

*A* HISTORY *of*  
*Bassendean*

Registered at General Post Office, Perth, W.A.,  
for transmission by post as a book.

Compiled and Published  
for  
THE BASSENDEAN ROAD BOARD  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
1947

By  
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# INTRODUCTION

With the issue of this book the Bassendean Road Board sees the fulfilment of its ambition of many years. It is possibly 15 years since the Board commissioned its Secretary to compile a history with a view to publication; but hindrances occurred, and the Great War came, and then the few notes collected were pigeon-holed. In consequence, I have read the manuscript of this book with great interest. Containing, as it does, such an inspiring record of the work of our predecessors, I am sure it will be well received by all. I trust that my period of service as Chairman, which has just begun, will prove to be useful and of great benefit to the Board and District; thus may it form another strong link in the history and progress of Bassendean.

(Signed) J. H. SMALLMAN,  
Chairman Bassendean Road Board.

Our Bassendean Ratepayers have a clearly defined civic pride, and this book will no doubt find a place in every home, and might also form a unique Christmas gift to distant friends. This history is being issued just as I have completed 25 years of unbroken service with the Board, for 17 of which I held the honoured position of Chairman. The work over the years has become deeply interesting to me, and any activity for the progress of our Garden Suburb will always have my encouragement and help. In declining the Chairmanship this year, my reason was not a waning interest, but a desire that younger members have control; hoping that thereby we may accomplish even more in up-to-date methods of progress. May our motto continue to inspire us: "No Steps Backward."

(Signed) R. A. McDONALD.

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## COMPILER'S NOTE

This book has been produced at the request of the members of the Bassendean Road Board. It is fitting that the history of the Pioneers of the District, together with the story of more recent achievements, should be preserved. The author wishes to acknowledge the great assistance rendered by the Chairman, the immediate-past Chairman, and the Secretary of the Board; also the officers of the Public Library, more especially in the Archives Branch; and last but not least, those residents who so graciously and willingly assisted. From our first contact with the Board our interest in the District has been held; we have been fascinated as the work was developed. One can easily trace the pioneering spirit of self-help and progress in the people of Bassendean today. Their spirit of comradeship is delightful.



PETER BROUN, ESQ.,  
Founder of "Bassendean."



CYRIL JACKSON, ESQ.,  
First Chairman of Road Board.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, 1947.



MR. J. H. SMALLMAN, J.P., and MRS. SMALLMAN.



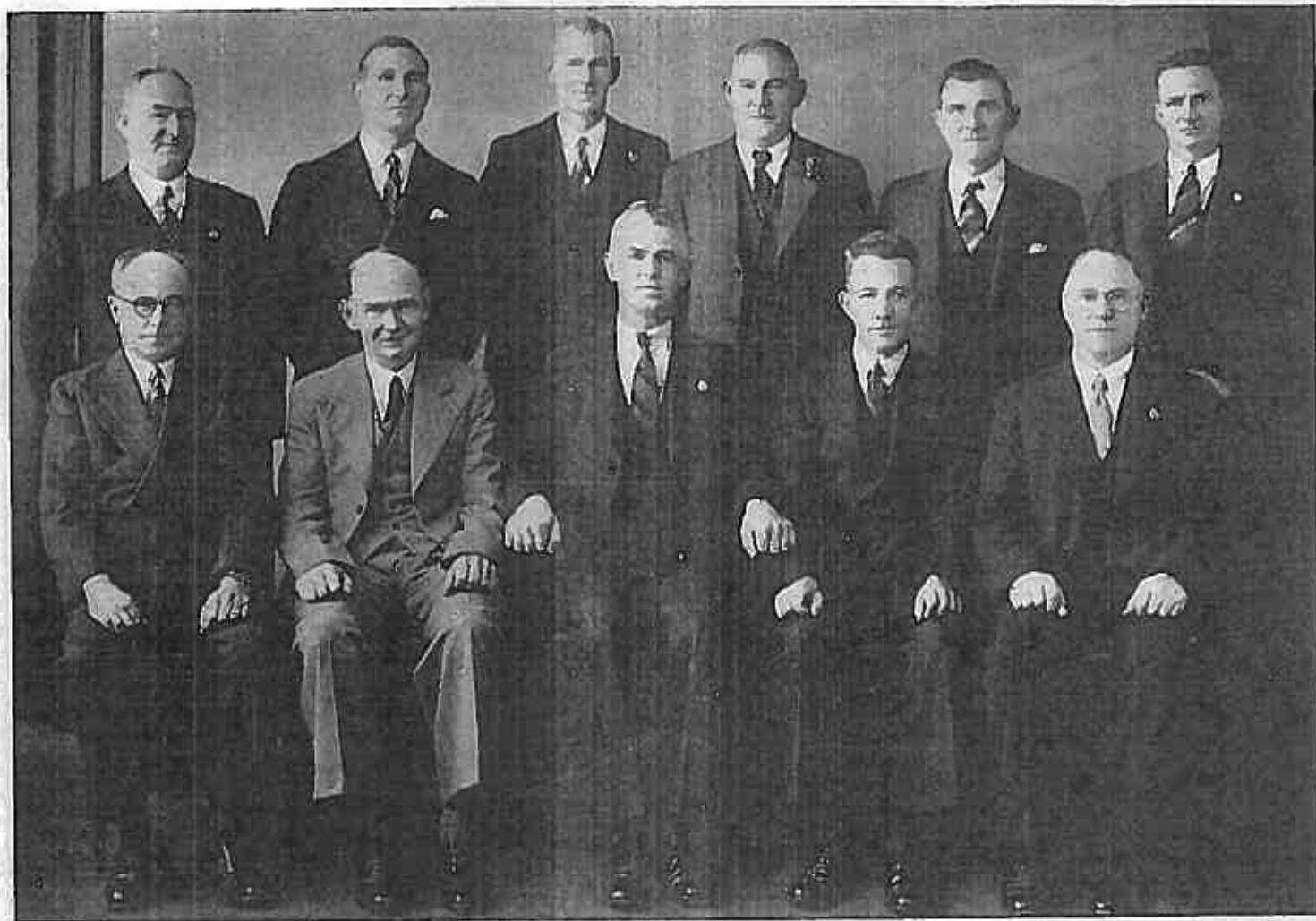
(The Western Mail" Photo.)

OPENING DAY CEREMONY.



THE BOARD ROOM.

THE BASSENDEAN ROAD BOARD, 1947.



Standing: R. A. McDonald, H. G. Clements, E. C. Brinkworth, C. O. Freiberg, G. A. R. Oakley, N. Gould.  
Sitting: R. McKellar (Elec. Eng.), C. W. Hatton (Vice-Chairman), J. H. Smallman (Chairman), F. B. Mason (Sec.-Eng.), E. D. Mann.



*"History is the work of ideas, a record of the incomparable energy which his infinite aspirations infuse into man."*

—EMERSON.

## CHAPTER ONE.

# THE PIONEERS

**W**ILLIAM DAMPIER was the first Englishman to land on the coast of Western Australia. As he was at the time engaged on a buccaneering expedition around the world, we would imagine him to be an adventure-loving rogue, and remembering the old adage that "birds of a feather flock together," we picture his crew as desperate ruffians also. This latter estimate is borne out by the fact that, soon after leaving the Australian coast, a quarrel arose among the ship's company, and Dampier and a few others were held in captivity until the ship was in the vicinity of the Nicobar Islands, and on one of these were "dumped." But we would not willingly misjudge this bold leader, for we have noticed it recorded that Dampier had no special liking for Piracy: neither had he any special objection to "the trade" as he called it. He is reported to have sailed with pirates, not because they were pirates, but, as he said, "because they were travellers," and again, "more to indulge my curiosity than to get wealth." It was nine years before Dampier was able to get back to England; he published a record of his voyage in 1698.

On subsequent occasions French adventurers had landed on various parts of the Australian coast, and it was for the purpose of checking up on one of their reports in regard to the Black Swan River, and to ascertain first-hand the nature of the soil, shipping facilities, etc., that Captain James Stirling was sent from Sydney in 1827. He was accompanied by Mr. Chas. Fraser, Colonial Botanist of N.S.W. They sailed from Sydney on January 17, in H.M.S. "Success," and anchored off the south head of Swan River on March 5, 1827.

An expeditionary party, taking with them the ship's gig and cutter, and provisioned for a fortnight, explored the Swan up to its supposed source, and Mr. Fraser made an ascent of the hills, to which was given the name of General Darling Range, after General Ralph Darling, Governor of New South Wales. During this trip the party landed on the West shore of the river, and on a sandy knoll discovered a spring of beautiful water from which they filled the ship's barrels. To-day the spot is known as "Success Hill," presumably named after their ship. Success Hill is now in the Bassendean Road Board area, and all through the years the spring, which in 1827 was used to fill the "Success" water barrels, has never ceased to flow. Control of Success Hill Reserve was taken over from the Guildford Council in July, 1916, and it was gazetted a class A Reserve in 1922.

