle that the provisions of the Planning & Environment Act and Swan Hill Planning Scheme which determined the outcome stand equal with the provisions of the Health Act.

The ball is therefore in the court of the wetland manager to ensure that the arbovirus disease carrier, mosquitoes, do not breed in the wetland and that cumbungi, *paspalum distichum* (water couch), European Carp and mosquito fish which attract mosquitoes are monitored and eliminated.

While a Wetland Management Plan prepared by another municipality was tabled at the AAT hearing the Associations attempts to have Council prepare and adopt such a plan fell on deaf ears. I recall a provision that required refurbishment of the wetland facility every 15 years.

In mid 2008 the wetlands have been constructed, new drainage pumps are being installed with the project some \$500,000 or 100% over consultant original estimates and the project some years away from becoming fully operational.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

In 2013 with the wetlands operational it is reported that Councillors now wish they had listened to objectors and a Wetlands Management Plan has not been adopted.

The Community Action Group presented me with an office chair in thanks for the effort.

Forestry

The issues of urban stormwater treatment, sale of irrigation water off large tracts of heavy grey soil pasture based irrigation lands adjacent to Swan Hill and climate change driven carbon trading and sequestration led to an interest in farm based forestry and the development of a major student research project into growing poles for the power industry on Tyntynder Flats an area subdivided into 22 hectare subsistence dairy farm holdings almost 100 years ago and no longer a substantial contributor to the economy.

We liaised with the Melbourne University Forestry School's Senior Research Fellow Dr Berhan Ahmed, who was the 2009 Victorian of the Year and in 2013 stood unsuccessfully for election to the Melbourne City Council.

I contributed to the Draft Student Research Project Brief privately concluding that the 1930's floodplain rural standard levee bank protected land was too risky for trees other than Red Gum which are unsuitable for power poles.

In 2013 many tree growing enterprises, Managed Investment Schemes and others, across the State have failed and there is little interest.

The Guardian March 2005

Swan Hill CBD Car Parking

- In 2008 for the Association I formally objected to the issue of a Planning Permit for a new Hotel/Nightclub complex in Swan Hill on car parking provision grounds. In late 2008 the matter has been heard in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal taken to this stage by another objector. The hearing was adjourned to 2009 and the developer ultimately withdrew the application.
- In 2009 Officers without community consultation issued a planning permit for an office complex without adequate on site car parking leading to a question in the Council Chamber. Failure of officers to administer Council Policy of annual review of the level of the Contribution in Lieu of Car Park provision it was a fait accompli and with no further action possible.
- Past Council policies had led to some \$250,000 being held in the Car Parking Reserve Fund which equated to 200 car parking space paid for by developers over the years. To provide those spaces in 2009 is likely to cost \$3million. Council raised the Contribution in Lieu from \$1,000 to \$2,000.
- In 2009 for the Association I objected to an application for waiver of car parking provisions for second floor extensions to a Splatt St. Medical Clinic. Council determined to issue the permit under a condition that the developer provide the 19 spaces required on site or nearby. The developer was ultimately constrained by the proximity of overhead electricity power lines. In 2011 the developer purchased an adjoining property.

Thoughts of our city

Keith Greenham,
PENTAL ISLAND.

SIR,

As a farmer, your feature on the 1965 birth of Swan Hill City brought back bitter memories of the arrival of "get big or get out" in the wake of the European Common Market with loss of export markets and collapse of the post war farm commodity boom.

It was the end of an era which has supported self employed farming in developing land giving hope to ex servicemen and future generations.

In a desperate bid to keep Swan Hill township alive the young guns hatched a bold plan to diversify into tourism, made it a city, bought the PS Gem, set up the Pioneer Settlement and gave Campbell Street a face lift.

We on the farms desperate to save our dream worked through government services and research farms towards greater productivity and long term viability.

Many did not make it.

Farms got bigger and bigger, dried fruit disappeared, livestock were shot and pitted, city workers looked for work elsewhere till finally private enterprise took up the challenge and the tourist industry grew and grew and parking meters became a blot on the landscape.

Then the final straw, "get big or get out" arrived at the top end of town. For the shire, economies of scale demanded amalgamation, no screamed the city, but Premier Kennett held all the cards.

So 1995, 30 years after the pomp and ceremony of its birth the city in black mood donned its black hat and solemnly buried itself in a black coffin borrowed from the Shakespeare theatre wardrobe making way for restructure into the Swan Hill Rural City.

Not a bad resurrection from the dead if you think of Swan Hill as a city and not just the biggest of the nine townships of the Rural City and the only one with a forest of parking meters.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

- In 2010 Council purchased a Beveridge St property to provide some 30 spaces extinguishing the Restricted Reserve Fund and requiring ratepayer subsidy to complete the site clearance and development.
- In 2010 for the Association I objected to the application for waiver of car parking provisions on payment of \$2,000 a car parking space to Council for a new Campbell St Medical Clinic. Council determined to accept the totally inadequate payment in lieu of provision and the development proceeded. During the Council Meeting debate, held at Woorinen South a Councillor attacked the Association and me personally. The Councillor on another issue declared a pecuniary interest and left the Chamber with the Mayor in fun calling on me **‘to lock the door behind her’** to her embarrassment and the amusement of all.
- In 2010 Council determined to review its Car Parking Policy, consulted the community with no proposal yet on the table. Council continues to be reluctant to remove the totally inadequate \$2,000 in lieu of car park provision incentive to developers. The issue is complex as it not only involves new development but change in property use like retail shop to café with numbers of tables and chairs used in determining the contribution in lieu.
- In 2013 the owners of Coles Car Park installed parking meters which target all day use by CBD workers providing significant relief to the shopping public with continuing free parking for 90 minutes. The side effect, other out of the way little used free car parks have filled up.

Tower Hill Pine Trees

VicUrban developer of the Tower Hill Residential area cut down some Ultima Road frontage pine trees to make way for Boobialla Drive, a new road, and the community feared the loss of the plantation which was part of an earlier development. Examining the subdivision I found that the trees were included in residential allotments adjacent to a narrow Ultima Road front Reserve. This came as a surprise to Councillors listening to Association and community objections and led to the developer reducing the size of the allotments extending the reserve to preserve the trees.

Electoral Review

Under amended legislation the 2007 review was conducted by the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) rather than Council. It was conducted with the assistance of a major Association Submission which had to take into account shifting voter population and growth across the municipality. The Commission received and heard our submission for continuation of a 7 councillor subdivided 4 ward Municipality however they made a draft recommendation for an un-subdivided 7 councillor municipality. This was successfully challenged by the Association in a further submission and hearing as being too radical at this stage of the municipality's evolution. The Commission's second option an adjusted 7 councillor 4 ward municipality (Swan Hill; 1 ward 4 councillors, rural; 3 wards 3 councillors) was supported by the Association and adopted by VEC and the Victorian Government as the electoral system for the coming 6 years.

Financial Accountability

Yearly review of council's documents by the Association continued with formal written submissions being heard by Council as required by the legislation. What the Association regarded as an equitable Rate Strategy was adopted by council and new Government legislation introduced the pre-budget adoption of a Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan whose objective is to provide ratepayers with a degree of certainty in planning their outlays in the years ahead. Ratepayer 'ability to pay' assumes that having purchased a property they have that ability. As we approached the 2008 elections it was my view is that generally the past 5 years have seen a steady improvement in financial accountability.

2008 Council Elections

These elections were dominated by the new Ward system (Central Ward 4 Councillors, Lakes, Murray Mallee and Robinvale one Councillor each) and Council's decision to terminate the contract of its Chief Executive Officer in controversial circumstances with understandably the reason continuing to be confidential. Three of the seven Councillors were replaced.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

Retirement

In 2010 after some 12 years of service I retired from my leadership role in the Residents & Ratepayers Assn handing over many boxes of files to Roger Day. In this my final year we had 17 members, held 10 meetings, with an average attendance of 11 members and the correspondence in/out file involved 119 items. Activities included attendance at Council Meetings and Forums, extensive research of Council documents and usage of print, television & radio media all aimed at achieving our objectives. For interested historians my many Submissions and Annual Activity Reports are located in Swan Hill Rural City Council archives.

I was honoured by the Association with Life Membership.

SWAN HILL RURAL CITY RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES REPORT Y/E 30/6/10

Writer: Keith Greenham AM Hon. Sec., Fax/Tel: 50372317

Association Objectives

- Community advocacy and preserving local democracy.
- Community watchdog.
- Promoting community and open council debate.

Achieved by;

- monitoring Council public documents, the media and Council operations,
- written communication with;
 - Swan Hill Rural City Council.
 - Local Politicians.
 - Victorian State Ministers,
 - Other interested parties,
- use of the media.

The Organisation

- *President: Mr. Brian Carty 17Arnoldt St., Swan Hill 3585 Fax/Tel: 5032 3327*
- *Secretary/Treasurer: Mr Keith Greenham AM 123 Greenham Lane Pental Island 3586*
- *General Committee: All Members*

News

The Guardian — Friday, August 6, 2010 — Page 13

Keith hands over the reins



SARAH O'CONNOR

KEITH Greenham has retired as secretary of the residents and ratepayers association after 12 years in the role.

He handed the reins over to Roger Day at the association's annual general meeting on Tuesday night.

Mr Greenham said he was approaching 83 years of age, and it was time to step back and let the younger generation take over.

"In your middle 80s it's time to move on and let the next generation learn these things, and they learn by experience," he said.

While Mr Greenham is still a member of the association and will remain so, he said he would be stepping back his involvement.

"I don't want to do a Malcolm Fraser and be interfering in any way," he laughed.

Mr Greenham said he felt he had mostly achieved his main goal during his time as secretary.

"In the last 12 years I've been involved, the main objective was to bring the municipality together, providing equity in service provision and paying for those services," Mr Greenham said.

"In some ways... that objective has been achieved," he said.

Mr Day has been learning about the role of secretary for the past six months and Mr Greenham said he was confident in his successor's ability.

"He stood for council at the last election and is keenly interested in local government," Mr Greenham said.

"I have every confidence in him, with the team we've put together."

That includes Brian Carty remaining as president, Lindsay McKee elected as treasurer and David Magee as deputy president.

"That's a young, new team," Mr Greenham said.

Mr Day — a Swan Hill business owner — said he joined the association "a couple of years ago" because it was an important organisation for the community.

But he said he had never taken on a secretary role before.

"It's a learning curve for me," Mr Day said.

"Keith's such a brilliant man, so filling his shoes is very hard."

One change Mr Day has already introduced is an online forum, where members of the residents and ratepayers association can discuss issues over the internet.

The forum can be accessed via the association's website at www.swanhill.org.

HANDOVER: Roger Day took over as the residents and ratepayers association secretary from Keith Greenham on Tuesday night.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -



SARAH O'CONNOR

soconnor@theguardian.com.au

KEITH Greenham is making sure democracy is alive and well in the Swan Hill region.

A Member of the Order of Australia and past Swan Hill Citizen of the Year, Mr Greenham is a prominent figure in the area.

Through his role as secretary and treasurer of the Swan Hill City Residents and Ratepayers Association, Mr Greenham keeps a close eye on Swan Hill Rural City Council and the State Government.

He writes submissions to council on a regular basis and has been writing letters to the editor of *The Guardian* since the 1950s.

These submissions can range from thanking council for a particular decision, to criticising council documents or seeking policy change.

"The biggest shock I ever got was when I was a young man, I wrote to the council about a whole lot of issues and I picked up the newspaper and in two-inch high headline 'Ratepayer attacks the council' — I nearly died," he laughed.

Mr Greenham said such written communication with the government and the community was a part of maintaining democracy.

"The days when you just get up at a meeting and beat hell out of people are gone — you must have the discipline of writing a submission," Mr Greenham said.

The people have got to be constantly observant

KEITH GREENHAM

In the past year, Mr Greenham has written more than 10 submissions to council on behalf of the ratepayers association.

Some of these have been about big issues such as the Council Plan, an application for a new Oasis Hotel and the extension of the medical centre.

He said it was important for the community to get involved as well.

"The people have got to be constantly observant," he said.

"Submission writing is the key

to the community's involvement with Local Government these days and you've got to do the research."

Keeping an eye on council and the government isn't all Mr Greenham has been involved in — he's been a part of many committees, associations, community groups and management boards, and was a Swan Hill Shire Councillor in 1993.

"... I became secretary of the fire brigade and to my surprise I went in there one day, as a councillor, I went to the opening (of the new building)... and I looked up on the noticeboard and found I was the first secretary," he said.

"I'd forgotten I even had been, it was so long ago."

Mr Greenham retired in 1990, but before that had been a farmer and spent four years in Melbourne after undertaking wartime training.

"I ended up in the pay and records department, which you'd call human services today," he said.

Those four years were the only time Mr Greenham lived out of the region.

After being with the residents

and ratepayers association for more than 10 years, Mr Greenham said he was ready to retire.

"At my age it's got to be stressful even to write a letter to the editor," he laughed.

"I'm too old now."

But finding new members to join the association is difficult, he said.

"We desperately need generational change," he said.

"It's got to be a retiree... who's had an interest in the way things work, either that or somebody who's willing to learn about it and has the time."

"That's part of the problem, they can't (balance being a member with having a full-time job)."

If there was no Swan Hill Rural City Residents and Ratepayers Association, however, Mr Greenham said council would have "a clear hand to do what they want to do".

"Now councillors are only elected every four years, what do you do between elections?" he said.

"Do you just let them go hell for leather, and do what they like?"

Civic Reception & Unveiling of Updated Honour Boards

With past Councillors I was invited to Swan Hill Rural City Council's Civic Reception for Professor David de Kretser AC Governor of Victoria who unveiled the new Swan Hill Municipal Honour Boards to be placed in the first floor passageway adjacent to the new Council Chamber in the Swan Hill Town Hall. It was a great occasion meeting up with past friends and colleagues.

My hip surgeon had told me that Governor Professor de Kretser was his final year University medical examiner being known as "Dr Death", as in death of a medical practitioner career if failed. I couldn't help mentioning this in talking to the Governor, he laughed.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

Gannawarra (Kerang) Shire Council farm ratepayer group.

During the decade I was called on by a group of dairy farm ratepayers in the Cohuna area to have a look at their Council's rate system and advise on its equity. I reviewed it in writing for the group. They must have achieved their aim.



Keith Greenham AM,
Swan Hill

Childhood exposure to the unemployed gathering for the dried fruit harvest in the 1930's, a year 10 Swan Hill High School education and four teenage war time year's business training at Shell Australia's Victorian Head Office and RMIT complemented Keith Greenham's pioneering

Northern Victorian irrigation and Mallee farming family background.

Making way for returning servicemen he returned to the Swan Hill family irrigation farm with its horse team and sheep. Share farming and leasing two square miles of forfeited Victorian Mallee Crown Land for eighty pounds a year (\$160), family help, a rough bush hut, new tractor, second hand machinery, favourable seasons and the post war wheat boom enabled debt free purchase and development of a successful irrigation grazing property on Pental Island on the Murray River and later conversion to a dairy farm.

Marriage to Nancy, a New Zealand born schooldays classmate, in 1953, creating a family home and the arrival of four children was a great joy. Sadly it was cut short by her illness and death in 1982. Marriage to Doreen, also widowed and of similar farming background continued a happy productive life on the Island.

Invited by his peers in 1956, as time permitted, he became a volunteer community leader of a wide range of rural and urban community development organisations using the skills of his business training and knowledge gained along the way.

Keith Greenham is a 1998 founder and leader of A.I.R. Swan Hill Branch. Awarded Swan Hill Australia Day Council Citizen of the Year in 2001 he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the General Division on Australia Day 2006.

Association of Independent Retirees Inc.

2007 - Dramatic change in the Assets Test raised the threshold for access to the aged pension increasing the number of members nationally receiving part pension and other linked benefits leading to reduced interest in the Association and branch closures mainly through lack of interest in leadership roles.

For Doreen and I in September 2007 as a couple with combined assets other than our home deemed annual income of \$36,000 we received a pension equal to \$19 week rising in 2012 to \$284 week as the indexed asset test threshold rose and the global financial crisis reduced our assets and combined deemed annual income to \$26,000

The concerns of self-funded retirees had for the time being been met by Federal Government recognition of the emerging social demographic change imposed by an ageing population and the need to promote self-funded retirement through improved superannuation and taxation measurers.

The Association continued to lobby Governments through Pre-Budget Submissions and Swan Hill Branch with a strong Committee and Swan Hill Club support continued to serve the retiree community through guest speakers on related topics.

Having served the Branch as Secretary under 4 dedicated Presidents, Dan Grabau, Jean Marshal, Marjory Grabau & Keith Ward over some 12 years I retired in 2010 receiving Life Membership and the sincere thanks of the organisation across the many levels of voluntary service.

From the Autumn 2009 Edition of INDEPENDENT RETIREE

The Official Journal of the Association of Independent Retirees (A.I.R)

It would make a good short obituary when the time comes.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -



Association of Independent Retirees (A.I.R.) Limited.

ACN 102 164 385

Swan Hill Branch

PO Box 136 Swan Hill Vic 3585

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

Number 37

August 2010

Disclaimer: The Association of Independent Retirees (A.I.R.) Limited, Board of Directors, State Division or Swan Hill Branch and the management committee of that Branch, do not accept liability for the results of any action taken or not taken, on the basis of information given or discussed at investment group or other organized events, meetings and/or information provided by guest speakers or for any information for or on behalf of the Association its organs and officers.

Newsletter writer/editor: Keith Greenham (retiring)

**SWAN HILL BRANCH MEETS MONTHLY ON THE 2ND FRIDAY AT THE
SWAN HILL CLUB AT 9.40AM
UNLESS OTHERWISE ADVISED**

A big thank you to the Swan Hill Club for their hospitality

YOUR NEW BRANCH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Branch President,

Barry Bishop

Tel: 5032 1290

Email: barrenda@bigpond.com

Deputy Branch President:

National and Southern Cross Div. Delegate:

Keith Ward

Fax/Tel: 5032 1271

Email: klward@iinet.net.au

Branch Treasurer:

John O'Sullivan

Tel: 5032 1414

Branch Secretary

Alison Bennett

Tel: 5032 4595

Email: darali@iinet.net.au

Additional Committee Members:

**Peter Armstrong, Heather Chislett, Cliff Hayes,
Daryl Bennett, Marjory Borrman, Trevor
Tregenza.**

Key Operational Objectives of the Company are:

- To work for the benefit and welfare of all self-funded retirees.**
- To seek a fair and just economic taxation and social environment that recognises and compensates for the special problems of fully or partly self-funded retirees.**
- To provide information on all matters pertaining to retirees.**
- To conduct research to further the objects of the Company.**

These formal objectives translate into our

Mission

"Why do we exist"

"To secure recognition and equity for Australian residents who by their diligence and careful management, fully or in part self fund their own future."

and

"Keep Independent people informed"

**My 37th Newsletter to
Swan Hill A.I.R. Branch
members introduces the
new Branch
Management Team and
included my thanks for
being given the
opportunity to serve the
organisation in a
leadership role.**

Thanks to A.I.R; for the retirement opportunity to be your Branch Secretary, Membership Officer and producer of 37 Newsletters. To have been your delegate at the State Division walking the city streets to the venue reminded of teenage years Melbourne wartime work, study and leisure experiences with Shell Australia and how the then William St.10 floor head office, 'skyscraper' has been replaced by 40, 50 or is it 60 floor 'towers'. Interstate Conferences enabled travel and meeting successful people from all walks of life. For Doreen and I the next stage of retirement is called 'downsizing' a daunting task with Council recycling and landfill the winner and of course being closer to 'in home' aged care when needed. We wish A.I.R. well and thanks again;

Keith Greenham AM



Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

VEAC. River Red Gums Investigation

In 2007 I contributed a major submission to the Victorian Environment Assessment Council River Red Gum Forests investigation supported by documents dating back almost 100 years in regard to the importance of flood protection works, levee banks, in raising flood levels which promoted new stands of red gum trees and the flawed proposal to store sufficient water to create artificial flooding ensuring remnant floodplain inundation at least every 4 years. . The submission somehow found its way to the internet and became a component of 2012 flood mitigation infrastructure studies.

Governments responded promptly and positively to these issues however they proceeded with creation of the Murray River Park and commenced the task of on ground survey location of public/private land boundaries in readiness for thousands of kms of fencing and cancelation of riverfront Grazing Licences. By 2012 on change of Victorian Government, Labour to Liberal/National, physical creation of the Park has been put on hold. 2015 back to Labour and the unknown

Federal Murray Darling Basin Plan (MDBP)

Proving that there are more ways than one for governments to skin a cat the Federal Government under Prime Minister Howard took up the VEAC River Red Gum Forests Investigation process through the Murray Darling Basin Plan and taking advantage of water entitlement becoming a tradable commodity financed the buyback of irrigation water and restructure of irrigation areas aiming to artificially flood our red gum forests and dump precious fresh water in the sea rather than use it to provide food and balance of payments security.

2012 Consultants warned Victorian Murray River Local Government Councils of the combined adverse economic impact of climate change and the Plan, for Swan Hill municipality 8% reduction in our economy, and warned that under their 'Duty of Care' they must keep their people realistically informed. Swan Hill Council put the Consultant's Report out for community comment.

Responding with a submission I highlighted the fact that our northern Robinvale/Mildura economy was a beneficiary of water trading with the southern Swan Hill floodplain irrigation areas in serious decline. Overall our municipality was a net irrigation water ownership beneficiary.

Swan Hill Bridge Replacement Community Consultation Group

February 2007 at the invitation of Swan Hill Rural City Council Director of Infrastructure I successfully applied for a voluntary position on the VicRoads Community Consultation Group which continued until June 2011 when an amendment to the Swan Hill Planning Scheme to reserve Victorian land for a new medium level lift span bridge at a site 100m upstream of the existing heritage listed bridge was proposed by VicRoads (option 9a), challenged by community activists and ruled on by the Victorian Civil & Administrative Tribunal.

Historically a new high level fly over bridge site had been chosen and land formally reserved in the 1970's or 80's. National and State adoption of Conservation and European & Indigenous Heritage Strategies led to past approvals being no longer recognised with new study recommendations required to balance the social, economic and environment issues and pass the so called Triple Bottom Line Test. The economic discipline of a positive Business Case for financing new bridge construction is also required.

The key to the outcome was the first step in the study the 2006 week long traffic count of cars and transport vehicles (VPD) and an estimate of 20 year future growth based on the most optimistic projections 2.4% PA which in turn was based on Swan Hill/Murray Downs population growth of 1.2% PA against a real population growth history of only 0.6% PA. By 2026 the single lane bridge traffic volume was expected to rise by 2000 VPD to 5700 VPD. Critical VPD volume for a single lane bridge is unknown.

Worse still population growth projections for rural export industry dependent economies continued to be impacted by the high value of the Australian Dollar, periodic drought and Murray Darling Basin Plan to reduce consumptive use of water in agriculture in favour of the environment by buy back of entitlement. The Australian Dollar is a mixed blessing, if high it impacts adversely on export industries, if lowered the domestic cost of living rises as imports increase in cost.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

The new and old constraints to site selection were:

Victoria - European and Indigenous heritage sites, impact on residential areas, proximity of the railway line and Curlewis St/Murray Valley Highway to the Murray River, floodplain management issues and in,

NSW - similar heritage sites, density of red gum trees, location of residential and business enterprises to be serviced, floodplain management issues and the fact that the bridge and road is not a NSW highway but services Murray Downs township and rural holding customers of Swan Hill.

The Community Consultation Group was not successful in convincing VicRoads to take a longer term view of the need for a high level fly over bridge to give free traffic flow and facilitate future river traffic. We were thanked for our contribution and released from commitment to the consultation process.

Highlighting the problems a high level fly over bridge at a site below the existing heritage bridge and passing between the Federal Hotel and Wamba Wamba indigenous residential settlement in NSW would be 12.5 m high at the NSW Murray riverfront flood mitigation levee.

All NSW and Victorian Government stakeholders other than Swan Hill Rural City Council voted to accept the VicRoads recommendation. Swan Hill Council ultimately changed its mind accepting the recommendation on a 4/3 vote enabling the amendment to the Swan Hill Planning Scheme managed by VicRoads to proceed.

A Community objector group favouring the 1970/80's site vigorously tested it in the Victorian Administrative Appeals Tribunal without achieving their aim then embarked on a successful process of destabilisation of Swan Hill Rural City Council in the 2012 elections. The group is understood to be critical of the 20 year forward look planning methodology believing that we should look at a time frame of at least 100 years.

As a young man I learned that if we want something from Governments (a new bridge) we must respect the High Policy National, State & Local Government Tripple Bottom Line and Business Case Tests rather than just argue that the law is an ass expecting our politicians to bend the law and give us what we want.

With regard to the Business Case for 2 lane bridge construction VicRoads indicated the 2006 motor vehicle traffic single lane bridge count 3700 VPD does not support the case however the size of transport vehicles and farm machinery does. 2016 imposition of load limits adds weight to the business case. While the capacity of a 2 lane bridge is said to be 20,000 VPD, that of a single lane bridge is unknown.

Ultimately I believe that when population statistics and traffic counts indicate the need a review of the Swan Hill Planning Scheme will be undertaken. While Swan Hill Council has been urged to consider its legal position in a practical sense it could set aside funds for a new traffic count in 2016 assessing the change since 2006 or using the Robinvale bridge experience await the day the NSW Road Traffic Authority is forced to put permanent traffic lights on the bridge.

2016 – Swan Hill Council budget provides funding for review, our MP has called for Business Case development and NSW Murray River Council is amending their Planning Scheme to opt. 9A

1935 Youthful words of wisdom.

*Source: 1935 'The Chrysalis Editorial
Donnington Girls Grammar School Swan
Hill*

TOWN PLANNING

When the town of Swan Hill was planned, some foresight was shown in many ways, for example - the streets were formed straight, wide and parallel; but in other directions forethought was sadly lacking. It is a great pity that, when the railway roads were being surveyed, it did not occur to the surveyors that, by building the railway between the river and the town, they were seriously interfering with the work of those who would be responsible for the extension of the town in later years.

Had the railway deviated to the west five miles from here, and been brought around in a semi-circle to a point where the sale yards now stand, and if the railway station had been built at this spot, then a branch line could have been run around by the show-grounds to the position of the wharf.

Once the railway line and station were removed, what an attractive place Swan Hill would be with a park, tennis courts and beautiful swimming baths easy of access!

Margery Myers.

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Arnoldt St

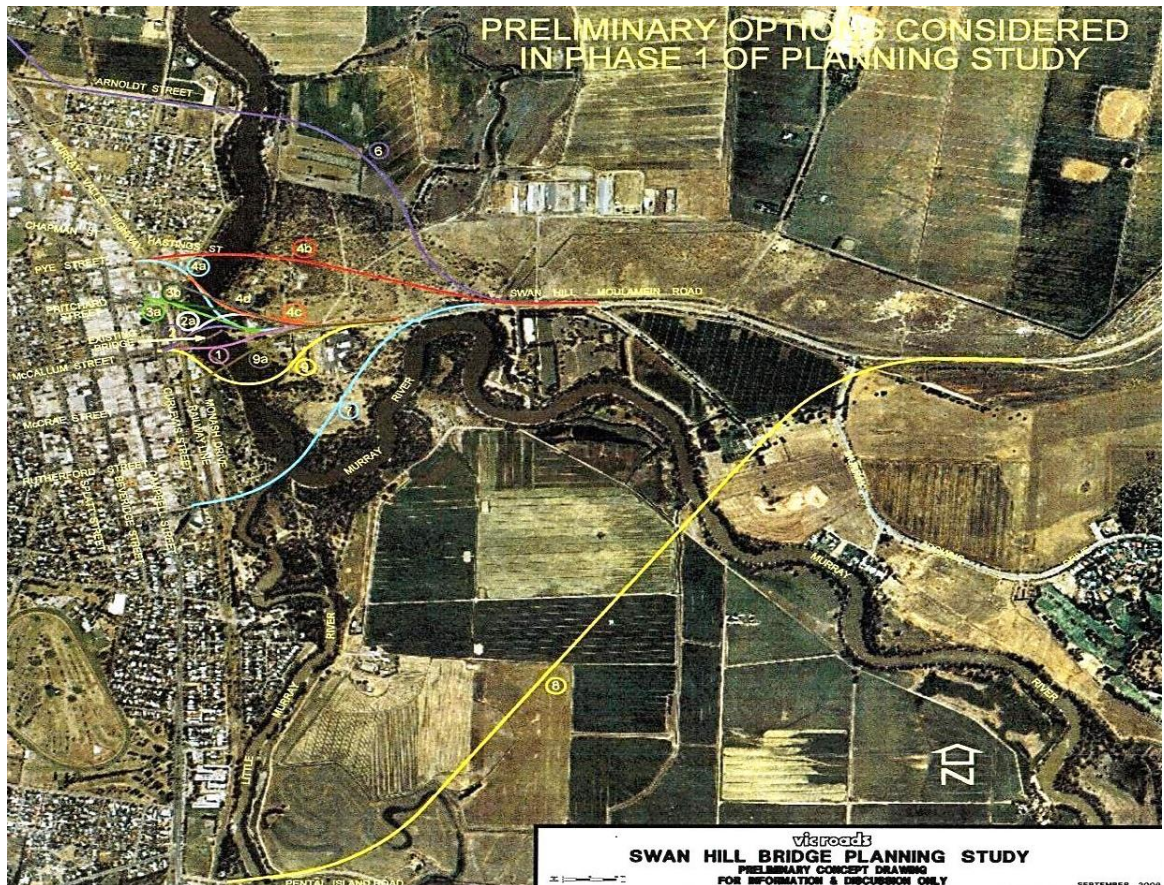
Pye St

Pritchard St

McCallum
St

Wood St

Pental Is.