When "Success" arrived back in Sydney on April 15, 1827, Captain Stirling presented such a favourable report to the Home Government that they decided to give effect to his recommendations. He was entrusted with the task of organising the expedition for the establishment of the new Colony, for which purpose he returned to England. In due course preparations were completed, and he left Plymouth, February 5, 1829, on board "Parmelia," a little vessel of 443 tons, and accompanied by a selected party of 70 persons. As escort "Parmelia" was accompanied by H.M.S. "Sulphur," under Captain Dance. (It was Captain Dance's wife who wielded the axe at the later historical ceremony of naming Perth). On "Sulphur" there was a detachment of soldiers under Captain Irwin.



H.M.S. "SUCCESS."



In the apparent urgency of the proceedings it would appear as though the Home Government feared some other nation might forestall them, as so nearly happened in the case of the Proclamation of N.S.W., for history records that Captain Charles Howe Fremantle was despatched from the Cape of Good Hope, on March 20, 1829, in command of H.M.S. "Challenger," with instructions to take formal possession in the name of King George IV. Captain Fremantle arrived on April 25, and took formal possession, as instructed, on May 2, 1829, and then patiently awaited the arrival of Captain Stirling, with his pioneer band. "Parmelia" put in an appearance on June 1, whilst a fierce storm was raging, and she was blown on to a sandbank, where she remained fast for 18 hours. When the ship eventually drifted off, her Captain decided to shelter under the lee of Garden Island, and he landed passengers and stores there. The storm continued to rage, and it was 17 days before the soldiers transferred to the beach at Fremantle. There they erected a flagstaff, and gathered around it, they solemnly listened whilst their Leader, Captain Irwin, read aloud the official Proclamation, whereby Swan River Settlement was established and became a part of the British Empire. Captain Stirling later read the same Proclamation to the little band of pioneers temporarily marooned on Garden Island.

When Captain Stirling boarded "Parmelia," on the eve of departure from England, he was accompanied by his Secretary, Mr. Peter Brown, a brilliant young man, then in his 31st year. The history of Bassendean is linked up with the history of that young man, and to-day stands as a monument, not only to his memory, but to his wonderful foresight. It was indeed a sad blow to the young colony, when, in 1846, he died, whilst still in the prime of life. He was only 46 years of age.

Peter Brown came from a distinguished French family, which it is claimed, can be traced back to Royalty. "Bourke's Peerage" gives the name as Broun, but in those far off days it was not unusual for a family to change their name—mostly for political reasons. The Colonial Secretary reverted to the original name in the early 1830's. The armorial bearings of the Broun family (granted 1686) carries the motto "Floreat Majestas" (Let Majesty Flourish). Although the escutcheon for the City of Perth was not designed until 1925, in the motto "Floreat," the citizens of Perth will always have a reminder of Peter Broun, first Colonial Secretary of Western Australia.

The Broun family was in possession of the lands of Colstoun, co. Haddington, as far back as the 14th century, and linked with its history is a mythical tale of the Colstoun Pear (product of one of the earlier generations). The pear was a forbidden fruit, and was believed to hold the fortunes of the family in its balance. Thus on one occasion when the Lady Broun, on her wedding night, dreamed that she had eaten the pear, it was with ominous dread that she told her husband of her dream. Actually, remember, she only dreamed that she had eaten it, yet the myth records the "fact" that the Colstoun Pear still bears the marks of the Lady's teeth.

Mr. Peter Broun was a nephew of the 7th Baronet of the line, and an officer in the Royal Navy. He married in 1824. The present head of the family is Sir (James) Lionel Broun, the 11th Baronet of Colstoun. He resides at "Colstoun," Gunnedah, New South Wales. He married Alice, daughter of the late J. C. Peters, of "Hope House," Manly, N.S.W., in 1925.

To assist in the early settlement of the young colony the English Government offered to all who arrived therein before the last day of the year 1830, free land in proportion to the capital introduced into the colony by them, and further concessions in accord with the number of servants and children accompanying them. For instance: Allotments of land in the ratio of 40 acres for every £3 which the settler was prepared to invest in improvements, together with 200 acres for every woman or labourer, with further concessions for every child. The land was not granted in fee simple until the settler had proved that the sum of 1/6 per acre had been expended either in cultivation or improvements. These liberal terms naturally had the desired effect of attracting numbers of people, and by the date named the population comprised 1,167 persons, together with 101 horses, 583 cattle, 7,981 sheep, 66 pigs, 36 goats, and a number of poultry. None of these early ships was over 500 tons burden, and as they had to carry food for passenger and beast for the whole journey, also surplus to help replenish the stocks of food for the young colony until production point was reached, we can just imagine under what uncomfortable and cramped conditions the voyage was made. Even "Parmelia," carrying the Governor and his party of 70 distinguished persons, was only a 449-ton ship, and she took four months to make the journey. "Gilmore" was the largest of them (500 tons), she carried 170 passengers, whilst "Rockingham"

(423 tons), brought out the largest batch, 220 souls in all. "Atwick" (342 tons) carried 72 passengers, and "Eagle," a tiny ship of only 108 tons was responsible for the passage of 18. (Special mention is made of above ships because descendants of some passengers are mentioned in this history). All these ships were wind-driven. It was not until 1845 that the first steamer put into Fremantle, H.M.S. "Driver," and the novel sight caused the lookout man to mistake her for a ship on fire.

As each group of settlers arrived it was essential that they should get possession of their location as soon as possible, in order

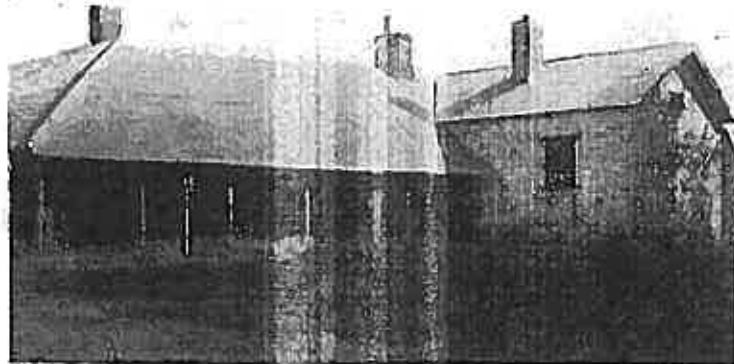
to the better oversight and safety of their livestock. Thus it was not long before all available river frontages were taken up, and it became imperative that the authorities strike out and explore the hinterlands, and open up the country for settlement. Naturally there were lots of delays and many grumbles among the latter arrivals, some of whom had the idea that blocks should have been already prepared for their occupation. Indeed, the young colony experienced difficult years, even until the establishment of responsible Government in 1890, at which date the population had reached just over 43,000 persons. At that time Sir William Robinson was Governor, and Mr. John Forrest was first Premier.

The formalities of the establishment of the new colony now completed, we find Capt. Stirling, after an interval of two

years, once more on his way to Success Hill, this time accompanied by his secretary. This second visit has been honoured by the erection of a tablet at "Success Spring" by the Bassendean Road Board, on the occasion of the Centenary Celebrations of the Colony in 1929. Gaining the summit of the hill, and looking to the East, the Governor visualised a township, and he named his first selection of 4,500 acres, Guildford. Later on he built a residence at Guildford, naming it "Woodbridge." Guildford was the name of the hometown of Lady Stirling, and "Woodbridge" was the name of her old home.



"SUCCESS" SPRING.



THE ORIGINAL RESIDENCE, "BASSENDEAN."

From the same hill Peter Broun looked in the opposite direction. He selected his grant of 5,000 acres on the west side of the river, on September 29, 1829. On it he also built a residence, and settled his wife and young family. In naming the homestead "Bassendean" he perpetuated the name of his family seat in Berwickshire, in Scotland. This cottage remained in use for over 100 years, and its demolition was only completed in 1940. Even then the bricks, which it is thought probable that Mr. Broun brought out from England, were in a state of perfect preservation, and they were used in part construction of the more modern dwelling, erected by Mr. Hams.