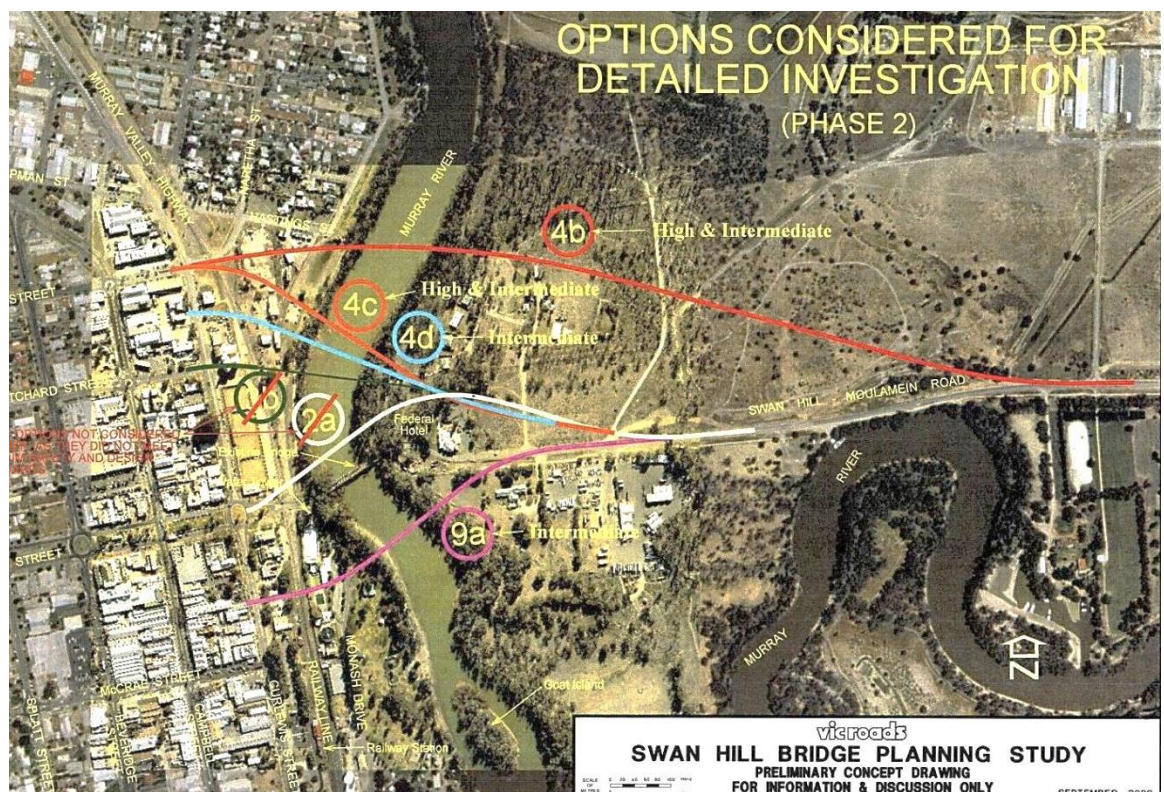
Pye Street

Mid Block

Pritchard St

McCallum
Street

Mid Block



Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

Low level weir proposal for Swan Hill

In association with the bridge study I was called on by Swan Hill Inc. to put together a discussion paper on the possibility of a low level recreation weir in the Murray River and speak on the issue at a community meeting being briefed on the bridge replacement site selection process. Council was provided with a copy for their information and archives.

Murray Darling Basin Authority minimum flow at Torrumbarry Weir is 1950 ml/day leading to a minimum flow at Swan Hill of less due to consumptive use along the way and a nominal height of 0.6 m. Low flows usually occur in late summer and autumn March and April as winter pastures are irrigated.

To enable river navigation the site would have to accommodate a fixed sill weir and a navigation lock. Past studies suggested that a weir sill at a height of 1.8m combined with reopening Murray Downs Creek to flood flows in NSW may be possible.

Using 1991 Swan Hill/Tyntynder Flats Floodplain Study aerial mapping 3 possible downstream sites were identified one accessed from NSW private land the other two from Victorian public land however the distance below Swan Hill significantly reduced the beneficial river height at Swan Hill.

The proposal remains in the too hard basket however the Murray Darling Basin Plan reduction in consumptive use of water in favour of the downstream environment may lead an increase in minimum flows at Torrumbarry Weir and Swan Hill.

An example has occurred in recent years when downstream demand had to be met via Torrumbarry when the northern NSW Murray Darling Basin catchments failed with Swan Hill river levels remaining well above the normal minimum.

On the home front:

Greenham Family Wedding

We all flew to Perth to celebrate Bruce and Jean's marriage. It was a great family occasion when Jean and her Philippine family and friends celebrated with us. They settled in Perth flying over to see us from time to time.

Schifferle Family Wedding

Roger and Maggie tied the knot in Port Moresby Papua New Guinea where he had worked for many years. Doreen and daughter Carmel flew to PNG on the arrival of grandson Billy.

Roger and Maggie returned to Australia for the birth of Billy's brother Eddy and came to live with us on Pental Island while Roger continued to work in PNG on a fly in fly out basis. On obtaining work in Bendigo they moved there for a time and finally to Swan Hill where they settled for the boys schooling.

Retirement Dwelling

The decade found Doreen and I grappling with some health issues. She had a knee replacement at the Mercy Hospital which involved an after operation trip along the passage to the High Dependency Unit with a heart condition. To 2014 it has given no further trouble.

A month after the 2006 Government House Investiture I was in the Mercy Hospital for a left hip replacement and back again in 2011 following the great flood for a right hip replacement with bone graft and screws. All were successful.

Between these events my 1996 facial melanoma required further surgical attention under general and local anaesthetic to keep it under control the last carving Jan, 2013.

2010 in my 83rd year I began my withdrawal from public life purchasing a 2 bedroom townhouse for Doreen and I in Swan Hill selling by auction the Pental Island home site of 58 years and 12 ml high security water. In preparing for the sale I discovered that Council proposed an amendment to their Planning Scheme to correct the failure of the existing scheme to recognise the existence of our home allotment CA21A which indicated it was part of the Murray River Reserve Crown Land. So a submission was written followed up by oral submission to Councillors advising my intention to retire to Swan Hill and the urgency of their Planning Scheme Amendment.

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For Sale Now or By Auction

2.63 Ha

“Wainui”

6.5 Acres

123 Greenham Road, Pental Island



Down by the Riverside

Ideally located amongst giant river redgums with the mighty Murray almost at your backdoor “Wainui” is either a big back yard or small farmlet.

A small workshop, a larger lockable machinery shed, cattle yards fattening paddock plus 12ML HRWS all complement the modest 2 bedroom home with detached 2 room bungalow, to create a great retirement package or riverside retreat.

Auction: Friday 8th October at 2pm on site
Terms: 10 % Deposit Balance 60 Days



5033 2000 (24 hrs)
www.woodandco.com.au
199 Campbell St Swan Hill 3585

Every precaution has been taken to establish accuracy of the above information but does not constitute any representation by the vendor or agent. ABN 54 004 637 236

The auction was in the end successful and the packing up started with most of the unwanted donated to charities rather than having a clearing or garage sale.

The auction process resulted in sale to an out of town Melbourne buyer for \$242,000 however within days a tragic accident to her son in America requiring his being flown back to Australia for special care led to contract failure and loss of her deposit. Fortunately the local losing bidder was still a keen buyer and entered into a contract at the same price.

The agent was the winner with two commissions for the same property. The first buyer visited us to thank us for our compassion in handling the matter.

Timing of our move proved lucky for the great 2010/11 flood involving SES evacuation orders and the following unprecedented Murray River black water event would have been difficult to cope with at our age.

We took 2 almost 1 year old cats with us. The neutered male found its way around Everingham Street frequently crossing the road and finally disappeared. The neutered female ‘Patch’ spends most of the day with other cats including ‘Mad Cat’ from High Street under a neighbouring

house with both calling in for a feed from time to time. Patch if a good girl comes home at night and is great company. “Mad cat” finally disappeared.

Shortly after our successful sale our neighbours Fletchers auctioned the remaining 160 acres of the old Greenham dairy farm which included all the buildings and the work-man’s house overlooking the Murray River but with water ownership of only 5ml accepting a bid of \$240,000.



Domestic Water Pump Shed Cattle yards c. 1973 homestead Machinery Shed
A last view of our riverside Pental Island patch of 58 years from Murray R levee bank.

In Retirement Swan Hill 2011 - ????

2010/2011 Swan Hill Municipal Flood Response

The last fully contained flood event was some 17 years earlier 1993. In 2010 I was still Swan Hill South Chief Flood Warden linked to the State Emergency Service under Swan Hill Council Municipal Emergency & Flood Response Plan, a volunteer role, and conscious of the real risks of complacency, loss of local knowledge and loss of community empowerment to the public service and remotely located Government appointed regional Boards.

Late in 2010 the Loddon and Avoca River valleys had been charged with floodwater.

January 2011 turned out to be the greatest flood event year in living memory. The Loddon River at Laanecoore Weir discharged some 194,000 ml in one day against the historic before big dam river regulation 1909 one day discharge of 154,000 ml and post river regulation and flood mitigation works 1975 one day discharge of 48,000 ml. when levee failures occurred.

As continuing Chief Flood Warden for Swan Hill South with my Swan Hill North Chief Warden Ron Atkinson we undertook the task of contributing our considerable local knowledge and educating a new generation of Council, Catchment Management, State Emergency Service and Police Officers in the flood mitigation task ahead.

“I hated the levee bank outside my kitchen window now I love it.”

2011 Source: A Pental Island lifestyle riverfront property housewife.

Due to old age and failing mobility my role was ‘at home on call’ with Ron who had recently purchased a Pental Island riverfront retirement home taking on the overall ‘in the field’ Chief Warden role. Grandson Ben Mobilio a civil engineering ‘work experience’ student employed by Council during the University vacation was heavily involved and a great help.

I also undertook the task of panellist on the Swan Hill Town Hall stage at the great public meetings (broadcast by Radio 3SH) held to alert and calm the people as the flood approached and did a “on the riverbank” TV interview for Channel 7.

For the Swan Hill Municipality the Murray River peaked at 20cm lower than in 1975 due to the almost 200 upstream flood mitigation levee bank failures with the temporary storage of most of the floodwaters on the farmlands of the Gannawarra (Kerang/Cohuna/Quambatook) and upstream Shires.

In the wake of this event:

- I wrote a 5,200 word covering Letter and Submission to Minister for Water - Peter Walsh MP critical of the actions and policies of former Governments and the North Central Catchment Management Authority in the years preceding the 2010-11 flood event.
- I wrote a 4,250 word Submission to the Comrie Flood Warning and Response Review of 2010 -11 Victorian Floods. Locality - Swan Hill Region and appeared before the Review Committee.
- I wrote an 8,500 word Submission to the Parliamentary Environment and Natural Resources Committee Inquiry into Flood Mitigation Infrastructure In Victoria 2011 and appeared before the Committee. The detailed Submission based on the Pental Island River Improvement Trust / Management Board largely experimental model of flood mitigation infrastructure funding, provision and maintenance was well received by the Committee and Swan Hill Rural City Council.
- The 2011 Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Inquiry Recommendations refer to my September 2007 6 page Submission with 31 pages of relevant historic documents to the Victorian Environment Assessment Council’s River Red Gum Forests Investigation proposals which had been well received and appeared on the internet.
- In response to a request from The Swan Hill Historical Society I wrote 13,500 words with pictures and charts entitled “ Memories, Records and Politics of Flood Events 1870 to 2011”.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -



- From this manuscript 3,000 words, pictures and charts created an abridged version entitled “Pental Island - Flood Analysis” for inclusion in the Historical Societies publication “Flood Reflections 2011”.

Nomination - Victorian Senior Citizen of the Year 2011

My Swan Hill Town Hall and ‘at home on call’ contribution to management of the event was recognised by those in authority with Nomination in the 2011 Victorian Senior Citizen of the Year Awards and a Certificate of Recognition and Appreciation from the Premier of Victoria.

My colleague Chief Warden Ron Atkinson was also nominated and received the Certificate for his outstanding retirement contribution.

Our Reward

Planning for Reduced Water Availability - Strengthening Victoria’s Food Bowl

Encouraged by Swan Hill Rural City Council’s call for submissions I contributed a 6 page document supported by attachments which concluded.

1. We are considering a report with a very long 20 year time frame in the context of the 2011 Draft Murray Darling Basin Plan (MDBP) with a 7 year implementation target and climate change outcomes over say a lifetime in an economy where if we do not change our ways in 20 years costs will have doubled forcing continuing get big or get out major change in agricultural commodity production.
2. Under the 2011 Draft MDBP irrigation farmer interests are well catered for with major urban service centres most at risk. The level of risk for Swan Hill RCC is the challenge of long term economic no growth/stagnation or worse.
3. Physical management of environmental water in the river systems to enable regular over bank flooding of icon sites may be an insurmountable hurdle.

I advocated:

4. That the Report sub title be broadened to “Strengthening Victoria’s Foodbowl Communities”, and,
5. that in the light of the 2011 Draft Murray Darling Basin Plan inclusion of Robinvale in the positive economic and population growth region of Sunraysia rather than distressed Swan Hill Rural City Council Social & Economic Region the report needs major review incorporating data and impact for both Swan Hill and Robinvale as regional hubs before further consideration by Council, and,
6. that to enable meaningful review and response to the Draft Murray Darling Basin Plan Council seek urgent release of the 2011 ABS population census return for the region, and,
7. that the Report give consideration to the longer term future of agriculture and impact of the get big or get out driven drift towards agricultural corporations on regional hub growth.

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Land Use Planning Swan Hill North Park

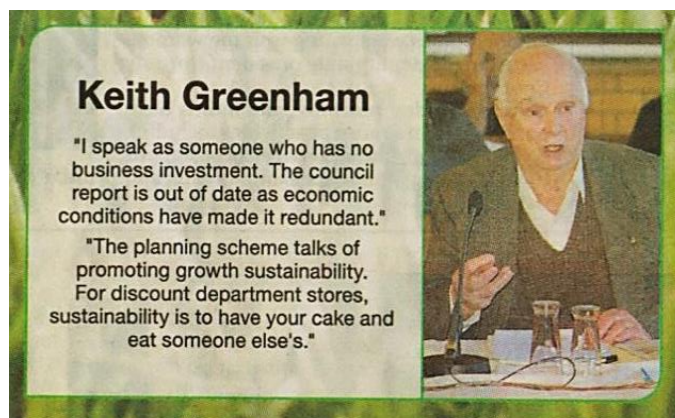
In 2012 I entered into the debate with a personal submission on the future of Swan Hill's unused North Park Recreation Reserve owned by the Victorian Government. At one time it had been occupied by a Tennis Club, Croquet Club and various community service halls and was now surplus to government needs.

Council under its extremely optimistic 2009 Council Plan (before the deepest onset of the 2006 Global Financial Crisis) proposed that it be rezoned Business 1 and restricted to a 'boxed development' incorporating an anchor Discount Department Store and was considering adoption of a positive Consultant's Report which in my view was flawed giving weak rather than strong support to the proposal. The support included capturing customers from as far away Deniliquin & Hay.

The difficulty was that our economy was stagnating with many empty shops and Consultants to a Murray River Group of Councils for Swan Hill had predicted an 8 per cent decline in economic activity due to predictions of Climate Change and the impact of Murray Darling Basin Plan reduction in irrigated agriculture with Council having a "Duty of Care" to landowners and business people.

Council under its community consultation policy sought comment. Wisely Councillors rejected the findings of the report but found themselves bound by a Memorandum of Understanding with the Victorian Government and despite my call on ABC radio to pull the plug proceeded under recommendations from the Administrative Appeals Tribunal with an unrestricted use Business 1 rezoning with the cash strapped Victorian Government putting the land on the market in 2013.

The Guardian



The Age



The land was bought by Wesfarmers for the establishment of a Bunnings retail hardware warehouse. In opposition the owners of the Pye Street Mitre 10 franchise bought the Swan Hill South MVH Pentel Island Road site from the cash strapped government for another major retail hardware store. Meanwhile in 2014 shops continue to close in the CBD.

Swan Hill Rural City Council - Elections 2012

These were dominated by the contentious issue of VicRoads and Council's medium level lift span Murray River Bridge Replacement Planning Scheme bridge location 100 m upstream of the existing heritage bridge and resulted in the election of 3 new councillors one of whom replaced long serving Cr David Quail who retired.

My only involvement was a letter to the editor *The Guardian* in an attempt to broaden the debate beyond the bridge issue warning of the impact of a claim on Council for Employee Benefit Defined Benefit Superannuation for \$4m which had been paid from reserve funds to gain a discount. The financial reserves have to be replenished in the new council's first budget. Mildura and Wentworth Councils faced with the same issue signalled their intention to cut services.

The election despite 2 councillors declaring a pecuniary interest changed the balance of power from support to opposition to their Planning Scheme bridge location decision and impacts on the major issue of riverfront development planning. Council has been advised by the local Member of Parliament to seek legal advice.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

Following the election I wrote to my Member of Parliament (MP) concerned at the divisiveness of the requirement to balance the social, economic and environmental impact in decision making (Triple Bottom Line Test)) and produce a positive Business Case (Value for Money) to obtain government infrastructure funding. I also argued for the Government to take responsibility for Enterprise Bargaining with Local Government employees taking the task away from some 78 Council CEO's. With the election of the Andrews Labour Government a 2.5% rate cap was introduced providing a much needed discipline into the Enterprise Bargaining process.

Mildura Rate Dilemma

Mildura Rural City Council had since the 1995 Shire/City amalgamation under Commissioners and 1997 return of an elected Council been an un-subdivided (no electorate wards) municipality dominated by urban interests. Unlike Swan Hill little attention had been given to the statutory objective of equitable provision and payment for services and the development of an equitable Rateing Strategy. A reduction in services was on the table and a rural ratepayer revolt against their proposed Budget gave publicity to the issue leading to an inquiry.

While for Swan Hill Municipality service and cost equity had evolved under the influence of the Ratepayers Association for our southern neighbour Gannawarra (Kerang) it was through ratepayer revolt as it has been in Mildura.

Considering the issues involved important I wrote to Mildura's only rural Councillor using Swan Hill's experience and providing him with information for the inquiry under the following headings: Differential Rate, Taxation Principles, Employee Benefits and Export Industry Challenge. While both he and the State Member for Mildura did not acknowledge or respond to my letter their CEO has moved on and there have been major changes to Council's policies and management structure.

“For Rural Victorian Local Government dependent on the fortunes of agriculture in an urban dominated society, the locked in mix of four yearly democratic elections, fixed term Chief Executive Officer and senior management contracts, employee benefit Industrial Awards and three year Enterprise Bargaining Agreements, competing Government Strategies, Triple Bottom line and Business Case investment tests, untested Memorandum and Deeds of Agreement and the uncertain impact of drought, export industry performance and ten year economic boom bust cycles are an enormous challenge.”

Technology

I upgraded the XL computer to a Windows 7 Samsung laptop which having mastered it and new printers has enabled continuing development of this Life Story and not get into too much mischief. In 2016 I upgraded to Windows 10 with mixed results.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

ASSET NAMING

The Swan Hill Rural City Council, having considered names for the unnamed Oval, Lane and Parks, has resolved to name them as follows:

Unnamed Oval at North Park
GURNETT OVAL

Unnamed Government Rd, Nyah
JOHNS LANE

Unnamed Park, Reserve No.6, Tower Hill
GILLIAN DAY PARK, SWAN HILL

Unnamed Park, Reserve No.7, Tower Hill
GREENHAM PARK, SWAN HILL

Locality plans are available for viewing at the Swan Hill Rural City Council Offices, 45 Splatt Street, Swan Hill, 3585.

Public Submissions are invited and should be lodged in writing at the Council Offices, 45 Splatt St (PO Box 488), Swan Hill, 3585 by Friday 22 March 2013.

“Greenham Park”

February 2013 this notice in *The Guardian* advised that Swan Hill Rural City Council intends to name Tower Hill Reserve No 7 “Greenham Park”.

The Shire of Swan Hill prior to 1995 amalgamation into the Rural City of Swan Hill named 2 roads in honour of the pioneering contribution of the Greenham and extended families. In the Goschen area *Greenham Road* and on Pental Island *Greenham Lane*

“Greenham Park”; Tower Hill Reserve No 7 outlined below contains the Lower Murray Water Tower. The proposed park is the streetscape “hub” of Swan Hill Tower Hill ‘Places Victoria’ master planned residential development. Section 7 Tower Avenue will become available for residential development in 2014.

This came out of the blue and while it is named in recognition of the contribution of the writer Keith Greenham AM it is also a tribute to Peter (1865 – 1943) & Sarah Greenham (Stevens)(1866 – 1964) and their descendants.

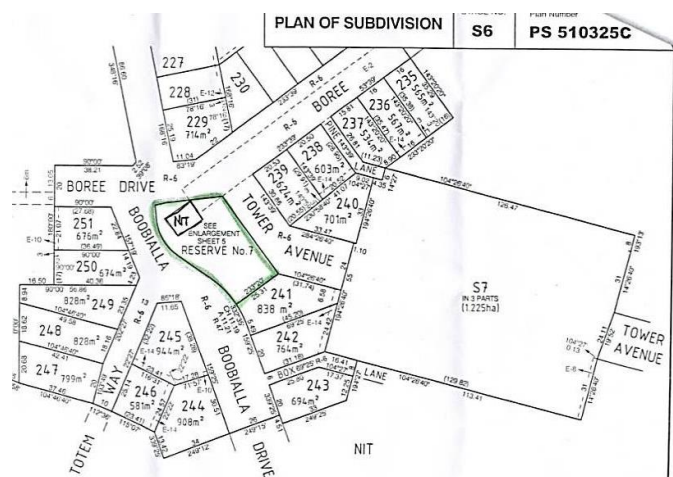
Grandfather Peter was the youngest son of George (1819 – 1890) and Mary Greenham (Watmough) (1828 – 1911). Great Grandfather George arrived in Port McDonald (SA) from Somerset, England in 1844 with his brother William. Great Grand-mother Mary’s parents with their 4 daughters under 14 years of age arrived in Port Phillip (Melbourne) in 1841 from Bolton, England and are regarded as pioneers of the City of Melbourne. She died on a visit to her sons Peter (Swan Hill) and Alfred (Balranald) and rests in Swan Hill Memorial Park, her grave stone tribute to her life maintained by her descendants.

Youngest son and 9th of 10 children Peter was one of the first settlers, 1891, of Mallee scrubland along the Lalbert Road. Settling in the Goschen area from nearby Donald and Dartmoor north of Portland in the 1890’s Peter and Sarah and their descendent families have over the past 120 years made a significant voluntary and business contribution to Swan Hill and District development.

While their primary contribution was to the now abandoned pioneer township of Goschen, now a Bushland Reserve, Peter’s extended to the wider community as a horse doctor and the Swan Hill A & P Society.. Sarah’s brother Harry Stevens and family were involved in the building of Swan Hill’s heritage listed Uniting Church (Methodist) where their son Eric who was killed in France during WW1 is remembered.

In the mid 1920’s Peter & Sarah, having established with their sons a 3,200 acre farm enterprise passed it on to sons Bert and Ted, retiring to a large block with loose box horse stable and orchard on the NW corner of Gray and Everingham Street Swan Hill ultimately building a smaller home in Beveridge Street. Growing flowers, dailias, his retirement speciality.

Among their nephews was G Fred Dowling Swan Hill motor industry pioneer and among their descendants making Swan Hill their home are pioneering families of school bus, motor,



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aviation and motel Industry's (Dunoon); eco-tourism (Greenham) and those families keeping up with the times taking their traditional chosen industries along with volunteer community service into the 21st Century (Greenham's, Dunoon's, Jewson's, Phylant's, Heil's, Martin's, Pearson's, Mobilio's).

Highly significant voluntary contributions were made by descendants of Peter & Sarah:

Bert Greenham (son) who served the nation in war (WW1 Western Front) and the Goschen and Swan Hill communities in many fields including Goschen Rifle and Football Clubs, Swan Hill RSL, Master Murray Masonic Lodge, Treasurer Swan Hill A&P Society, Trustee Swan Hill Methodist Church, Director Swan Hill Stores Ltd, Foundation Swan Hill Borough Councillor and Foundation Contributor to Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement (Glasgow Tractor) and Alcheringa Hostel.

Ted Greenham (son) also contributed to many fields of Goschen and Swan Hill community development including as the first Captain of the Goschen Rural Fire Brigade and active lifetime delegate to Fire Region 18, 70 years of roles in the leadership of the Goschen community, in the Murray, Tresco and Castle Donnington Masonic Lodges and active sportsman including the Presidency of the Swan Hill City Bowling Club. (See Ted's Obituary; *The Guardian* 12/10/1994),

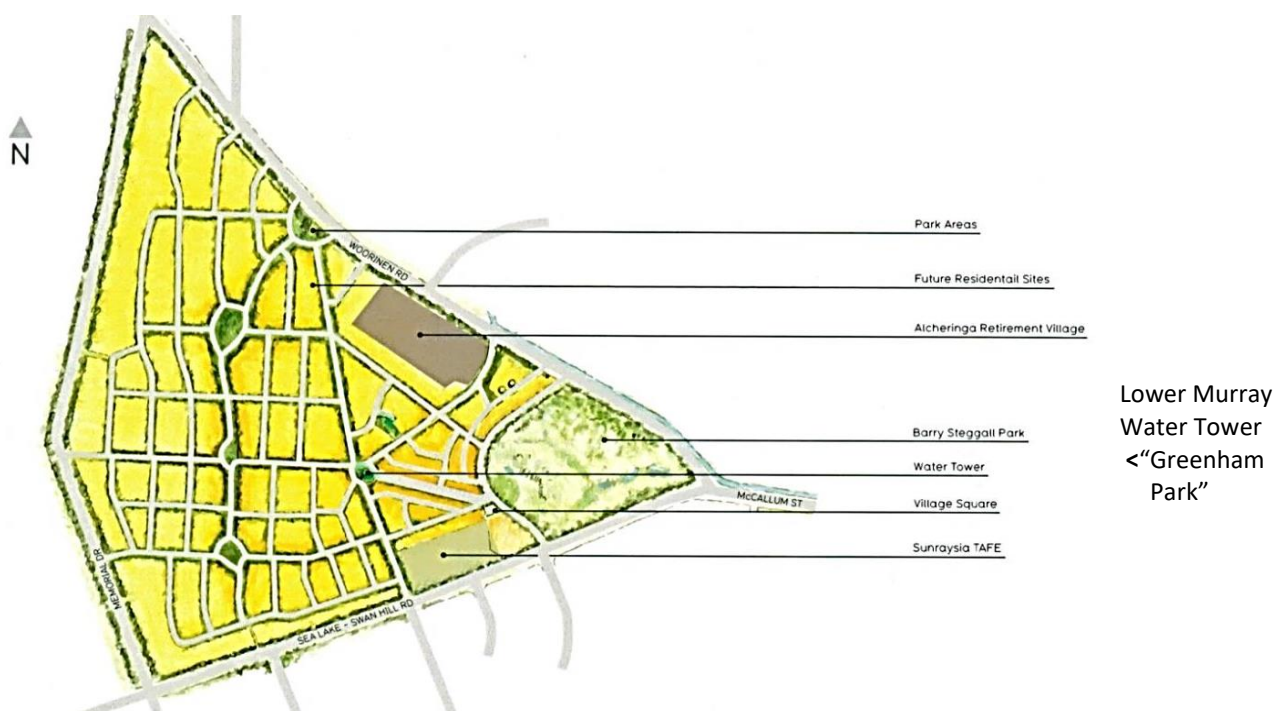
Esma Jewson (Vains) (granddaughter, m. Ivy) honoured as 1982 Swan Hill Australia Day Council Citizen of the Year "In recognition of her outstanding services to the Swan Hill Community". (See Citation) and 1997 bestowed a Life Governor of Swan Hill District Health for her 1879 – 1997, 18 years of service on the Hospital Board.

Keith Greenham AM (grandson, f. Bert) honoured as 2001 Swan Hill Australia Day Council Citizen of the Year, 2006 Appointed Member of the Order of Australia, 2011 Nominated for Victorian Senior Citizen of the Year Award, 2014 Swan Hill's Greenham Park registered as a Geographic Place Name in recognition of his lifetime voluntary contribution to many fields of community development. (See Citations and *Who's Who in Victoria 2008 Biography*)

Lynne Dunoon (w. David grandson, m Vera) honoured with 2011 The Rotary Club of Melbourne Sir John Reid Community Service Award for her work as a pioneering volunteer in the multiple birth support program and in a wide range of community services initially in the Swan Hill area. (See Citation).

Grant Dunoon (great grandson g.m. Vera) 2013 recipient with his three fellow crew members of Group Bravery Award for leading an ocean life-saving rescue in the 2012 Melbourne to Port Fairy Ocean Yacht Race. (See Citation)

Map Source: TowerHill Development Information Brochure



Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -



*Keith & Doreen at the Park
February 2016*

Registration of Geographic Names.
The final step in naming a place.

Greenham Park
"Named after Keith Greenham AM who has
been involved in
a number of community committees over
many years". Source: *dtpli website*.

360 G 9 27 February 2014

Victoria Government Gazette

Geographic Place Names Act 1998

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION OF GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

The Registrar of Geographic Names hereby gives notice of the registration of the undermentioned place names.

Feature Naming:

Change Request Number	Place Name	Naming Authority and Location
62629	Gillian Day Park	Swan Hill Rural City Council 36 Boree Drive, Swan Hill For further details see map at www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/namingplaces
62629	Greenham Park	Swan Hill Rural City Council 26 Boobialla Drive, Swan Hill For further details see map at www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/namingplaces

Office of Geographic Names

Land Victoria
570 Bourke Street
Melbourne 3000

JOHN E. TULLOCH
Registrar of Geographic Names



*1940's Splatt Street Greenham childhood
playground Lower Murray Water Circa.
1937 water tower with observation deck,
built in 'swimming pool' & brother Peter. RIP
1934 - 1987*

*Lower Murray Water Tower Keith
with sister Dorothy Grenness
August 2014*



*Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -*



Road to Greenham near Wellington,

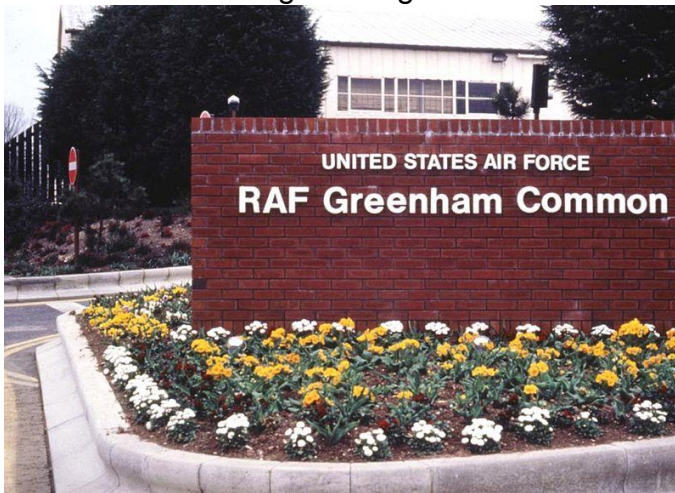


Church of St Peter in Greenham Somerset,
England

Jeff Greenham f. Keith on holidays from Australia 2013

The English Connection

History – “Greenham Common was a piece of common land. It was used for troop movements during the English Civil War and



in the nineteenth century”.

Source: Wikipedia

Welcome Wall to former WW11
Greenham Common 1990

Entrance to New Greenham Park
formally Greenham Common 1997

Located east of Newbury, Berkshire England

Source: Wikipedia

Origins of the name Greenham

While one fellow nicknamed me “Mouldy” fortunately it did not stick.

I understand it may relate to a “green hamlet” or

be derived from the French, Normandy, “De Gryndenam”.

Other branches of the Greenham family who emigrated to Australia
adopted the name Grinham.

*Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -*

Swan Hill Municipal Flood Emergency Plan 2014

2013 Ron Atkinson and I in my 87th year were recalled to the represent the community in the development of the Swan Hill Rural City Council – Municipal Flood Emergency Plan a task I had been involved in more than 20 years before.