Whilst delving in the books of the Archives Branch of the Public Library recently, our attention was drawn to an advertisement which appeared in "*The Inquirer*" of Wednesday, June 14, 1843. It is highly indicative of a broad mind and a Statesmanlike vision, and goes to prove that Peter Broun also visualised a township on his land at some future date. It also clearly shows that, whilst evidently endeavouring to maintain the old-time class distinctions of the Home Land, he recognised many flagrant instances of incompetency in the settlers now placed under entirely new conditions. Here is the Advertisement:—

**"BASSENDEAN."**

**"ADVANCE OF LABOURING CLASSES."**

"The proprietor of the estate of 'Bassendean,' being of opinion that the advance of the labouring classes towards the rank of farmers is greatly retarded by the practice of leasing to them on first setting up for themselves extensive tracts of land, he has determined on dividing that part of the estate which is situated on the right bank of the Swan immediately above Mr. Gorman's farm, into small sections of from 4 to 10 acres each, and to arrange these sections so as to adapt them for future establishment of a town in case circumstances render it desirable. These lots to be sold at fixed prices, the right of selection to be according to the order of application. It is proposed that a respectable labourer or mechanic who has laid up a little money should be enabled to purchase one of these sections to acquire a property which he could improve and render more valuable at leisure times without at once depriving himself of the aid of wages and where he could reside rent free. He would thus be enabled to take the first steps towards independence with safety, and so soon as his means become greater, he could either sell or let his section at an increased rate, and proceed to undertake a larger farm. For further particulars on application to the proprietor in Perth (or Messrs. Lawrence & Vigers)."

Mr. Wesley Maley followed the Broun family in occupation of "Bassendean" homestead, but in 1856, Mr. Malachi Meagre held the lease.

The original "Bassendean" homestead was situated in the S.E. corner of the district. The house was wisely placed, being high up on one of the most beautiful spots on the river, and about 50 yards from the waters edge. Originally the roof was shingled, but was later covered with iron.



MR. HAMS' NEW HOME

When Mr. Hams, the present owner, acquired the property the old house had not been occupied for some time, and had consequently fallen into disrepair, and he decided to build a more modern dwelling a little nearer the river. This was in 1940. For all the internal walls of the new building he used bricks from the old one; this rendered the balance of the historic building unsafe, and consequently it was wholly demolished in 1946. Some more of the old bricks were used in the construction of a store-room and garage. A fine row of olive trees, no doubt planted in Mr. Broun's time, still cast their shadows, and each year make their contribution to one or other of the oil refineries in the State.

The engraved silver matchbox, as illustrated, was recently unearthed by some of Mrs. Hams' white leghorns on the site of the old cottage. Inside the trinket was a Queen Victoria Fourpenny piece.



Quite a number of valuable coins, of various old dates and countries, have been picked up from time to time by Mr. Hams whilst digging in his garden, one being an English penny dated 1829. Mr. Hams finds the soil ideal for his roses, a fair sample of which are shown in the picture of his residence.

Following the selections of the Governor and his secretary, all adjoining lands were soon selected, and cultivation proceeded apace. With the crude implements available the work was slow and laborious; but these labours were backed up by determination and grit, and soon good crops were gathered by the sturdy pioneers. The lands on the east and south banks of the river were used mostly for sheep and cattle raising.

The first official record of agricultural activities is dated July, 1831, and tells of the formation of the Agricultural Society. This Society was formed at a meeting called in the Cleikum Inn, of which Mr. James Dodds was "mine host."

The first report of the society was handed to the Governor on February 9, 1832. It showed that a distinct advance had been made, and that, of 200 acres under cultivation, 160 were planted with wheat. This was no mean achievement, seeing that it was all planted by hand labour. The crops yielded well, and as early as January 21, 1832, George Fletcher Moore wrote: "We are all eating the produce of our own fields, and how sweet the bread; this is made in the simplest way . . . we grind the wheat in our own handmills. Nothing surprises me more than that we never baked our own bread at Home . . . Nothing is more simple. A handmill, sieve, and metal oven are the only machinery required." In 1837 it was reported that these pioneer colonists were "growing more wheat than they could consume for both food and seed."

As mentioned above the Agricultural Society was formed in 1831, and it is further recorded that the first Agricultural Show was held on November 6, 1834, "being in the nature of a cattle exhibition and picnic. There were very few exhibits." The Society continued to function through the years, and it was granted Royal Letters Patent in 1890, being now known as the Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia.

We have had access to a letter written by Mr. J. W. P. Thompson, in May, 1937, from which we take a few extracts:—

*"My grandfather, Mr. James Dodds, came out from England in the good ship 'Rockingham,' in 1830, with his wife and four children. The ship was anchored a short distance from the shore, now known as Rockingham (after the ship); the weather became rough and the ship was driven ashore . . . Eventually they got their belongings on a boat and sailed up the river, and landed where the Bassendean bridge stands to-day. He and his wife were so pleased with the place that grandfather took up 40 acres there. They built a house, but soon after settling in it a big flood came down in the night and washed it away, together with all the contents. However, being a man of much determination, he soon set to work and built a much better one on the higher bank, near to where Mr. Wicks' house stands to-day. After clearing the land, as no horses were available, he cleared and dug with a spade over an acre of the rich flat land, and sowed it with wheat. He reaped 60 bushels from it. This was undoubtedly one of the earliest crops in the Colony. He had to grind the wheat into flour with a coffee-mill. For fresh meat they had to depend on an occasional kangaroo, wild duck, or pigeon. Things became so hard for him, that some of his friends persuaded him to get a license for his house. He got a license, and called his place 'The Cleikum Inn.' He also ran a big ferry boat which carried all traffic over the river . . . The first Agricultural meeting was held in the Inn. After a few years he took up land a few miles from York (near Wilberforce), and called it 'Cobham.' He leased the West Guildford property, but the coming of the causeway diverted the traffic, and spoiled the business. On his death he bequeathed the West Guildford property to his daughter, Mary. She married Mr. John Thompson, and in the early 70's they went to live there, and built a house near to where Mr. Short's house now stands."*

Mr. Short's house, referred to in the above letter, stands on the North side of the road at Bassendean entrance of the bridge. It is a two-storied building. Mr. Wicks' residence is on the South side, immediately opposite.

Until the introduction of the convict system in 1850, few roads were constructed. Indeed, why worry, with such a beautiful waterway provided by nature? For many years the river was the main link between Fremantle and Perth, and for still many more it served as the main road from Fremantle to Guildford. This



THE LAST OF THE PENSIONERS' COTTAGES.

being the position, it naturally followed that the ship-building industry was quickly developed. It is on record that up to January, 1830, not less than 40 boats were constructed in the settlement. Possibly all these, produced as they were, within twelve months of settlement, were the flat-bottomed type of craft.

In April, 1833, there was a regular weekly cargo service operating on the river. The pioneer of that service was Mr. Lionel Lukin, a resident of West Guildford. The same gentleman also had a little 10-ton cutter, which he advertised "ran to schedule, wind and weather permitting."

In 1857, the "Pioneer," a steamer built of local timber, commenced a regular passenger service, running between Fremantle, Perth, and Guildford.

One of Bassendean's thin line of old identities (Mr. Asquith, of Anstey Road), is full of reminiscences of this industry around the 80's. He tells of one extra large effort, which at the time

created a difficulty. It was a barge 100ft. in length, a 24ft. beam, and 9ft. draught. He had on previous occasions assisted to build smaller craft, but when this particular effort was floated it would not go under the bridge. "Eventually," he said "the barge was half filled with sand and other junk—anything to weigh it down, and thus was got under the bridge and away to Coffee Point for completion."

In the early days it was the practise of the Government to grant a pension, or a block of land, to soldiers who were placed in charge of the various drafts of convicts on the voyage from England. Several of these blocks were selected on portion of Bassendean Estate, and cottages were built thereon. They were all grouped in the vicinity of Surrey Street. One was given the euphonic name of "The Retreat," possibly as a memory of the old army call. Only one of these cottages now remain. This is well preserved and renovated—an iron roof now covers the original thatch. It is occupied by Mr. and Mrs. McLean, in conjunction with the adjoining house, and looks to be good for many a year (see illustration).

The first semblance of a road from Perth to Guildford came into use in the early thirties. It was on the right (or West) bank of the river, and was merely a bush track. In course of time the gullies were spanned, and in 1835 it was recorded there was "communication for carriages, although the sandy nature of the country traversed makes travelling heavy." Records state that Governor Stirling often travelled over this road to "Woodbridge." To do this he would of necessity have to use the ferry, which was really a punt, built to carry a horse and vehicle. It was not long before an enterprising business man turned up and we learn of the establishment of "The Pineapple Inn" on the route, in the vicinity of Maylands. Apart from this Inn very few houses would be met with on the track, until the Cleikum Inn was reached. This Inn was built in 1830-31, but no relic of it remains. A roomy residence built by Mr. Chas. Wicks and occupied by him to-day is on the identical spot. The ferry was also started in 1831, and served about 50 years, until the first bridge was built across the river.