Our role was to identify and describe vulnerable areas in the south of the municipality surrounding Swan Hill City for inclusion in the plan. With changing council and SES personnel our local knowledge role was critical to the outcome.

We were successful in having changes made to early drafts which indicated unacceptable constraints to levee bank maintenance during flood events. I am encouraged by the local SES now maintaining a document library for the use of future Incident Controllers and personal.

2015 – The Plan was formally noted by Council,

North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA)

Ron Atkinson and I were invited to the Victorian Minister for Water Swan Hill MP Peter Walsh's inspection of new levee bank works on Eastern Pental Island.

As the only surviving member of the 1957 Pental Island River Improvement Trust and writer of the 1997 (17 YO) transitional archival documents (Business and Strategic Plans) which made the works possible, I was invited to speak. Much was made of the pioneering role of the Trust with some personal 'legend in a lifetime' comment and the fact that at no time in its 40 year history had it employed full time staff being serviced by a part time secretary/rate collector and consultants. I was able to fill in the gaps indicating that the works under inspection had been planned 100 years ago. It was only later I realised that documents I had written 20 years ago had been exhumed resulting in allocation of half a million dollars. The voluntary effort had not been a waste of time after all.

As part of the 2010/11 flood recovery government funded the upgrade by the North Central Catchment Management Authority of the final 3,300m of the Eastern Pental Island ring levee or in their terminology 'wall' at a cost of \$460,000 giving us a 2014 cost benchmark and indicating that critical compromise had been reached in the use of Murray River Park Crown Land. The capital cost of the infrastructure indicates that costs have risen threefold over the past 20 years while agricultural commodity prices have largely stagnated. In another comparison in 1980 35 years ago half a million dollars bought 25 kms best practice levee banks, in 2014 3.5 kms

Ron and I took the opportunity to invite the CEO of NCCMA, his officers and representatives of Swan Hill Rural City Council and State Emergency Services to have a look at the Loddon Floodway with a view to improving its performance under flood conditions. Following the inspection I committed my views to paper in a submission to the Authority to enable a formal review.

Council's Director of Infrastructure David Leahy, was my driver I drew his attention to the unsealed status of Eastern Pental Island Road. In 2016 it was sealed, another win??

Draft Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy

Then in response to the Parliamentary Committee Inquiry into Flood Mitigation infrastructure the Victorian Government released the 2014 Draft Floodplain Management Strategy for public scrutiny.

The key issue is the future management of rural levee bank flood mitigation infrastructure in Victoria. The proposal was for Local Government under the discipline of formal Water Management Schemes to become the levee bank infrastructure provider and operator.

Ron and I continuing our recall to community service attended a forum conducted by the Interdepartmental Stake-holder Reference Group (IDSRG), the strategy authors, and came away alarmed at the attitude of the public service to the continued use of levee banks in the rural sector.

.. I came to the view that in seeking submissions to the draft strategy they were deliberately **"winding us up"** and was reminded that: **"The more a public servant knows about a problem the less he or she is likely to solve it"** (1960's Sir Percy Byrnes) and: **"One can only complain about things in this country if you are prepared to stick the stamps and stuff the**

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

envelopes to bring about change. Whingeing on the sidelines is not an option.” (2008 Leonie Christophosen AM)

Before the Victorian Parliament in the form of the Water Bill 2014 was the consolidation of all relevant legislation into a new Water Act 2014. My first involvement in Government Legislation was with Water Act 1952 and River Improvement Acts, then the Waterway Management Act 1985 followed by its consolidation into Water Act 1989 and now a most welcome 2014 consolidation running to 837 pages, hopefully in plain English, and. said to have bipartisan political support. Swan Hill MP Peter Walsh provided me with a copy of the massive near 5cm thick document.

Firstly I warned Swan Hill Rural City Council management in writing of major Water Bill 2014 changes to their role in flood mitigation and drainage functions involving the development of Water

REF: 1816/14/
DL

3 September 2014

Mr Keith Greenham
15A Everingham Street
SWAN HILL VIC 3585



Management Schemes (WMS) and reversal of the “onus of proof” in negligence claims with Administrative Appeals Tribunal jurisdiction.

A copy of the letter was regarded by the Draft Strategy Stakeholder Reference Group as a submission and became the basis of a Council submission. In the past major change of this magnitude has been implemented over 5 years. The documented purpose of a WMS whether for mitigation or protection from water damage would be the key to negligence claim outcomes. In 2014 Lower Murray Water has lost a water supply pipeline failure case brought by an insurance company involving damage to a Swan Hill property.

The Reward

Noting that the Reference Group included Department of Environment and Primary Industry officers who had been brought together in one department in an effort to achieve balanced outcomes and urged by the Ministerial Adviser to the Minister for Water and Food Security Peter Walsh MP I then tackled the draft strategy using the methodology of review of the Vision, Objectives and

Dear Keith

VICTORIAN FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

I write to thank you for providing Council with your valuable input into the draft Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy. Your broad knowledge on the subject and participation in a number of flood mitigation activities locally has enabled you to provide a well informed and factual submission to the authorities.

Also the conversations you have held with David Leahy – Director Infrastructure, since the information session in Swan Hill, has greatly assisted Council in lodging a submission. The submission lodged by Council has quoted a number of sections of the “Water Bill 2014” that have been highlighted in your submission.

Of particular concern is the level of liability risk that Local Government is likely to be faced with as a result of the Water Bill. It is certainly hoped that the level of risk does not promote a “do nothing” approach to rural levee development.

Council looks forward to the final strategy document being released and working with the community to advocate for best practice floodplain management activities being employed in the region.

Yours sincerely

Dean Miller
Chief Executive Officer

Outcomes advocating broadening the Vision to include the economic issues of food security and national balance of payments security with appropriate changes to Objectives and Outcomes.

The draft strategy indicated that it had a 10 year time frame, I took the view that it would be reasonable for governments to use this period to concentrate on funding urban flood protection/mitigation and continuing to support the State Emergency Service Incident Controllers and municipal flood recovery services in protecting food and balance of payments security issues.

The draft raised the constraints on the use of Crown land imposed over the past 20 years under the triple bottom line social, economic & environmental test, heritage tests, business case test and creation of National and State Parks.

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I put together a Swan Hill case study of the critical impact of the strategy on the municipality. For the southern municipality 20,000 hrs floodplain irrigation land surrounding Swan Hill and Lake Boga are protected by 200 kms flood mitigation levees located on Crown Land 100 kms of which are below 2014 best practice standards. At 2014 costs upgrade based on no constraints to use of Crown Land \$14m.

I then reviewed the Draft Strategy assertion that a positive Cost/Benefit Business Case for critical government funding of Crown Land located levee bank upgrade would not be possible arguing that the methodology was flawed with Australian costs rising faster than world commodity prices resulting in continuing economic downturn. In the last 20 years Council and earth moving costs have risen threefold with rural commodity prices largely unchanged, and, in the wider community un-employment is rising as industries restructure moving off shore.

Council has responded with this positive letter in appreciation of the effort and we await the response of the Reference Group in its final strategy document to the Victorian State Government.

2015 – The Reference Group responded positively with a Draft Revised Strategy for further community feedback.

Becoming aware that the Victorian Parliament had passed the Water Amendment (Flood Mitigation) Act 2014 Part 5AA LEVEE MAINTENANCE ON CROWN LANDS providing for the issue of Levee Maintenance Permits I provided further feedback to the revised draft seeking greater clarity in regard to management of Rural Flood Mitigation Infrastructure instilling both robustness and public and private beneficiary confidence into the strategy and providing a detailed history of the 'largely experimental' pioneering Pental Island River Improvement Trust/River Management Board/North Central Catchment Management Authority operations and financial funding model 1957-1996-2014.

Providing the Reference Group with a copy of my September 2015 Submission to the Murray Darling Basin Plan Select Committee Review (below) led to advice that it had been accepted as a late submission to their Strategy development and would ultimately be published on their website.

2016 The Andrews Labor Government has adopted the 2015 Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy, shelved the controversial 2014 Water Bill consolidation of the Water Acts and the Levee Maintenance on Crown Land provisions were subject to a sunset clause which has expired and we are back to square one.

**The outcome is further discussed on page 121 Swan Hill Rural City Council
Pioneering – 2016 Draft Rural Land Use Strategy**

Murray Darling Basin Plan Senate Select Committee Review .

2015 – Encouraged by Swan Hill's *The Guardian* letters to the Editor I decided, despite my years, to put together a submission which comprised:

- A Personal Background as a now retired third generation Northern Victorian Irrigator and community leader.
- Discussion of the purpose and unforeseen consequences of the introduction of a Market Driven Water Trading System.
- A short History of Irrigation Development in Northern Victoria.
- Discussion of the ongoing development of the Victorian Draft Floodplain Management Strategy, its relationship to the Murray Darling Basin Plan and likely impact on floodplain irrigation.
- A short discussion of the Victorian Irrigation Renewal Project
- A short discussion of the outcome and objectives of regional and local past and ongoing studies into issues related to the Murray Darling Basin Plan.
- A conclusion which brings my thoughts together in seeking a balanced social, economic and environment outcome which is in the overall National interest ensuring irrigators long term confidence in the continuing use of floodplain and other accessible land.

In bringing these thoughts together it became clear that we must also be acutely aware of the unforeseen consequences of the introduction of Market Driven Water Trading and observes that

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change from a Murray Darling Basin Plan 'Healthy River' to a 'Working River' concept may just do the trick in permanently freezing the Federal Governments recently enacted cap on Commonwealth Water Holder purchase of water entitlement.

In widely distributing the submission I added another thought calling for no water owned by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder being used until irrigator entitlement in any year is assured.

The emailed sub-mission ran to 3,000 words (8 pages) with the signed document and supporting historic papers sent by snail mail. The whole lot some 35,000 kbs was formally accepted as a Submission to the Select Committee and is listed as the 100th submission on their website.

At close of submissions 80 were published on the website. Three weeks later there were 322 with future public hearings scheduled for Victoria and other States. By mid-November there were 360.

Closure of submissions in the last week of September coincided with our critical period for spring rains. Three weeks later they have failed so everyone is tightening their belts and calling for urgent action.

In my 89th year is this my final Letter to Editor.

My letter to *The Guardian* November 6 2015 sets out my reaction after scanning some 327 submissions published on the Government website

The Rewards

Wednesday, 23 September 2015

Mr K Greenham
15A Everingham Street
SWAN HILL VIC 3585

Dear Mr Greenham,

MURRAY DARLING BASIN PLAN SUBMISSION

I would like to sincerely thank you for providing me with a copy of your submission on the Murray Darling Basin Plan which I have read fully. You outline some very relevant issues that have been of great concern to many on the management of this important river system, including the creation of the water market by separating water from land.

Under the new Coalition Agreement, the National Party successfully negotiated to have the water portfolio sit under the Minister for Agriculture, the Hon Barnaby Joyce. This means that over time we will be able to ensure constructive changes which I trust will be of benefit to all irrigators in the Basin.

I will be working hard within the National Party to develop and encourage productivity growth across the Murray Darling Basin through a collaborative and cooperative approach with irrigation communities.

Thank you for sharing your expertise and providing input on this critical issue.

Kind regards,

Andrew J Broad.

Andrew Broad MP
Federal Member for Mallee



Lack of interest in MDBP a worry

Keith Greenham, AM, Swan Hill ENCOURAGED by *The Guardian's* previous Letters to the Editor, I have entered the debate over the future of the Murray Darling Basin Plan with a submission published on the Senate Select Committee website.

Having scanned all 327 submissions and revisited Swan Hill Rural City Council's 2011 Planning for Reduced Water Availability Study and the ongoing development of the Victoria Floodplain Management Strategy, the seriousness of the problem has become clearer.

An earlier council study raised the issue of governments' "duty of care" to rural communities. The Federal Government reacted by capping purchase of water for the environment from irrigators.

As the grip of an El Niño tightens the question is: have they gone far enough in protecting our regional economy and food and national balance of payments security?

In a Supplementary Submission I have argued that in seeking to instill long term robust confidence into irrigation agriculture we must:

1. Ensure that Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder "buy back" from the irrigation sector through market based water trading is permanently capped

2. Treat any future need for environmental water in a similar way to governments' need for land, that is, by compulsory acquisition where water is targeted with special needs justified by the acquisition process rather than through corruption of the market based water trading system

3. Reallocate Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder entitlement created by irrigation upgrade to a human consumption/irrigation agriculture 'drought reserve'

4. Deny the Commonwealth or State Environmental Water Holder, in any one water year, use of their entitlement until human consumption including irrigation agriculture is assured

5. Remind the environment lobby of their cooperative balanced "duty of care" with governments' to the socio/economic wellbeing of regional Australia

Our Swan Hill council has entered the debate through the Victorian Group of Murray River Councils under the leadership of Mildura's mayor.

However, the Swan Hill business community's lack of interest is a worry.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

Submissions

Submissions received by the Committee

Submissions may be re-ordered by clicking on a column header. They may also be grouped by Organisation/Individual, State/Territory.

100	Mr Keith Greenham AM (PDF 35804 KB)	
100.1	Supplementary to submission 100 (PDF 117 KB)	
1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
10	...	

Page size: 20 359 items in 18 pages

.Giving further thought to the seriousness of the problems of the MDB and our Mid Murray Region I added a one page Supplementary Submission which has been accepted.

October 2016 – Media reports indicate that the Murray Darling Basin Authority is reconsidering the Social and Economic impact of policies

With four States and the Commonwealth involved and Parliamentary legislation required the socio/economic evolution/future of the MDBP will hang in the balance for many months or years.

Swan Hill Rural City Council

Pioneering – May 2016 Draft Rural Land Use Strategy

Despite my age having read the Draft I could not resist having a go at a submission. The Consultant authors apparently found that Planning Scheme Land Liable to Inundation Overlay irrigation District and Private Diversion areas were too difficult to discuss and meaningfully advise Council.

My first submission challenged the assertion that “our region has adequate access to water”, called for a rural Land Subject to Inundation irrigation area specific Vision, review of the proposed Farming Zone Schedules and consideration be given to dwelling approvals being limited to relocatable houses.

In relation to the Land Liable to Inundation the submission discussed levee bank flood protection/mitigation, the risks, Murray Darling Basin Plan floodplain irrigation system reconfiguration, Revised Draft Victoria Floodplain Management Strategy, natural and human environment, land use, farm size, dwellings and water posing the question; *does the pioneering Draft Rural Land Use Strategy adequately address the future productive use of Land liable to Inundation Overlay Gazetted Irrigation District and private water diversion irrigation lands?*

My second a supplementary submission followed receipt of the Government adopted Victoria Floodplain Management Strategy 2015 released April 20 2016 to which I had contributed (see page 117).

The Strategy provides for development of new legislation enabling Local Government to upgrade and maintain flood mitigation levee systems under community and environment beneficiary pays principles or communities to maintain these systems where located on Crown Land under a permit system to existing unsatisfactory standards or be abandoned and allowed to weather away.

The Strategy argues that “large scale flood mitigation infrastructure is no longer seen as best practice for rural areas” and, “it is unlikely that many, if any, will be formally maintained into the future”. Being a State-wide Strategy with some 4,000kms (900kms on Crown Land) with a 2015 best practice replacement cost of \$140,000 km it is not a surprising view. (Eastern Pental Island NCCMA 2014 flood mitigation infrastructure works cost). However in the real world it is an indication of floodplain lands becoming a “victim of democracy” as it prices rural communities and value added manufacturing out of world markets.

Despite this negative view the VFM Strategy indicates that it may be possible to bring that infrastructure into formal management arrangements and provides a pathway based on an initial *prima facie* assessment of community and environmental benefits.