The road on the left (East) bank of the river, through Belmont, did not come into general use until after the construction of the Perth Causeway, in 1842/3.



THE FIRST BRIDGE (1885).

Photo from a Sketch by R. W. Clarke, R.N.



A nice panorama, showing old and new Railway Bridges, also the second Traffic Bridge, demolished 1937.

The first bridge was built under contract with the Council by Mr. Ben Mason, who, by-the-way, was the builder of the first Fremantle bridge. His Guildford contract cost £600, and was completed in 1885/6. It was demolished in 1904.

The second bridge in the same position was built for the Government by Engineer Parry (son of Bishop Parry). This second one was later replaced by a third, built under contract with the Main Roads Board, by Mr. R. A. Oldham. The contract was let on August 7, 1935. It was completed in November, 1937. This bridge has 21 spans of 20ft., and one of 40ft., making 460ft. in length. The contract price for the present bridge was £8,029, but consequent on several innovations being later introduced

into the design the contract figure was slightly exceeded.

On the extreme left of the picture part of the old Santa Rosa Tower, which has been for so long a familiar landmark, can be seen. This building is now owned by Mr. Young (see photo in Chapter IV).

At the foot of the snap we purposely included some of the old timbers of a previous bridge — possibly the first one, although that point is disputed by some.



THE PRESENT BRIDGE  
(Showing old timbers of previous one.)



There was one fair-sized holding met with on that early track to Perth, owned by Dr. John Whatley, who came out from England in the "Atwick." He arrived on October 22, 1829. Dr. Whatley's grant extended from the vicinity of the present Bayswater Railway Station, down to the river. The railway line to Ascot runs through what was originally the doctor's grant, and a siding on the line perpetuates his name. The doctor, evidently, was no bushman, and indicative of the heavy and unsettled nature of the country at that time, we reprint the following note, taken from Mrs. Whatley's diary:—

*"John has gone to Perth on horseback to-day to attend a Government Levee, in honour of the King's Birthday. I excused myself. He started very early, wishing to call on some patients on the way, and about two hours after he left I was surprised to see him back again: and he was not much less surprised to see himself here. He had completely lost his way, having forgotten to take his compass."*

And Whatley Siding is only about five miles from Perth.

\* \* \* \*

The water supply up till 1890 was obtained from springs, wells, and tanks, but in 1890 the Government put down a bore to 1,200 feet for a town supply, cased to 300ft., and this water was of the highest pathological value. The town is now linked with the Mundaring Scheme.

\* \* \* \*

The Lockeridge Hotel, a well-known landmark situated near the Bassendean end of the railway bridge, was built by a Perth syndicate in 1897, ostensibly as a week-end Rest House, and it was customary for trains to pull up at the spot each Saturday to allow patrons to alight. The venture was not a success, and the house was delicensed. It was later purchased by Mr. J. T. Short. For some years it was used as a hospital. In 1909 it was the home of a Girls' High School. Subsequently it was used as an Old Men's Home, under the management of the Salvation Army, and then, during World War II, as an "Eventide Women's Home," the inmates having been evacuated from the Army Home at Fremantle.

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Bassendean folk entered heartily into the spirit of the Centenary Celebrations in 1929. A local committee was formed

to draw up a comprehensive programme for a full week's jollifications, which extended from Saturday, October 26, to November 1.

The celebrations started off with a monster sports gathering on the Saturday afternoon, held on the Oval. The prizes of the day were presented during the Picture Show interval at night. On the next day (Sunday) a combined religious service was held in the Bassendean Town Hall, at 2.30. On Monday a Grand Concert was put on at 8 p.m., this being greatly helped by the local Orchestral Society, and various supporting artists. The children were accorded a special Matinee at the Pictures on the Wednesday afternoon, and at night a Grand Ball was given, for which fixture a special orchestra had been engaged.

It was a memorable week, and the committee responsible were accorded due praise from all sections. As their final gesture the committee handed to the Road Board the substantial balance of £52, with their unanimous suggestion that the money be used for the erection of a fountain, and Centenary Commemorative Tablet, at the site of the spring used by Governor Stirling in 1829, on Success Hill (see picture on page 10).



GROUP WHO ATTENDED CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS AT SUCCESS SPRING.





CEREMONY OF HANDING OVER NEW FIRE ENGINE, DECEMBER 4, 1938  
(Mr. J. R. Campbell, President of the W.A. Fire Brigade Board, shakes hands with the Chairman of the Bassenden Road Board, Mr. E. E. Ireland, J.P.)

## CHAPTER TWO

# THE ROAD BOARD

*"Nestigia Nulla Retrorsum."*

UNTIL the close of the 19th century the administration of this district was under the control of the Guildford Municipal Council. Records show that, when the boundaries of the new Board were being arranged, some rates adjustment was requisite with the Bayswater Board. Evidently very little, if anything had been done in regard to lighting or road formation, the activities of the Council being concerned only with rate collections and the adjustment of Land Titles and settlement. It was but natural that residents on the west side of the river became dissatisfied.

Fortunately there were three gentlemen residing in West Guildford who possessed outstanding organising ability and experience, Messrs. Jackson, Short and Wood (see footnote). These

Mr. Cyril Jackson, M.A., was appointed Inspector-General of Schools in Western Australia in 1896. He was sent out from England with a free hand, and instructions to remodel the whole system of education in the State. He was responsible, amongst other reforms, for the establishment of the Teachers' Training College at Claremont. On his recommendation Mr. Cecil Andrews was brought from England in 1902 to assist him, and on his return to England in 1903, he appointed Mr. Andrews as his successor. Soon after Mr. Jackson's return to England he was elected a member of Parliament, and later was knighted.

Mr. John Tregerthen Short, J.P., was appointed Commissioner of Railways in 1907. He was born at St. Ives, Cornwall, July 27, 1858, and landed in South Australia in 1877. He came to West Australia as manager of the Great Southern Railway in 1886, and on the purchase of the G.S.R. by the Government he was appointed Chief Traffic Manager (1896).

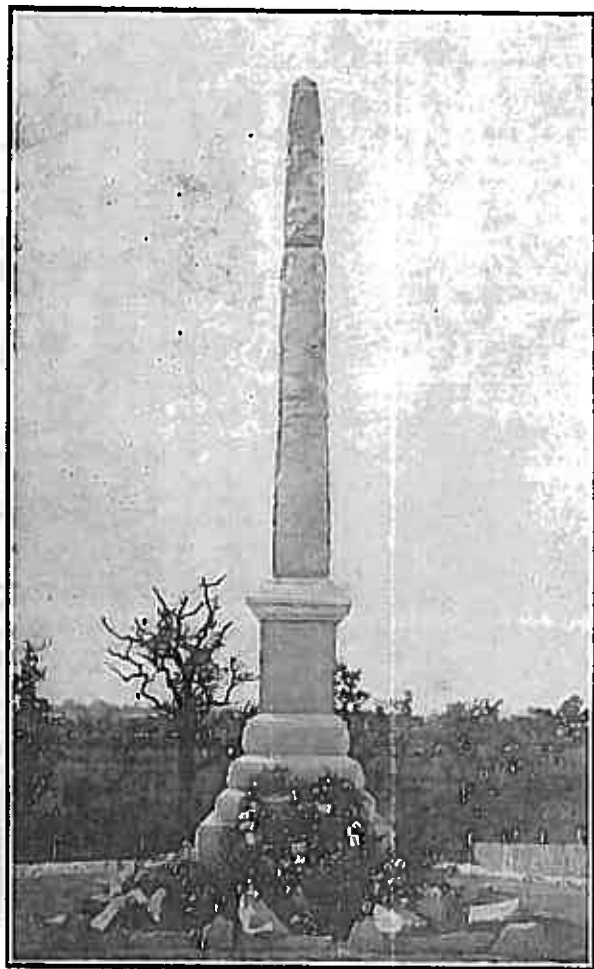
Mr. G. T. Wood was born in 1863. He came to W.A. from N.Z. in the 90's. In August, 1896, he was appointed managing clerk in the Crown Law Dept., and came to live at West Guildford. In 1906 he was attached to the Criminal Courts, and in December, 1908, was appointed Resident Magistrate for Broome. In February, 1920, he was transferred to Bunbury, and in October, 1922, he was recalled to the city and appointed Senior Metropolitan Magistrate. Mr. Wood retired on March 3, 1933.

gentlemen joined with others in a series of discussions regarding ways and means of improving the great disabilities under which they lived. A public meeting was held on Oct. 3, 1900, in Guildford; and the ultimate result of that meeting was the secession of West Guildford from Guildford. Later a petition was signed by 104 rate-payers out of 239 (many of the latter being non-resident owners), and this petition was lodged with the Lands Department on March 27, 1901.

After the preparation of the rolls a further meeting was convened for July 12. This meeting was held in the billiard room of the residence of Mr. Cyril Jackson, and it was unanimously agreed to form a Board. Mr. Jackson was appointed to the chair, and Mr. G. T. Wood, J.P., was appointed the hon. secretary. The following were appointed to complete the personnel of that first Road Board: Messrs. W. B. Clinch, James Lamb, Robert McKinley, John Pringle and Charles R. Wicks. Mr. J. H. Munday was returning officer. (Of that first Board only Mr. Wicks now resides in Bassendean).



MR. JACKSON'S RESIDENCE,  
where first meeting was held.



SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL (See Page 46).



A VIEW OF BASSENDEAN TAKEN 1910.

The iron house is in Parker Street, and the two large ones with verandahs in Kenny Street.



OPENING DAY OF B.I.C. GROUNDS (See Page 32).

Four motions are recorded as having been passed at that first meeting, as follows:—

- 1.—That repairs to the plank footpaths be undertaken, special mention being made of (a) the path opposite Mr. Jackson's residence, and (b) the path opposite Mr. McKinley's residence.
- 2.—That a footpath is desirable through Mrs. Thompson's paddock. Mrs. Thompson had evidently been interviewed by the proposer, who reported that the lady concerned was agreeable to lease the necessary strip of land for a consideration, i.e., the remission of the health rates on her property. This amount was quoted as being 35/-. Mrs. Thompson's offer was accepted, and the secretary undertook to have a lease drawn up immediately, and to attend to the signatories.
- 3.—That the secretary ascertain the cost of having a lamp placed on the western entrance of the bridge. (This information was also forthcoming. The town lamplighter quoted 3/6 per week). This matter was deferred, pending further enquiries.
- 4.—That the Hon. Secretary be authorised to procure one rubber stamp. (No mention was made in regard to stationery, so we must assume that the secretary was allowed to use his own writing pad, and affix the Board's name thereto with the aid of the rubber stamp).

Regular meetings of the Board were held fortnightly, but members were so keen that special meetings in the interim were fairly frequent. An all-in effort for progress was distinctly evident on every hand.

Government officials in Perth soon became familiar with that little rubber stamp. At almost every meeting of the Board the Secretary was instructed to communicate with some one or other of the Government departments on behalf of desired improvements in the district. Furthermore, the Board expected prompt attention to their requests; if replies were not tabled at the following meeting the secretary was promptly instructed to "send a follower," asking what had happened to their request.

The first valuations of the district were made by Mr. F. Cumberland in 1901. Notice of Gazettal of the Board was published on July 19, 1901, and By-laws were gazetted on February 5, 1904.

At the second meeting of the Board, held on August 2, 1901, the secretary reported that he had "purchased a shovel, a brace and bit, a hammer, and 9lbs. of nails." This action was confirmed, and the account was passed for payment.

At a meeting held the following week (August 9), the Chairman reported that he had waited on the Minister, being introduced by Dr. Jamieson, and had asked for:—

- (a) £50 for initial expenses of the Board.
- (b) £1,000 for building roads.
- (c) A Grant for Main Roads, with special mention of the construction of a road from Perth via Bayswater.

The chairman (Mr. Jackson) said that in regard to (a) the Minister had stated he would consider this amount, and subsequent minutes record that it was granted on October 4 following. Regarding (b) he said: "the Minister seemed *rather staggered*, but promised to consider it, and concerning (c) his reply was: "the request must be put in writing."

At this meeting, owing to his imminent departure for England, Mr. Jackson tendered his resignation as Chairman of the Board, and at the same time stated that the Board was very welcome to continue to hold its meetings in his room. It was agreed "That the Chairman's resignation be not accepted," and Mr. Jackson was forthwith granted six months' leave of absence, and Mr. Pringle was appointed acting Chairman pro tem.

The secretary reported various arrears in rates, and it was agreed that Mr. F. C. Cumberland be approached with a suggestion that he attend to the collection of same "at not more than 3 per cent," but his reply that he "would collect on 7½% basis" was accepted.

The West Guildford Board of Health was gazetted in January, 1902, Mr. Pringle was chairman, with Messrs. C. Jackson, W. B. Clinch, J. Lamb, R. McKinley, C. R. Wicks, and G. T. Wood (hon. sec.), Dr. J. E. Ferguson-Stewart was appointed Health Officer, at £10 per annum. Mr. F. C. Cumberland was invited to act as Health Inspector, and with his acceptance to state what salary he required. On January 19, 1903, the health officer reported the first case of fever. He could find no local source, and concluded it had been contracted in Perth. During the first year of the Board's existence the first organised sanitary service was introduced.

At the Road Board meeting held on February 21, 1902, the secretary advised the Board that the work had grown too much for him to cope with in his time available, and "Mr. Rate-Collector Cumberland was appointed as assistant-secretary at a salary of £24 per annum, and also as health inspector at £6 p.a." Apparently Mr. Cumberland had his own private office, as no mention of the provision of an office was made at this stage. Thirteen months later his salary as Secretary was increased to £35 p.a., and that as health officer was raised to £10. He was also granted a set of pigeon-holes for his office table—"to cost up to 70/-."

The first Ratepayers' Meeting was held on February 21, 1902, and at that meeting agitation was commenced for a railway station at West Guildford, but it was not until 1910 that the station was built.

In the interim suggestions are found that it was customary to stop stated trains to allow Bassendean passengers to alight. These would be the workers' trains. At this meeting (1902) it was also first suggested that the Lands Department be asked to grant the land suitable for a Road Boards office, and also that the spot now known as the *Point* be gazetted as a swimming reserve.

On August 18, 1902, an application for a wine and beer license was turned down by the Road Board, with the comment: "a majority of this Board do not approve until required by greater population."

On March 6, 1903, the secretary was instructed to write to the P.M.G., making request for a "daily delivery of letters." Evidently this request was futile, for on October 12, 1906, the records show that another letter was sent asking the Department to "extend delivery of letters to 1½ miles radius from Guildford P.O." To this a reply was received: "Until macadamised roads or footpaths are provided radial of present delivery will continue." At this same meeting the chairman (Mr. Cyril Jackson) tendered his resignation consequent upon his early return to England.

On November 6, 1903, a discussion took place over the felling of a tree at the intersection of Perth Road and North Street, and it was thereupon agreed: "That no tree possessing interesting features should be destroyed, unless absolutely necessary to the safe conduct of traffic."

It was during the Chairmanship of Mr. J. T. Short, J.P. (who followed Mr. Jackson, 1903-5) that the first rented offices for the Board were secured. The Board was meeting at Mr. Short's residence, "The Briars," at the time. This first office was situated opposite to the entrance to the Oval, on Perth Road. This building was of galvanised iron, and belonged to Mr. Guppy. It still is in occupation as a shop, but a verandah has been added.

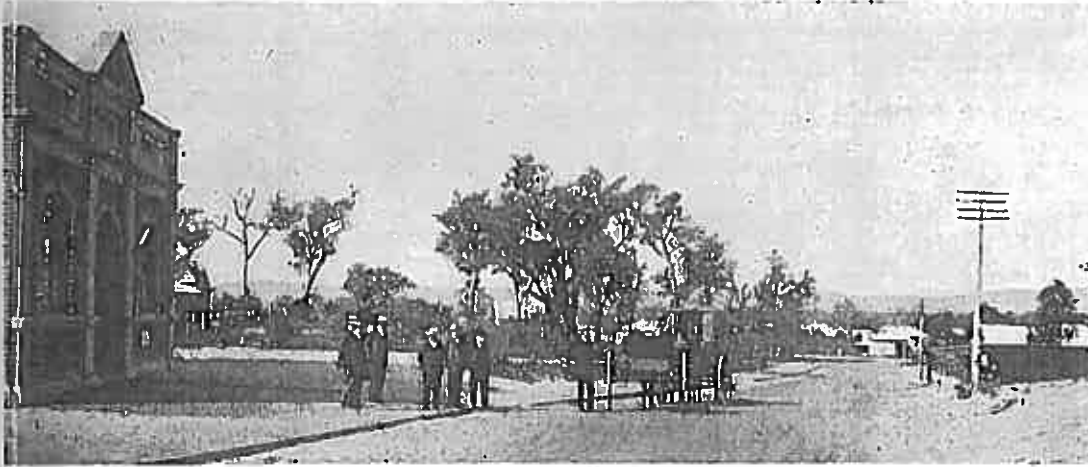
When in 1904 the W.A.G.R. workshops were transferred to Midland Junction, the district received a distinct stimulus, due to the fact that many railway employees bought blocks, and built in Bassendean.