For our Swan Hill area with 200kms levees (100kms below best practice) on Crown Land servicing 20,000hrs Irrigation District and Private Diversion areas with links to similar NSW floodplain areas under the VFM Strategy “no borders approach” to flood mitigation is involved

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

The supplementary submission to Council's Draft Land Use Strategy renewed my call for review of its Vision and Farming Zones to include a specific Land Subject to Inundation Overlay Gazetted irrigation district and private diversion area Farming Zone.

Council's options for future management and upgrade of the 200kms include; do nothing (levees to weather away), landholder beneficiary permit system, become a Council function or continue the traditional community & State Emergency Service role.

The supplementary submission argued for rural flood mitigation to become a Council function and provided Council with a listing of resource documents encountered or written by myself during my lifetime to enable the preparation of an initial *prima facie* assessment of community and environment benefits to establish a positive Business Case for Council becoming the manager of a Swan Hill Rural Flood Mitigation Water Management Scheme under an amended Water Act.

A key issue is likely to be the negligence of the State in not completing the upgrade following the impact of irrigation system reconfiguration (Pyramid Creek) induced 1973,'74,'75 flood events and fixing of a raised flood mitigation infrastructure benchmark.

Council was also warned of the risk of a continuing association with the Victorian Murray River Council Group of Councils who are competing with each other in attracting permanent water purchase for their municipality's economy undermining development of the *prima facie* assessment.

Approaching my 90th year I am unlikely to be involved in the outcome.

August 2016 two months after submission closure a letter by registered mail (due to reduced Post Office services as Emails replaced letters) summoned submitters to an oral hearing of submissions 5 minute speaking limit. First cab off the rank I said:

"Firstly Council is to be congratulated for taking on the pioneering development of a Rural Land Use Strategy whose objective must be to foster economic development rather than simply tweak the Land Use Planning Scheme.

My detailed submission based on your 2011 Psi-Delta Planning for Reduced Availability of Water Report and its identification of your 'duty of care' to the community challenges the assertion that we have adequate water supplies, calls for a specific Vision and creation of Farming Zone 3 for Planning Scheme Land Subject to Inundation Overlay Gazetted Irrigation District and Private Irrigation Diversion Lands to complement the recently adopted 2015 Victoria Floodplain Management Strategy and give greater plain English clarity and ongoing land use confidence.

Related issues include Land Subject to Inundation Overlay dwelling type and provision for riverfront lifestyle living.

Strategic Planning emerged in the 1980's to lift Australia out of serious economic troubles. Environment and economic policy administrators hi-jacked the agenda shut down rural growth and progress with our get big or get out market driven economy becoming the victim rather than the beneficiary of democracy.

Early drafts of the 2015 Victoria Floodplain Management Strategy forecast a bleak long term Business Case based outlook for the future of Northern Victoria Floodplain Irrigation District and Private Diversion agriculture with flood mitigation works abandoned and allowed to weather away.

However the 2016 adopted Strategy responded to community submissions and provides a prima facie or first look based community/private benefit pathway to bring long abandoned and deteriorating flood mitigation works under active management.

That pathway involves new flood mitigation enabling legislation and guideline development with a time frame of at least 5 years. Your Rural Land Use Strategy Planning Scheme requirements through to Government approval will have a similar time frame. Due to my advanced age my submissions incorporate documentation in support of the process.

The bleak outlook of early drafts is exacerbated by continuing unregulated water trading away from urban Swan Hill's Victoria & NSW floodplain pasture based industries to dominant neighboring major urban areas highland horticulture economic base leading to a call for protection of investment in floodplain irrigation system upgrades by a moratorium on water trading.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

Your Land Use Strategy must also document your continuing support for the State Emergency Service through the Municipal Flood Response Plan with the community enabled to protect itself whether flood mitigation works are located on Crown or Private Land.

With the involvement of the newly adopted Victoria Floodplain Management Strategy putting a revised strategy out for further consultation is essential.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to my submissions and sincerely hope that you direct your advisers to revise the Draft Strategy”.

Outcome

October 2016 – Council in the final days before the 2016 elections adopted the Strategy without my submissions influencing their decision. However North Central Catchment Management Authority in accordance with the State Strategy policy proposals has called for community co-operation and interest in the development of a new NCCMA area Floodplain Management Strategy.

2016 The Challenges of Change

Opinion Piece No 1

The “challenge of change” is real. *The Guardian* discussion of Swan Hill’s economic and social future and its Murray River Bridge continues with contributions from the community.

The National 2015 Intergenerational Report suggesting an Australian population of some 40m by 2055 raises the questions of food security and impact of our obsession with environmental issues. In rural Australia ‘get big or get out’ is being replaced by the call to ‘get smarter or get out’.

Swan Hill Council has in recent years been involved in several studies into our economic future. The first 2011 highlighted our \$1b economy \$500K of which is in agriculture, almonds being our biggest earner, and the likely adverse impact of the Murray Darling Basin Plan and climate change with consultants advising Council of its ‘duty of care’ to not gloss over the challenges.

The second 2014 Swan Hill City retail industry study which found that our customer 20 year growth to 2035 would be limited to under 600 after taking into account strong inner area growth and heavy losses in outer areas.

We are frustrated by the infrastructure approval processes established 30 years ago by Governments throughout Australia driven by the two thirds of our voters who live in Capital Cities and their obsession with the environment over the critical economic and social issues which ensure our rural role of national food security.

Using the Swan Hill Murray River bridge as an example; the objective was to reserve the necessary land for a new 2 lane bridge to enable Swan Hill and Wakool Councils to plan the development of riverfronts and prepare for the construction of a new bridge a long term process based on the emerging need for a replacement.

To make way for imposition of the environmental tests all past infrastructure approvals were set aside by governments requiring imposition of the Triple Bottom Line Test which when applied to the original choice option 4b Pye Street suitable for a free flowing high level bridge failed.

Many public servants along with the “Greens” believe that conservation of the environment is more important than our long term economic and social wellbeing.

The 2015 Intergenerational Report highlights the demographics and challenges of projected national population growth a critical side effect of which is food security. Swan Hill Council has wisely added food security to its long term Council Plan but what will big governments do?

My guess is that as the struggle to feed a growing population intensifies the ‘Challenge of Change’ will kick in with the Capital City centric obsession with the environment over our critical rural economic and social issues fading into the background, governments will get smarter and water use policies will change giving us an opportunity to genuinely re-access our future and the bridge location problem but it will be a long process.

Keith A Greenham AM 2016

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

Opinion Piece No 2

Email: Good Morning Andrew (Andrew Broad MP for Mallee)

Congratulations on the likely result of the Fed. Election and our Nat's having a measure of the balance of power.

1960's Sir Percy Byrnes was my mentor, Then Victorian Premier Henry Bolte would not read and act on any submission longer than one page of one line sentences so here goes.

1. An Irrigation District Water Authority spokesperson reminded that we are a democracy implying that our rural economy is a victim of democracy.
2. Lib's Howard & Kennett along with our Nat's Stegall although well intentioned the guilty parties.
3. Commodities wine, milk, wheat prices have collapsed, almonds dependent on USA weather and meat on spring markets.
4. Retail sector competition is driving commodity prices down.
5. Industrial Relations policies are driving costs and "get big or get out" with no political 'end game'.
6. "To capitalize on our potential rural export industries will need to continuously improve their international competitiveness." and, (6 - 7 Quotes from an Agric. Consultant)
7. "Change needs to be continuous because competitiveness is a race without a finish"
8. Victoria Local Government has rate rises capped at 2.5% and therefore human services costs but what of other Government Agencies?
9. Local Government current EBA exceeds 2.5% so have to get smarter, reduce staff or services.
10. The Reserve Bank of Aust. is the most powerful economic driver. Inflation target 2 to 3%.
11. The RBA uses the interest rate carrot and stick.
12. In all my long life we have experienced a mid-decade economic crisis.
13. I argue that the RBA reduce its inflation target to 0 - 0.5% and give rural export industries a chance of survival.

Sadly 13 is an unlucky number.

Keith A Greenham AM July 2016

P.S Thank God I'm retired. Andrew Broad MP responded positively.

2016 -National Party 100 year Swan Hill Celebration.

Within weeks of my 89th birthday Doreen and I received a ride to the celebration. I volunteered the following contribution toddling up to lectern microphone on my walking stick.

"A hundred years, what a great achievement to have survived the booms and busts and technological change of a turbulent century!

A 1996 observation 'From sand and Cyprus hedges, pepper trees, hitching rails for horses and self-reliance to nature strips, concrete and bitumen, computers. tele-conferences and community support."

To be 100 years old our NP family must have emerged as a political force during and following the 1914-18 World War.

My father and his great friend Percy Byrnes our Country Party Legend (Swan Hill's Sir Percy) were returned soldiers having served overseas.

1920's was a period of rural post war reconstruction based on Soldier Settlement expansion of subsistence farming on land seen to be fit for our Nations Hero's.

1930's the boom times degenerated into the Great Depression of my Swan Hill childhood when the unemployed gathered in Swan Hill awaiting the dried fruit harvest. Country Party's Albert Dunstan was Victoria's Premier. The Argus newspaper cartoonist Armstrong depicted him as an ostrich, with head buried between its legs in the sand. He had the toughest of jobs leading the State through the depression years.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

1940's the Great Depression led to World War 2 and its anxiety and austerity during which my father and Percy Byrnes were among our community leaders. As a teenager I was exported to Melbourne gaining big business, industrial relations & human services experience.

On my rounds around the City I came across Robert Menzies MP (then Pig Iron Bob) being booed by all as he entered a tram accompanied by his military guards.

1950's making way for returning servicemen I had become a successful dry land wheat farmer riding the post war boom. Another great period of rural post war reconstruction again based on Soldier Settlement subsistence farming with increased farm size. Swan Hill Region had benefited from the 1920's post war reconstruction to such an extent that little could be done other than tidy up issues which plagued earlier land settlement. These included dealing with Rural Crown Leaseholders and nervous Bank Managers desperate for Freehold Land Title against a background of public service opposition.

Our The Hon Percy Byrnes Northwest Province MLC with the balance of power in the Victorian Bolte Liberal Government led the reconstruction. As I undertook voluntary service leadership roles Percy became my mentor. I signed my first political submission under Percy's guidance. It led to a public service inquiry into land values and a beneficial outcome for Swan Hill.

1960's the boom times again collapsed as the European Common Market dominated Europe's post war reconstruction shutting out our export industries with Swan Hill hit hard but fighting back with tourism based on the development of our Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement.

1970's, 80's, 90's & 2000's, each decade experienced economic highs and lows as markets, drought, flood, technological change and adverse Liberal and Labor political decisions led to the demise of subsistence farming under the 'get big or get out' scenario.

2010's recovery from the Global Financial Crisis was the focus of attention.

2016 as a 100 year old political organization we seem to have lost our balance of power muscle as democracy is increasingly urbanized, become 'written submission based' and dominated by captains pick, urban controlled prime time television (which Sir Robert Menzies feared) and the social media.

Our legacy of Word War subsistence farming subdivision, populist environmental and water policy outcomes threaten our long term economy with stagnation.

Despite all these difficulties and realities the National's country Australia family still has a voice in the Parliaments of Australia. We must become much more effective in promoting rural interests".

Keith Greenham AM 9/7/2016

2016 Swan Hill R. C. Council Elections

*Another 4 years have passed and it's time to vote again. For our Swan Hill Central Ward filling out the ballot paper was a 'pick a box' challenge with little community debate in *The Guardian*.*

Once upon a time our newspapers fed on the cut and thrust of local government decision making. The evolution of local democracy is troubling. A Councillors principle task has evolved into a process of Strategic Service Planning, developing and periodically reviewing formal Plans with community input, for officers to implement. These Plans & Strategies can be viewed on the internet.

Today debate occurs in closed weekly forums with formal open council meeting limited debate based on forum consensus and officer recommendations not attracting the media. Time allocated to formal Council Meetings has fallen away sharply in the past year, day time office hour timing does not attract community interest and the level of closed meeting confidential business is deterring face to face discussion with councillors following meetings.

Management, staffing and Councillor turn over have made local knowledge a critical issue. Councillor contribution is backed up by attracting interest in the community submission processes. The practice of closed hearings of oral submissions is also shutting out the media.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

Our Central Ward attracted 10 candidates for 4 positions, all 4 past representatives dominated by Murray River Bridge interests having retired we now have for the first time in 20 years an overall 7 Councilor municipality dominated by critical rural interests their first task to review the Council Plan developed by the former Council in 2012. Former Councilors have urged them to look beyond their 4 year term of office in seeking change.

Some criticism of Local Government needs to be seen in context.

- Equitable provision of services and payment for those services has been largely achieved.
- Staffing level of 240 full time equivalent positions providing some 100 lifetime services seems reasonable having regard to some services requiring many staff.
- The 'ability to pay' principle applied to rate revenue is linked to level of ability to purchase rateable property linked to Capital Improved Value.
- Rateing level is not unreasonable when compared with Private Health Insurance.
- Comparison with Metropolitan Melbourne rates does not compare apples with apples when considering the rate in the dollar, Capital Improved Value and property serviced density.

Council Plan 2017- 2020

The return of mosquitoes in plague proportions led to my submission for the new Councils 2017- 2020 Council Plan to provide for immediate development of a Drainage and Wetland Management Strategy which takes into account the environment and human health issues.

And on another issue, review of the recently adopted Rural Land Use Strategy noting media reports that horticulture development in Mildura's economic catchment is expected to purchase some 200,000 m/l water from the lower value floodplain irrigation land use of the Mid-Murray region.

Swan Hill/ Murray Downs Bridge Position Action Committee

The newly created NSW Murray River Council advertised its intention to amend its Planning Scheme to reserve the necessary land for construction of the Murray River bridge at the 9a controversial site 100m upstream of the existing bridge in line with Swan Hill Rural City Council Planning Scheme the Action Committee becoming active.

Although not personally involved I put together a 4,000 word review of my thoughts based on my involvement in the 2007 VicRoads Community Consultation Group and forwarded it to the Committee. The following is the summary.

"The writer looks at

1. History of Murray River Bridge upgrades,
2. Geomorphic and current geography,
3. History of European settlement,
4. Preparing for the future
5. Bridge technical design standards,
6. Bridge heritage status,
7. Environmental issues
8. Economic & Social issues.

The conclusion to the writers surprise is that;

Our obsession with an iconic flyover bridge in the absence of a cross border National Highway blinded us to our continuing need to closely integrate our cross border communities and that VicRoads multi consultancy, matrix based decision making process has led to the best sustainable socio/economic/environment outcome for our region.

The overall sleeping issue is that retention of a working heritage bridge is inconsistent with the objective of sustainable river navigation.

Three issues could change this conclusion making the Swan Hill McCallum St the best outcome.

- The Victoria northern rail freight line becoming redundant.
- relocation or loss of the NSW Federal Hotel.
- demolition (by accident or other event) of the existing heritage bridge

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

In summary this conclusion was reached having regard to the following:

Before WW2

Social and economic integration first peaked with the provision in NSW of Swan Hill

- recreation services; Federal Hotel, motor sport & athletic sporting ovals, Hospital Fete site, airfield, rifle range,
- critical need for firewood (including Swan Hill Hospital wood bee),
- an adventure for small boys and their push bikes and
- a river front humpy for indigenous and others seriously impacted by the Great Depression.