The first meeting in the new premises was held on March 23, 1905. It was that night agreed by the Board: "That the secretary be paid 7/6 per month for use of his furniture now placed in the Board room." A vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman "for placing his dining-room at the disposal of the Board for its meetings in the past," and also to Mr. G. T. Wood, the hon. sec., "for caring for the records of the Board in his own home." At that meeting a letter was received from the newly formed Progress Association, stating that "the Association had been formed to be a help to the Board, and to advance the interests of the district, and in no wise to work contrary to the Board." The main objectives of the Association appear to have been the securing for the district of a railway station, a State School, and a Post Office.

The first Ratepayers' Auditor was Mr. Murray Gardiner. He was appointed at a Ratepayers' meeting held on December 10, 1902, at a fee of 2/2/- per annum. Mr. Gardiner is still a resident of the district. To-day the monthly audit costs in the vicinity of £60 per annum, half of which fee is paid by the Government.

On October 27, 1904, the Lands Department granted Lot 198 for a Road Board office site, and Lot 197 for a Recreation Reserve (both on diagram 1005/6, plan 9099). Also a further road, 75 links wide, on each side of these lots, running from North Road to the river.

On September 28, 1905, a deputation of Ratepayers, headed by Mr. J. T. Davies, asked the Board to take steps to secure the extension of the Mundaring-Guildford scheme to the district, and this extension was made.



THE FIRST HALL — ROAD BOARD INSPECTION DAY, 1913.

Left to right: C. R. Wicks, J. D. Trott (Secretary), H. M. Sharman, K. W. Kemp, J. Downing, G. Bulley, J. Pickering.

Towards the end of 1906, the secretary (Mr. F. C. Cumberland) expressed a desire to be relieved of the position, and in October, 1906, the position was advertised, calling applications for combined office of "secretary, rate collector and health inspector, at a salary of £120 per annum. Office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 to 5 p.m. Private work allowed. (Signed) G. T. Wood, chairman." To this advertisement 40 applications were received, and Mr. J. H. Swinbourn was appointed.

In March, 1907, the office hours were altered to 10-5, and the office was opened for one hour in the evening (7 to 8).

Until April, 1907, it had been the custom for the lamp-lighter (Mr. Gould) not to light the lamps on the "three nights before or the three nights after full moon." This was rescinded and new instructions were issued that the exempt period be "five nights before and the three nights after full moon." In those days the street lighting was derived from hurricane lamps (set on top of a square post 4 or 5ft. high), at a cost of 3/6 per lamp per week. On December 7 of the same year another minute reads: "That £2/2/- reward be offered for information leading to the conviction of any person damaging lamps or other property of the Board."

On July 7, 1907, the district was divided into three wards (vide Lands Department file 16077/99), and on September 16 the boundaries of the various wards were decided.

In 1906 the Recreation Reserve (now Bassendean Oval) was top dressed and sown with couch grass.

In 1907 a move was made for the formation of a cricket club, and the Board agreed to a request that the Board room be granted free for the inaugural meeting. The club's application for the use of the new concrete cricket pitch was also approved, with the following proviso: "That the cricket pitch be opened by the West Guildford Road Board challenging the Guildford Municipal Council to a friendly game of cricket, to be held on September 27, 1907, and that expenses shall not exceed £3." (This challenge match remained an annual fixture for many years).

In 1907 the Board's proposal to build a Road Board Hall was turned down at a meeting of ratepayers, who, it would appear were at the time scheming for the erection of a Mechanics' Institute. Forthwith a motion was carried by the Board: "That the telephone be connected with the office for the use of the Board without delay." And then, in January, 1908 (the weather was probably extra hot), a motion was passed: That two water jugs and one dozen tumblers be procured for the Board room, also enamel wash basin and soap dish," which suggests that as they were frustrated in their hopes of a new hall, they proposed to make the best of the office they occupied.

About this time an election was approaching, and there was a motion: "That the Board call a meeting to hear the expressions of views of candidates for Road Board honours." A member asked who was to pay for the room, and here the chairman evidently saw a chance to get even with those ratepayers who scorned the proposal for a new hall. He replied to the question by suggesting "that the candidates put in a bob or so for the room, as same was



not the Board's property," and the questioner retorted, "other Boards don't charge," but the chairman played a trump card by stating, "Yes, and quite probably they also own their own hall."

Four years later, at a special meeting of ratepayers (June 6, 1911), plans for a Public Hall and Road Board Offices were presented for inspection, and the minutes record: "It was resolved that plans as presented be adopted." A deputation to wait on the Minister for Works in regard to obtaining financial assistance was arranged, and on August 29 a further meeting was held to prepare a definite scheme to finance the proposal.

Some time previous to this a fund had been inaugurated by the Progress Association with the object of erecting a Mechanics' Institute, and land was donated by the Chief Justice (Sir Henry Parker) and Dr. Kenny, but it was eventually decided to hand over all the assets towards the new project, with the proviso that "in the hall to be constructed by the Road Board a room shall be set aside as a Mechanics' Institute Library." On January 15, 1912, the contract for the hall was signed by Messrs. Anderson and Swinbourn, at a cost of £798/8/8. The main hall measured 50ft. x 30ft., wide. At a special meeting held April 10, 1912, it was decided: "That one gross Vienna chairs be purchased, and also 12 forms." (These forms are now in use in the Methodist school room). It was also decided to arrange for the Premier to perform the opening ceremony. £10 was voted for the opening banquet, but at a later meeting a further £3 was voted. A tender was accepted from the Rice-Knight Co. for lighting the hall, but advice was received that this particular light had been placed on the dangerous list by the Underwriters' Association. The Board thereon switched over and agreed "That acetylene lighting be installed, and that an arc lamp be provided for the front of the hall." The first function to be held in the new hall was arranged by a local committee, and was in aid of the Children's Hospital. That was on May 10, 1912.



BASSENDEAN IN 1912 (showing additions to Hall).







LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE OF HALL  
By Hon. W. J. George, assisted by Mr. J. T. Davies, M.L.A.

In December, 1913, it was decided to enlarge the Town Hall, and the contract for these extensions was let to Mr. T. H. Schwartz for £742, and the official opening took place on May 13, 1914. There was a great entertainment on the opening night. The Premier (Hon. J. Scaddan) was the guest of honour. The musical programme was supplied by the Perth Philharmonic Society, with Mr. J. R. Greenwood as musical director. Mr. Greenwood was an enthusiast, and did much to raise the local standard of the art. His photo now hangs in the Board room, with an engraved plate affixed to the frame, as follows: "In memory of the late J. R. Greenwood, as an expression of appreciation by his many admirers in Musical Circles."

In 1920 the Board suffered adverse litigation in connection with drainage matters, and on January 11, 1921, the whole Board resigned. Mr. E. J. Clay was chairman of the Board at that time. On February 4, 1921, Mr. A. E. Sanderson was appointed Commissioner, and occupied the office until April 13, 1921, at which date a new Board was appointed with Mr. J. Pickering as Chairman.

Again in 1921 it was evident that the growth of the district necessitated a larger Public Hall, and extensive additions were

completed in 1922. The official Opening of the enlarged Hall was performed by Hon. F. T. Broun, M.L.A., Colonial Secretary.

And just here we claim a slight digression.

Some months after the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Broun in Western Australia, a second son was born to them, and they named him James William. This son served some time in the British Army and on his return to W.A., he married Miss Emily Caroline Iakin, of West Guildford. They went to live on the Jelesbine Estate, in the York district. Their family comprised five sons and eight daughters. In the early 50's Mr. Broun disposed of "Jelesbine," and purchased "Avondale Park," in the Beverley district, and later the adjoining property of "Waterhatch." At his death these properties fell to his sons George and Frank respectively. It was the latter son, Frank Tyndal Broun, who entered Parliament in 1911, as M.L.A. for Beverley, and following in his honoured grandfather's steps, he became Colonial Secretary (in 1919). It was undoubtedly a proud day for him, and unique, when, as Colonial Secretary, he came to "Bassendean" on April 7th, 1922, and performed the opening ceremony of the enlarged Town Hall (the town of his grandfather's vision). Frank Tyndal Broun died in 1930, and "Waterhatch" is now in the possession of his son, William Owen Tyndal Broun, M.M. (New Guinea).



UNVEILING OF WAR MEMORIAL (December, 1920).

It was in 1923 that the name of the district was changed to "Bassendean," and shortly after the change the Bassendean Improvement Committee was formed.

The general development of the district created the necessity during 1935 of again increasing the office accommodation, and this was also the case with the Electricity Department. That the job was thoroughly done, and the needs met, can be seen from the illustrations in this book, and the Bassendean Road Board now has one of the most roomy and up-to-date Board rooms, and probably the best group of offices in the State.

This new building was officially opened on October 17, 1936. The Hon. H. Millington, M.L.A. (Minister for Works), unveiled the tablet which commemorates the opening, and Mrs. R. A. McDonald officially opened the new building with a gold key (presented to her by the Bassendean Road Board), suitably inscribed. The architects presented the Minister with a silver trowel to commemorate the occasion.

Following is a full description of the building:—

The upper floor main entrance, which is by circular steps and columned porchway, leads into a lobby. From this lobby the Public Office is entered through monogrammed plate glass swing doors, with clear glass and jarrah panelled framing enclosing the same; also the General Office, the counter of which is fitted with drawers, card lockers, shelving, sliding doors and bronze grills, and with communicating chute to Basement. The floor space of these offices is 34ft. x 24ft.; the Strong Room, in reinforced concrete, is 11ft. 9in. x 6ft. 6in., with concrete shelves; a passageway leads off from the general office to a store room, and the ladies' lavatory.

From the main entrance lobby a hallway leads to the Board Room (35ft. x 25ft.), which is finished to walls with a dado of white cement and yellow sand, lined out to imitate masonry, and above dado tinted texture retarded plaster to picture rail, and coved corniced ceiling in white plaster sheets, moulded and panelled out, and with raised centre flowers, allowing outlet ventilation into roof. The floor is jarrah, with raised dais at one end of room.

The Chairman's Room (15ft. 6in. x 13ft.) is finished in a similar manner.

The Secretary's Room (15ft. 6in. x 10ft.) has clear glass

framing above dado to hallway, giving a view of the Public and General offices.

Internal lavatory accommodation is provided.

The Basement of new building is entirely taken up by the Electricity Department with its high tension cables, transformers, switch board and cable troughings, partitioned off and enclosed with link mesh screens and gates, and ceiled with reinforced concrete, the floor area being 25ft. x 16ft. 6in., and the workshop connected therewith 35ft. x 25ft. with granolithic floor and plaster sheet ceiling and fitted up with benches, etc; the Electrical Engineer's office leading off from same being 15ft. 6in. x 13ft., with side external entrance, and the storage floor space is 40ft. x 24ft.

All of the lighting and power connections have been installed by the Board's Electrical Engineer.

The wallings of the building are of cavity brickwork externally, on concrete footings; the jarrah joists to upper floor are supported on R.S. stanchions and joists with jarrah flooring; steel window frames have been used throughout, and the roof tiled with Marseilles pattern of tiles. The walls externally are cemented with white cement and yellow sand lined out.

Wherever possible, materials of State production and manufacture have been used.

The style of architecture is modernistic.

The contract price for the building was £2,683. The architects were Messrs. Powell, Cameron and Chisholm, and the contractors Messrs. Smallwood and Lawson.

The Electricity Supply is provided by a 20,000 volt three phase line from the State Electricity Commission's Station at East Perth, brought to transformer stations in the district where it is stepped down for distribution to 2,000/440/250 volts, by the Board's Electricity Department.

Electricity is available for factories, pumps, general power, lighting and domestic current. The district is provided with a good street lighting system. A large portion of the Main Road (Perth-Guildford Road) is lit with 400 watt mercury lamps. In other parts of the district the wattage of the lamps varies from 60 to 50 watts. Provision is also made for night tennis, croquet and bowling.

During the year 1945 a modern sub-station was built to supply the North side of the line.

At the time of the secession from the Municipality of Guildford, and the formation of the present Road Board area, there were practically no roads nor footpaths, other than the main road from Perth, for the most part of which would be gravel. In that same year the revenue was £115, and the unimproved values were very low. In 1912 the population of the district was set down as 1,350; gross revenue as £2,568/10/4, and expenditure £2,615/12/-. The ratepayers totalled 1,100. In 1920 the revenue had increased to the vicinity of £4,000, and a total of 16 miles of macadamised roads had been constructed, and four miles of gravel footpath.

Following is the position regarding the revenue and activities of the Bassendean Road Board, as at June, 1947:

Population	6,000	Miles	
Number of Ratepayers	2,034	Bitumen Roads	25
Assessments	3,220	Gravel Roads	17
Dwellings Occupied	1,300	Slag and Gravel	2
		Total	44

Prepared footpaths totalled 16 miles, including a large proportion of concrete slab footpaths.

The Revenue totals £13,000, and the unimproved value is stated as £104,000.

#### Bassendean Road Board — Electricity Supply Department.

1927				1947			
Voltage	2,200/250			Voltage	20,000/2,200/440/250		
Single Phase Mains	15 miles			Single Phase Mains	25 Miles		
Three Phase Mains	Nil			Three Phase Mains	15 Miles		
Consumers	700			Consumers	1,525		
Street Lights.				Street Lights.			
N.W.	E.W.	W.W.	Reserves	N.W.	E.W.	W.W.	Reserves
57	73	45	Nil	144	105	75	14
	(175)				(339)		
Kilowatts Purchased	237,251			Kilowatts Purchased	1,173,169		
Transformers	160 K.V.A.			Transformers	625 K.V.A.		
Motors Connected	40 H.P.			Motors Connected	426 H.P.		

The following is a list of various gentlemen who have served on the Board in the capacity of Chairman, with period of service in parentheses:—

Mr. Cyril Jackson (1901-3).	
Mr. J. T. Short (1903-5).	Mr. G. T. Wood (1905-7).
Mr. C. R. Wicks (1907-8, 1910-13, 1917-20).	
Mr. F. J. Huelin (1909-10)	Mr. P. J. Atkins (1908-9).

Mr. J. Pickering (1913-14, 1921-23).

Mr. A. Y. Garnsworthy (1914-15).

Mr. H. C. Barnard (1915-17). Mr. E. J. Clay (1920-21).

Mr. W. T. Smythe (died during term, 1922).

Mr. J. M. Steele (1923-28). Mr. J. Gallagher (1928-29).

Mr. E. E. Ireland (1938-39).

Mr. R. A. McDonald (1929-38, 1939-47), a record of 17 years.

Mr. J. H. Smallman was elected in 1947.

The following is a list of the names of the various gentlemen who have served in the capacity of Secretary to the Board:—

Mr. G. T. Wood (Honorary)	1901-5
Mr. F. C. Cumberland (Assistant)	1902-5
Mr. F. C. Cumberland	1905-6
Mr. J. H. Swinbourn	1906-10
Mr. J. H. Trott	1910-18
Mr. G. Wyndham	1918-21
Mr. R. Sargent	1921-27
Mr. G. S. Lindsay	1927-33
Mr. L. R. Latham	1933-44

Mr. F. B. Mason, the present secretary, was appointed in 1944.

Mr. Mason's first association with Road Board work was with the Nungarin Board in 1925, and prior to coming to Bassendean he served with Nungarin, Koorda, and Mundaring Boards. He is a grandson of Mr. Ben Mason, well known in bridge-building of early days. The same Ben was contractor for the first Guildford Bridge, and also for the first "Matchstick" bridge at Fremantle. In later years he was connected with the firm of Port and Honey, timber merchants.

#### MEMBERS OF BOARD, 1901-1947.

An asterisk indicates that member has also served as Chairman.

C. Jackson*	1901-03
J. Pringle	1901-06
C. R. Wicks*	1901-13 1917-20
R. McKinley	1901-05
J. Lambie	1901-04
F. W. B. Clinch	1901-02
G. T. Wood*	1901-07
J. Hyland	1902-08
J. T. Short*	1903-05
C. J. McSwain	1904-08 1909-13
F. N. A. Giles	1905-06