Post WW2 economic integration saw

- Murray Downs Station and other Station closer rural settlement through private diversion irrigation of licensed flood mitigation levee protected floodplains,
- compatible industry development on freehold land adjacent to the 400m stock route,
- adverse Victoria State policies leading to the highland Poker industry based Golf & Country Club & Township and Swan Hill major Transport industry relocating to NSW.
- Wamba Wamba settlement development of redundant stock route riverfront land led by Swan Hill community leaders.
- our recreational 2 sport fields & airstrip relocated to Victoria and rifle range closing.
- our reducing need for firewood as electricity supply improved

1980 – 2017 series of mid decade economic crisis's saw

- reversal of Victoria Poker machine and transport policies driving NSW development
- tightening grip of land & water conservation and economic justification policies
- unregulated water trading to higher value use,
- emergence water trade speculators as linkage to land was abolished.

Leading to

- Swan Hill/Murray Downs integrated community economic stagnation.
- the view that our diversified economy has become the victim of democracy and become part of Australia's rust belt.
- Local Government being warned of its 'Duty of Care' in promoting development

First look *prima facie* Business Case

- Immediate construction to a two lane bridge relies on the needs of machinery and transport industries not dominant 'to & fro' daily commuter traffic.
- New bridge cost includes further bridges and embankment crossing the NSW floodplain.
- The preliminary cost of Swan Hill VicTrack changes, swimming pool and Court House relocation must be balanced against alternative NSW floodplain crossing routes.
- The VicRoads 9a site provides pedestrian access & CBD parking for Riverside Park, has the capacity to widen the Murray Valley Highway and will concentrate riverfront location of public utilities maximising options for riverfront development."



*Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -*

On the Home Front

Approaching my 90th birthday is both a joy and a challenge.

The grandchildren are tying the knot, marrying, and the decade has seen no less than seven new great grandchildren bringing the number to 9 with their pictures coming through on the internet almost instantly after their safe arrival. Watching Doreen's grandchildren Billy 15 and Eddy 11 progress through schooldays in Swan Hill and their sporting achievements has been a thrill.

The challenge is to remember those digital age *'pin numbers'*, *'what day it is'* or *'what am I here after'* and not to claim *"I must be getting old"* for the quick response is *"you are old!"* Doreen is my chauffeur and I can walk more swiftly with the 4 wheeled walker than with the walking stick.

The stings

January 2017 - Unfortunately we have to do our bit towards Federal Budget repair and forgo most of our substantial Aged Pension and other perks from January 2017. The likely impact is \$13,000 reduction in our combined income and accelerated run down of assets however the asset reduction will over time increase our combined pension and of course our life expectancy is also running down. 300,000 part self-funded pensioners are involved contributing \$1,200m or \$4,000 per person annually to budget repair. But what are others doing to keep Australia out of trouble?

March 2017 - I fell for a computer/internet scammer ploy claiming to be calling from Telstra advising that my computer was corrupting their telephone network and my service would be disconnected in two hours unless I cooperated in removing the problems.

Gaining access to the computer they identified the problems advising that I needed a new modem cost \$60 which my internet service provider would bill me for reimbursing my bank account immediately and the modem delivered and installed within 3 days.

Somehow they gained access to my bank account showing my service providers deposit of \$6,000 instead of \$60.

Claiming an error had been made and to avoid loss of their job I would have to reimburse the service provider in cash following the scammers instructions.

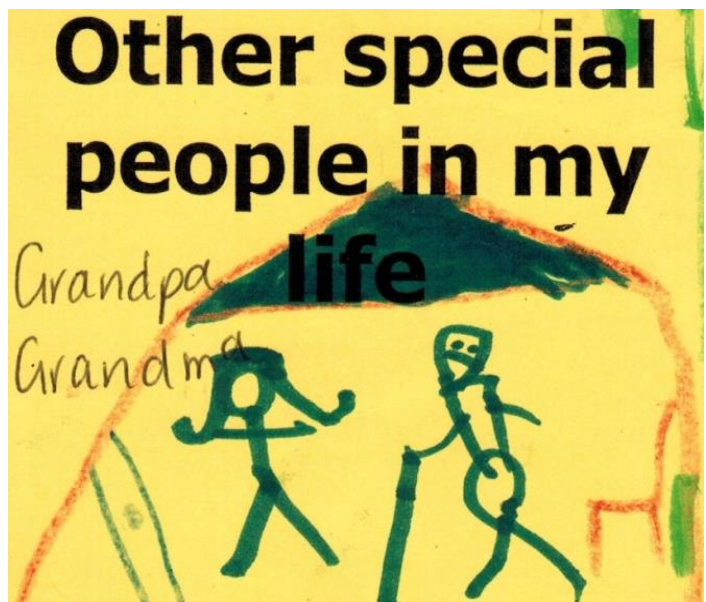
Responding I insisted on a letter from my service provider seeking restoration at which the scammer threatening legal action slammed down the telephone.

Checking my bank account immediately no money had been deposited confirming the scam but my computer document file and internet service connection had been sent to the recycle bin and emptied.

The other costs closure of online banking, checking of the computer functioning by a trusted expert and my telephone service subject to continuing suspected scammer calls.

Such is life in the 2017 New World Wide Economy

**Step-Grandson Eddy Schifferle's
early school boy 2013 depiction of
Grandma Doreen and Grandpa/Uncle
Keith,
seems a good way to end the
Autobiography.**



*Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -*



*Greenham's of Swan Hill
District & Beyond
Peter 1865-1943 & Sarah
(Stevens) 1866-1964*

Vera, Bert. Ivy, Effie, Ted.

Circa 1918

Vera Alvera m. Alan
Dunoon,

Bert m. Lilian Thompson

Ivy m. Alf Vains,

Effie m. Ernest Martin,

Ted m. Sheila Toomer (d)

Mary Foresyth,



*Bert 1896-1976
& Lilian (Thompson)
1896-1977*

Dorothy – Keith – Peter
Circa 1950

Dorothy m Ian Grenness (d)

Keith m Nancy Dowling (d) 1982

Doreen Schifferle (Shepherd)

Peter (d) 1987 m Ethel Hercot



*Keith 1927 -
& Nancy (Dowling)
1928- 1982*

Jeffrey – Andrew – Bruce -
Meredith

Circa 1977

Jeffrey m Roslyn Thomas

Andrew m Janet Dedini

Bruce m Jeanivev Abesit

Meredith m Ross Mobilio

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

Background - “Tillara” - Peter Greenham Goschen Farm Enterprise 1890/1920s

1890 - The Koem/Kunat/Goschen Victorian Government leasehold Allotment No 19 of 19,000 acres was held by Richard Hughes who subdivided it into 58 leasehold lots and went bankrupt.

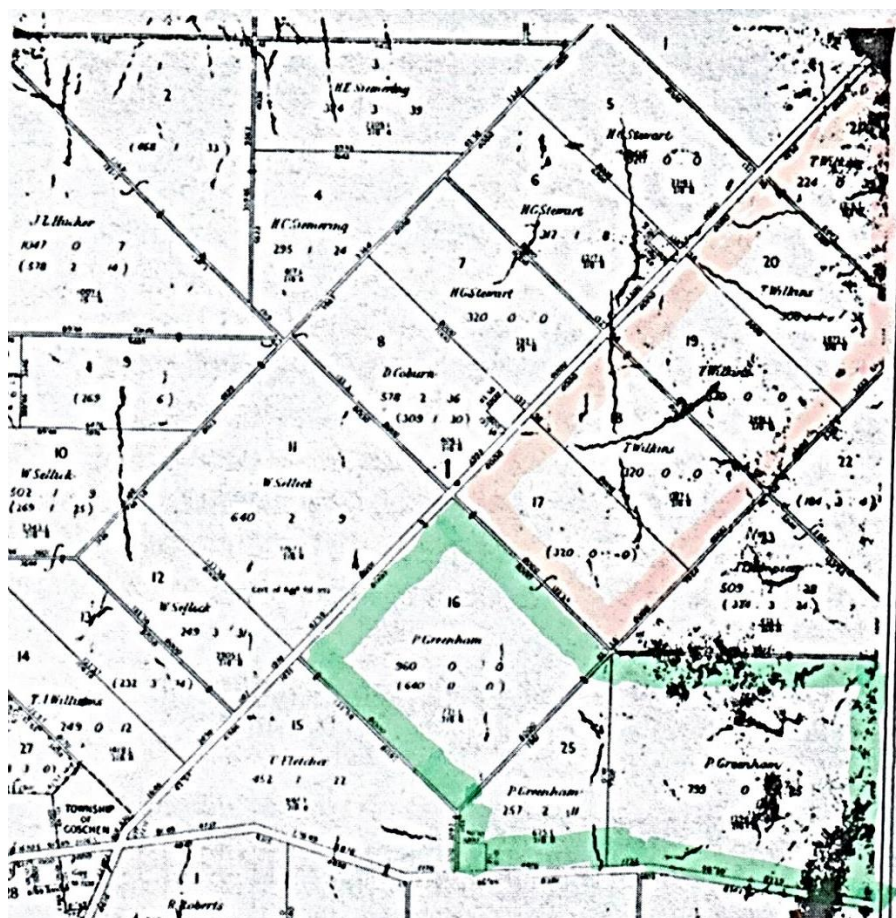
According to A History of the Shire of Swan Hill (Scholes 1989) and the Government Gazette 2 January 1892 Jesse (Jim) Stevens a brother of Sarah Greenham [Stevens] was among the first to take advantage of the fire sale. The land appears to be Allotments 16 & 25 (960 acres) with adjoining Allotment 24 (800 acres) purchased by brother Harry Stevens and Allotment 17 [320 acre] by Peter Greenham who in 1894 married their sister Sarah cleared the land and developed it as his homestead from which his 1920's 3,200 acre enterprise grew with the help of his family.

Looking closely at the Parish Plan below I note that Allotments 22 & 23 along the Quambatook Road were owned by Uncle Jim Thompson who with Uncle George Thompson, my mother's brothers, took up land in the area following 1914/18 war indicating the date of the Subdivision Plan below is early 1920's.

N

To Swan Hill 10 kms Swan Hill/Lalbert Road

Quambatook Rd Junction



All. 1 Uncle Jim Thompson

Alls. East of Quambatook Rd.
Uncle George Thompson. >

All. 20 site of Wilkins “Aintree”
homestead

Bert Greenham
All's. 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 = 1,500
acres.

All. 17 site of Greenham “Tillara”
Homestead.
Uncle Jim Thompson
All's 22 & 23

Greenham Rd

Ted Greenham
All's. 16, 25, 24.
= 1,700 Acres
All. 24 Homestead

All. 16 location Long Lake pipeline
reservoir

Boga/Goschen/Ultima Rd

S Goschen Township – now

Bushland Rese
To Lalbert

To Quambatook

Source of plan and information: – Lalbert Reflections – Power-Page 407 and A History of the Shire of Swan Hill – Scholes – Page 90
Many road reserves shown have been absorbed into landholdings.

In the years ahead, the Greenham enterprise was extended to the north to include the T. Wilkins [“Aintree”] Allotments 18, 19, 20, 21 [1170 acres] and to the east Allotments 24 & 25 [1056 acres]. The enterprise totalled 3,200 acres = 5 sq miles plus irrigation land leased to keep the horse teams alive during droughts.

His success through the booms and busts of the times appears to be the 1890's economic depression timing and his off farm skills as a blacksmith, farrier and horse doctor. On the marriage of their sons and daughters in the 1920's Peter and Sarah retired to Swan Hill and the northern allotments 17 [“Tillara” homestead], 18, 19, 20, 21 totalling 1,500 acres were taken up by son Bert the southern allotments 16, 24, 25 totalling 1,700 acres by son Ted who built a homestead on All. 24. 1946 Bert sold ‘Tillara’, 2014 Ted's has been extended and remains in family ownership.

Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -

Genealogy

Charles Greenham / Grinham Snr and wife Elizabeth came to Australia from Charlton Adam in 1855 settling in the Casterton area of Western Victoria adopting the surname Grinham and are buried in the Sandford Cemetery.

George Greenham is buried in Dartmoor his wife Mary in Swan Hill.

Peter Greenham and his wife Sarah are buried in Swan Hill.

Albert Greenham and his wife Lillian are buried in Swan Hill.

The Greenham Connection

				Charles Greenham & Elizabeth Hockey						
				Charlton Adam, Sommersetshire, England						
				1797-1859 1797-						
George	Jane	William	Isabella	Elizabeth	Charles	Gerrard	Louisa	Israel	Mary	Lucy
Aust 1845	Aust 1855	Aust 1845			Aust 1849			Aust 1855		
				George Greenham & Mary Watmough						
				Portland/Dartmoor, Victoria, Australia						
				1819-1890 1828-1911						
Jane	James	George	Mary	Julia	Alfred	Frances	Albert	Peter	Alice	
								M		
				Peter Greenham & Sarah Stevens						
				1865-1943 1866-1964						
Evelyn	Albert	Ivy	Edger	Vera						
	M									
				Albert Greenham & Lilian Thompson						
				1896-1976 1896-1997						
Keith	Dorothy	Peter								
M		1934-1987								
				Keith Greenham & Nancy Dowling						
				1927- 1928-1982						
Jeffrey	Andrew	Bruce	Meredith							

The Sim/Thompson Connection

				John Sim & Isabel Liang						
				1770,s Elgin, Morayshire, Scotland						
John	James	Isabel	John	Alexander	Robert	Janet	George			
				M						
				Alexander Sim & Elizabeth Blyth						
				1780-1886 1787-1871						
				Auchterless, Aberdeenshire, Scotland						
George	John	Isobel	Jane	Christian	Elizabeth	Helen	James	Mary Anne	Barbara	
			Aust 1851			Aust 1851	Aust 1848	Aust 1848		
				Colin Thompson & Mary Anne Sim						
				1828-1902						
				Cohuna, Victoria, Australia						
Colin	Alexander	Elizabeth	Mary Ann	John	James	Hugh	Ellen	George	Isabella	
	M			John (2)				George (2)		
				Alexander Thompson & Magdalene Allingham (adopted, born Morrow)						
				1853-1931 D 1903						
				Teal Point, Victoria, Australia						
Magdalene	Albert	Nelle	Elsie	George	James	Ernest	Lilian	Jean		
							M			
				Albert Greenham & Lilian Thompson						
				Swan Hill, Victoria, Australia						

*Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -*

*Imperial and Australian Honours
Swan Hill Municipalities & Region*

*Prepared & updated by Keith Greenham AM
from itsanhonour.gov.au website*

Imperial Honours

BYRNES, Sir Percy Thomas; KB 1964	Councillor: Shire of Swan Hill, services to Parliament of Victoria.
MELLOR, Thomas Ross: OBE(C) 1973	Pioneer Settlement: Swan Hill
WOMERSLEY Frank B.: MBE 1958	Secretary: Shire of Swan Hill
RICHARDS, William: MBE 1980	Councillor: City of Swan Hill, services to swimming.
JILBERT Ronald John: BEM(C) 1969	Captain: Swan Hill Fire Brigade

**Order of Australia (from February 14 1975)
Swan Hill Region**

Appointments

Member of the Order of Australia in the General Division (AM)

Swan Hill - Post Code 3585

CHANDLER, Maren Isobel (AM) 1988	Service to Girl Guides Assoc. and community. Commissioner: Swan Hill Rural City Council 1995.
STEWART, Francis Jackson (AM) 1977	Service to Aboriginal welfare and community.

Pental Island – Post Code 3586

GREENHAM, Keith Allingham (AM) 2006	Councillor, Shire of Swan Hill, “Service through leadership within a range of organisations committed to community development.” Biography – Who’s Who in Victoria 2008
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Awards - Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

Swan Hill - Post Code 3585

CLARK, Alan Regional (OAM) 1983	Councillor: City of Swan Hill, Service to Local Government and community.
HARRISON, Gordon Kenneth (OAM) 1989	Councillor: City of Swan Hill. Service to Local Government and community.
HOARE, James (OAM) 1978	Councillor: City of Swan Hill. Service to Local Government and Community.
HOOPER, Myrtle Ellen (OAM) 2005	Service to health, ageing and Church.
KENNEDY, Eunice Beryl (OAM) 1992	Service to intellectual disadvantaged and community.
MARTIN, Horace Hayden (OAM) 1981	Service to Swan Hill (Medical)
MONAHAN, John Patrick (OAM) 1995	Service to Australian Rules Football and Victorian Country Football League.
PRENDERGAST Paul James (OAM) 2016	For services to youth.

***Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -***

**Australian Honours – Swan Hill Municipalities and Region (Ctd.)
Award – Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) (Ctd)**

QUIN, Robert Alan (OAM) 1989	Councillor: City of Swan Hill. Service to Local Government and community.
READ, Heather Isobelle (OAM) 1999	Service to Lawn Bowles and Murray Valley District Ladies Bowling Association.
SCHLEMME Marie (OAM) 2014	Service to women and service to education.
SOMMERFIELD, Leonard Norman (OAM) 1986	Service to the welfare of ex-service personnel.

Mornington – Post Code 3931 formally of Swan Hill

WALKER, Helen Lesley (OAM) 2007	Service to Australian Pompe's Assn. Supporter of disability, aged care & church. Biography – Who's Who in Victoria 2008
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Robinvale – Post Code 3549

IRVING, Shirley May (OAM) 2007	Service to Church, health, welfare and education.
McGINTY, William Patrick (OAM) 1998	Councillor: Shire of Swan Hill Service to Local Government and community.
MERLIN, Mary (OAM) 1990	Service to Aboriginal welfare and community.
PHILLIPS, Maurice Arthur (OAM) 1995	Service to community.
PISASALE, Pamela (OAM) 2007	Councillor: Shire of Swan Hill Service to Local Government and community.
SMITH, Lois Elizabeth (OAM) 2007	Service to nursing and the community.

Manangatang - Post Code 3546

RYAN, Thomas James (OAM) 1994	Councillor: Shire of Swan Hill, Service to Local Government, Victorian Saleyards Association and sport.
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Balranald NSW – Post Code 2715

GREENHAM, Doreen Claire (OAM) 2013	Service to the Balranald community.
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Lake Boga – Post Code 3584

SWAN, Shirley Gladys (OAM) 2008	Service to swimming and community.
WILLOX, James Maitland (OAM) 1995	Service to Pipe Band and community.

Piangil – Post Code 3597

BRANSON, Alan James (OAM) 1987	Service to Rural Fire Brigade and community.
HAYDEN, Donald William (OAM) 1994	Councillor: Shire of Swan Hill Service to Local Government and community.
LARKIN, John James (OAM) 1989	Councillor: Shire of Swan Hill Service to pasture conservation and community.

*Autobiography –The Life, Times and Community Service of
Keith Allingham Greenham 1927 -*

Australian Honours – Swan Hill Municipalities and Region (Ctd.)

**Award
Centenary Medal**

Swan Hill – PC 3585

ELLEMOR, David William	Service to environment and community.
HENSHAW, Vera Lock	
HESLOP, Harold Stanley	Service to Vietnam Veterans, service men and women.
HINTON, Uanita Jesse	
HOPKINS, Jane Isobel	Service to mental illness sufferers.
INGRAM, Dorothy	
KEENAN, Ella Doreen	Service to small business.
KENNEDY, Eunice Beryl (OAM) (U3A)	Service to Genealogy Society and University of 3 rd Age
SCHLEMME Marie Ethel	Service to Swan Hill Australia Day Breakfast.
STANDEN, Audrey May	Service to fundraising.

Robinvale – PC 3549

CAVANAGH, Brian Thomas	Service to Indigenous welfare.
DRISCOLL, Carolyn	Service to palliative care.

Nyah West – PC 3595

MAHER, William Thomas	Councillor; Shire of Swan Hill Councillor; Swan Hill Rural City Council Service to Local Government
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**Award
Bravery Medal**

Swan Hill - PC 3585	FOLEY, James Roland
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**Award
Commendation for Brave Conduct**

Robinvale – PC 3549	STANYER, Jacqueline Faye
Swan Hill – PC 3585	MARTIN, Michael Ernest

**Award
Public Service Medal**

Swan Hill – PC 3585	MCCORMICK, Alan John
Robinvale – PC 3549	KELLY, Graeme William

**Award
National Medal, 1st and 2nd Clasps**

Swan Hill – PC 3585	JILBERT, Ronald John BEM JORDAN Albert
Lake Boga – PC 3584	SMITH, Michael John

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Australian Honours – Swan Hill Municipalities and Region (Ctd.)

**Award
Australian Fire Service Medal**

Lake Boga – PC 3584

SMITH, Michael John

**Award
Emergency Services Medal**

Lake Boga – PC 3584

VERNON, Clare Loraine

Formally of Swan Hill

PERRY, Kevin

Other Post Codes searched:

Beverford 3590, Boundary Bend 3599, Nyah 3594, Nyah West 3595, Tresco 3583, Woorinen 3589, Woorinen South 3588.



Government House Great Dining Room where recipients' of Appointments and Awards gather around the Dining Table awaiting the call for presentation by the Governor of Victoria.

**Melbourne City Council Yarra Room
Order of Australia Association Reception
receiving the congratulations of
Lord Mayor John So**

I attended this reception as a descendent of the Watmough family who are regarded as pioneers of Port Phillip and Melbourne arriving in 1841 when the population was less than 5,000



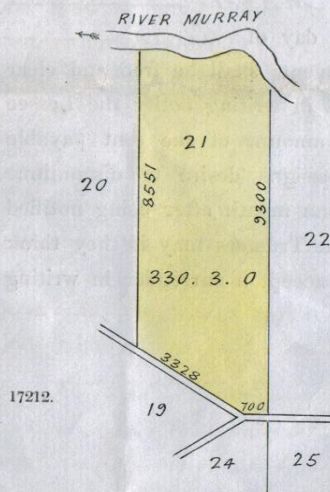
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History of Pental Island Lease Agreements

Extracts from Parish of Pental Island 30 year Lease Agreements between the Trustees appointed under the Agricultural College Act 1890 and Robert Chisholm & Thomas Chisholm dated 1st June 1914 who developed the allotments 20 and 21 as a single 448 acre irrigation farm enterprise.

Whereas the Council of Agricultural Education continued or constituted by the said Act have made certain regulations as to the manner in which the lands vested in the Trustees may be demised by them and the forms of the leases and the covenants and conditions to be therein contained and such regulations and the rents reserved by such leases have been duly approved by the Governor by and with the advice of the Executive Council and the Trustees have thereupon agreed to grant this lease subject to such regulations and the term covenants and conditions and rent herein contained:

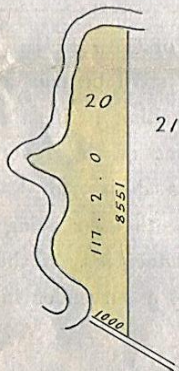
Now this Indenture witnesseth that in consideration of the rent hereby reserved and the covenants and conditions herein contained and on the part of the Lessee his executors administrators and permitted assigns to be observed and performed The Trustees do by these presents GRANT AND DEMISE unto the Lessee his executors administrators and permitted assigns ALL that piece of grazing and agricultural land in the State of Victoria containing *Three hundred and thirty* acres *three* roods and _____ perches more or less situate in the parish of *Pental Island* county of *Hatchera* delineated on the plan drawn in the margin hereof and therein coloured yellow together with the appurtenances.



EXCEPTING and always reserving out of this demise unto the Trustees for the time being for the purposes of the said Act (hereinafter called the Trustees) all live timber trees and other trees now growing on said land.

Now this Indenture witnesseth that in consideration of the rent hereby reserved and the covenants and conditions herein contained and on the part of the Lessee his executors administrators and permitted assigns to be observed and performed The Trustees do by these presents GRANT AND DEMISE unto the Lessee his executors administrators and permitted assigns

ALL that piece of grazing ^{and agricultural} land in the State of Victoria containing *One hundred and seventeen* acres *two* roods and _____ perches more or less situate in the parish of *Pental Island* county of *Hatchera* delineated on the plan drawn in the margin hereof and therein coloured yellow together with the appurtenances ~~AND ALSO~~ that piece of agricultural land in the State of Victoria containing _____ acres _____ roods and _____ perches more or less situate in the said parish and delineated on the plan drawn in the margin hereof and therein coloured blue together with the appurtenances.



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9. AND ALSO will permit the Trustees and the holder or holders of any gold mining lease or leases or mineral lease or leases granted by the Government of Victoria in the name and on behalf of His Majesty by virtue of and pursuant to the Mines Acts their or any of their agents and servants and any person to whom the Trustees shall grant any licence in respect hereof to enter into and upon such land with or without horses carts waggons and vehicles and to search for mine extract and remove all or any minerals stone gravel brick earth and deposits of guano and to cut down and carry away any live or dead timber thereon without any leave or licence being required in that behalf from the Lessee his executors administrators or permitted assigns.

And also will make an embankment along the river frontage of the above allotment, of the dimensions that may be specified by a representative of the Council of Agricultural Education, such work to be carried out within a period of twelve months from the date of issue of the new lease, to the satisfaction of the Trustees, and so maintained during the issue of the lease
And also will make all fencing which may be erected on the leasehold after issue of the lease of a substantial and permanent character, and all boundary fencing sheep proof

From Page 3 of the Pental Island 1914 Agricultural College Trustees Lease Agreements two added hand written conditions resulting from the 1911 Draper contour survey of Pental Island determining its flood pondage capacity in accord with the NSW Victoria Interstate Levee Agreement limiting reclamation by levee banks of the Murray River flood pondage basin to 4% of its capacity.

7. AND ALSO will at once after the granting of this lease to the satisfaction of the Trustees commence and continue to destroy and will within one year after the granting of this lease have destroyed to the satisfaction of the officer appointed in that behalf by the Trustees upon the demised land all wallabies dingoes or native dogs dogs run wild dogs at large foxes rabbits and any of the animals and birds included in the term "vermin" in the Act in that behalf or which the Governor with the advice of the Executive Council may by proclamation in the *Government Gazette* declare to be vermin for the purposes of the Land Acts and will keep the same land free of such animals and birds to the satisfaction of the officer appointed in that behalf during the currency of this lease.

8. AND ALSO will observe perform and comply with the requirements of the *Vermin Destruction Act* 1890 or any further Act or Acts of the Parliament of Victoria relating to the suppression or destruction of rabbits.

Of interest today is Cl. 7 inclusion in the lease of "all wallabies dingoes or native dogs run wild dogs at large ----" in the list of pests to be controlled.

1950's Pental Island Crown Allotment 21 & 20

Murray R. McDonald 55hp 400 rpm diesel engine & belt driven Robinson 15" pump.

This engine replaced a steam engine in the early 1950's and was replaced in the 1970's by a modern 3 phase electric V belt driven pump.



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Pental Island Allotments 20 & 21 Lease Assignments & Sales.

1914 - Original 30 year Agricultural Colleges Act 1890 Leases Dated 1st June 1914 to Robert and Thomas Chisholm assigned:

- 1929 - 19th August to George Henry Brasser by Agricultural Colleges Act 1905 Trustees
Consideration: Allotment 20 1691 pounds 5 shillings.
Allotment 21 550 pounds
- 1930 - 1st September to Robert Lindsay Wilkins by Agricultural College Act 1928 Trustees.
Consideration: Allotment 20 1157 pounds 12 shillings and six pence,
Allotment 21 411 pounds 5 shillings.
- 1943 - 5th November to Alfred John Crosby by Agricultural Colleges Act 1928 Trustees.
Lease expiry 30th June 1945
Consideration: Allotments 20 & 21 950 pounds including steam engine and pump.
- 1943 - 5th November to Mrs E J Nalder by Agricultural Colleges Act 1928 Trustees.
Lease renewed for further 20 years to 1965.
Consideration: Allotments 20 & 21 1,882 pounds 13 shillings.
- 1950 - 20th July to C A O’Laughlin who re-subdivided the allotments from east/west to a north Allotment 20 214 acres and south Allotment 21 234 acres configuration approved by the Board of Land and Works successors to the Agricultural College Act 1928 Trustees.
- 1951 - 30th April Lease Allotment 21 234 acres assigned to T & K Cornell with 50% share of pumping plant.
- 1952 - 27th November Lease Allotment 21 234 acres assigned to K A Greenham with 50% share of pumping plant, annual water diversion permit, cottage, shearing and machinery sheds. Lease expiry date 1965.
Consideration: 8,000 pounds (\$16,000)
- 1953 – 15 year annual 400 acre ft water diversion license issued to K A Greenham
- 1964 – Grant of 20 year interest free Purchase Lease to K A Greenham CA’s 21 & 21A conjoined totalling 218 acres. \$7,544 in 20 annual payments of \$377.20 for the bare land.
- 1984 – Grant of Freehold Title to K A Greenham CA’s 21 & 21A conjoined totalling 218 acres.
- 2000 – Conjoined Freehold title split into two titles with CA21 212 acres sold with 486 m/l water diversion licence. Consideration: \$400,000
CA21 ultimately subdivided by new owner along with adjoining land.
- 2010 - CA 21A 6 acre riverfront home site sold with 12 m/l water diversion licence.
Consideration: \$242,000

**Murray River
Greenham Lane
Pental Island**

Under tree to right the red soil cliffs of the Greenham Lane Hill.

Aboriginal remains, and a midern (oven) are located on the Victoria Murray River Reserve Crown land.

Painting by Alan Walker 1970’s



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Aboriginal artefacts found on the surface of an oven on
Pental Island's Greenham Lane Hill adjacent to CA21A 1960s

The large dish shaped stone, 23cm x 11cm, x 4cm thick appears to be volcanic rock and
appears to have red ochre embedded.

The small red stone, 5cm x 4cm, appears by its shape to have been rubbed against the
larger stone.

I recall having read that a volcanic rock stone had been found in the Lake Boga area many
years earlier indicating that our Australian Traditional Owners travelled from the Victoria
Warnambool Tower Hill volcanic region to the Murray River Region.

The artifacts will be handed to the Swan Hill Rural City Library for decision for safe keeping.

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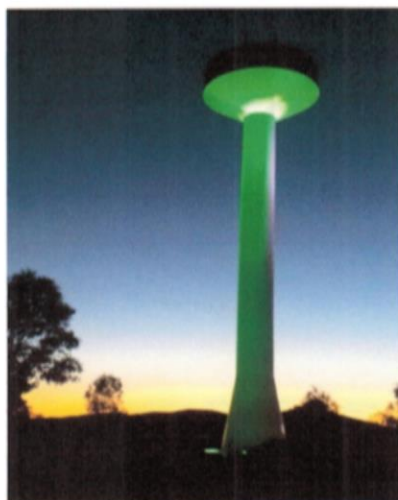
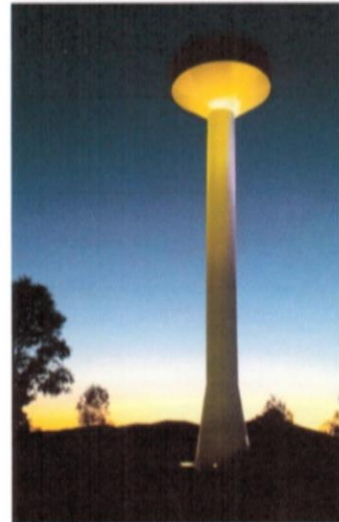


“Greenham Park”

Tower Hill

Swan Hill

Victoria



*Day
And
Night*