THE HISTORY OF BASSENDEAN

R. W. Anderson	1905-07	1910-12	W. Clarke	1919-20	
P. J. Atkins*	1906-09		W. H. H. Adie	1920-21	
G. A. Lefroy	1906-09		W. T. Smyth*	1920-21	1921-23
J. T. Davies	1907-11		J. E. Wilkinson	1920-21	
J. A. Gillan	1907-09		A. E. Yelland	1921-22	
F. J. Huelin*	1908-10		J. M. Steele*	1921-30	
J. Asquith	1908-09		H. Brisbane	1921-22	1929-35 1935-37
E. Burgess	1909		E. Coolahan	1921-23	
H. C. Barnard*	1909-17		J. W. Forsythe	1922-25	
E. J. Clay*	1909-14	1915-16 1919-21	W. Schofield	1923-25	
G. E. Lunt	1909-12		P. J. Orr	1923-28	
J. Miller	1909-11		H. D. McGlew	1923-25	
J. G. Dixon	1909-10		E. J. Gaunt	1924-37	
W. A. Swinbourn	1911-12	1914-16	F. Brayshaw	1924-25	
J. B. Addenbrooke	1910-12		H. L. Kirke	1925-28	1940-47
W. A. Billing	1911-13		A. Young	1925-27	
K. W. Kemp	1912-14		J. Gallagher*	1925-33	
J. Downing	1912-14		W. Hardman	1927-30	
H. M. Sharman	1912-16		J. E. Cloughton	1928-31	
C. H. Kay	1912-13		E. S. Stewart	1928-31	
Geo. Bulley	1913		T. E. Johnson	1930-38	
J. Pickering*	1913-17	1921-22 1922-29	A. W. Baldoek	1930-38	
A. Y. Garnsworthy*	1913-17		J. L. Watkins	1931-39	
G. Wyndham	1913-16		F. J. Shepherd	1931-33	
J. R. Greenwood	1913-15		D. Strachan	1933-35	
G. J. Packham	1914-15		G. OAKLEY	1933-47	
A. Drysdale	1914-15	1916-24 1925-34	E. E. Ireland*	1934-42	
R. A. McDONALD*	1915	1922-47	B. J. Richards	1935-36	
J. Manning	1915-18	1921-24	W. A. Burnett	1936-44	
W. J. Wilson	1915-16		D. R. F. Jackson	1937-39	
G. Ryce	1916-19		J. H. SMALLMAN*	1940-47	
F. Spencer	1916-19		C. O. FREIBERG	1939-40	1946-47
E. G. Winning	1916-17		E. D. MANN	1939-47	
W. Chinnery	1916-19		J. Hardacre	1939-45	
W. Frew	1917-20		N. McSwain	1941-43	
H. Shardlow	1917-19		R. W. Knights	1943-45	
R. Birkhead	1917-21		E. W. HATTON	1944-47	
G. Jenkinson	1918-21	1921-23	H. G. CLEMENTS	1945-47	
A. S. M. Turner	1919-21		H. J. Chipper	1946-47	
H. Berry	1919-21		N. GOULD	1947-	
			E. C. BRINKWORTH	1947-	

**MR. CHARLES R. WICKS, J.P.**

*(Appointed to first Board in 1901—Chairman in 1907—and still a resident).*

The only surviving member of the first Road Board appointed in 1901, is Mr. Chas. R. Wicks. He is a builder by trade, and very many of the houses of the district to-day bear testimony to his diligence and painstaking work. Mr. Wicks built for himself and family a spacious residence; it is situated on land which includes the original site of the old Cleikum Inn (mentioned on another page as having been established by Mr. James Dodds in the early 1830's). Mr. Wicks' title gives the boundary of his holding as Perth Road, North Road, and Bridge Street. Very few people know of Bridge Street. It is on the river bank (street in name only, having no formation), but it is undoubtedly the spot from which the first ferry crossed to Guildford in the old days, and from where the first bridge built started.

Mr. Wicks' boundary is in North Road. This street seems to have been popular with Road Board members, and at one time no less than five had their residence there. This fact was noticed by a visiting pressman, and in his resultant article he spoke of the street as "Quality Street."

On the occasion of Mr. Wicks' retirement from the Board in 1920, he was presented with a handsome illuminated address, a replica of which hangs in the Boardroom. It includes a picture of himself, his home, and the first Road Board Hall. Mr. Wicks still looks back on his Board work as a happy experience, and rejoices in reminiscence and records of advancement made. He served on the Board for 15 years, and seven of those years as chairman. Perhaps one of the best achievements of the Board during his term was the acquisition of the Recreation Reserve. One can see in this move the influence of his natural bent. He was ever a keen sportsman, and felt the urge for a game of cricket, and other outdoor sports, and he realised, too, their potential value to the growing community. In his younger days he was keen in all sport, and shows with pride to-day, the gold plate which was attached to the tennis racquet which was presented to him on the occasion of the opening of the first tennis courts on the local oval.

Although now in his 78th year, Mr. Wicks is still fairly active. It is some years since he transferred his business interests to his son.

**MR. JOHN HYLAND.**

*(Appointed to first vacancy on the Board in 1902, and still a resident).*

The first vacancy which occurred on the original Board was caused by the tragic death of Mr. F. W. B. Clinch, who was lost, with all on board, when the "Koombana" disappeared in the cyclone in the N.W. Mr. John Hyland was selected to fill the vacancy. That was in 1902, and he served for six years. Mr. Hyland's father was a soldier, and brought a batch of convicts out from England. He received a grant of land in the vicinity of West Guildford, and it was there his son John was born in 1869. To get to school the lad used to cross the ferry punt, which in Guildford was worked by a "ticket" man, and he has a special reason for remembering one of these men, by the name of Williams. On this occasion Mrs. Hyland had to do some shopping in Guildford, and so accompanied her son. As was her custom she stayed a few moments to chat with the ferryman, a young fellow who had been sent out for some trivial misdemeanour, when they were startled by a splash and young John was seen floundering in the river. The ferryman promptly rescued him, and offered to take him to his camp to dry his clothes whilst his mother went on her journey. On her return to the ferry she found her boy ready for home, and he was rejoicing in the fact that he had not gone to school that day! By some chance the rescue came to the ears of the authorities, and after due confirmation, Williams, who only had six months of his sentence to serve, was granted a remission and given his certificate of freedom. As a lad of 17-18, young Hyland carried the mail, on horseback, for a mail-contractor named Meagher, from Guildford P.O., to a point  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles down Perth Road. At that time there was no bridge, and he had to make a detour around through Hammersley's Flats. When in 1885-6 the first bridge was being built, the contractor (Mr. Mason, the grandfather of the present Road Board Secretary) contrived to lay a temporary track across for the mailman, and thus Mr. Hyland can rightfully claim that he was the first horseman to cross the bridge. This first bridge has been twice replaced. In later years he was employed by the builders of the Kalamunda line, and in 1896 joined the permanent-way staff of the W.A. Government Railways. He retired in 1934.

**MR. JOHN PICKERING, J.P.***(Appointed Chairman 1913—still a resident).*

Mr. John Pickering was born in Keyneton, near Melbourne (Vic.), and so as a lad shared in the days of panic and distress occasioned by the tragic bush fires, which culminated in what is now spoken of as "Black Thursday." He, with his wife and family came West in 1894, from Carlisle, Victoria, and the happy couple celebrated the 58th anniversary of their wedding in April this year (1947). Mr. Pickering and the late Harry Gregory, M.H.R., were school chums at Rochester (Vic.), and the friendship extended through life. Mr. Pickering was trained as a chemist, but did not come West with the intention of following up the profession. However, advised and sponsored by Dr. Marmaduke Rose (a Collins Street specialist) who had also come to W.A., he founded a business at Cottesloe, being then 26 years of age. Twelve years later, through failing health, and acting on the advice of doctors (one gave him two years to live), he retired from business and came to Bassendean (1906). In 1913 he was elected to a seat on the Road Board, which with a couple of breaks he held until 1929, also serving three terms as Chairman. It was during his first term (1913-14) tar-dressing was first used on the roads—that was on the stretch from the hall to the railway station. This was put down by Mr. Geo. Jenkins. Most of Mr. Pickering's activities were in regard to the elimination of "dead ends," by the

resumption of intervening lands, thus extending and linking up streets. His largest effort was apparently the drain extending from Cuming Smith's works to the boundary on the river, at a cost of £5,000. Another record of his activities is found in the preservation of Sandy Point swimming area, and Pickering Park, declared open by Hon. J. Scaddan, in December, 1913.

**MR. R. A. McDONALD, J.P.***(An unbroken record of 25 years' service. Still on the Board).*

Mr. McDonald arrived in Western Australia with his parents, who came from Ireland, in November, 1885. His father worked at his trade for some years, at points between Perth and Fremantle. Mr. McDonald's first job was whilst the family was living in Cottesloe, he got a job with Pearce Bros. boot factory, at North Fremantle. But having a great desire to see the world, he soon left to join a boat for the journey to England. When he had satisfied his longing in regard to the Old Land, he signed on a boat going to South Africa, and landed at Durban. He joined up with the Second Kitchener Fighting Scouts. On the 4th November, 1901, he was put out of action with a head wound, and was eventually returned to Western Australia in April, 1902. In January, 1909, he went to N.Z., and resided in Auckland until 1911. He returned to Western Australia and secured a position in the W.A.G.R. workshops at Midland, and started there on 25th April, 1911. He was first elected to a seat on the Road Board in 1915, but resigned that same year to enlist, and have a part in the first World War. He was drafted to the VI. Field Company of Engineers, and went to Egypt. In May, 1916, he was transferred to the IV. Engineers, and went to France. On July 4, 1918 at Vera Wood, he was wounded in the arm, and incapacitated. He was invalided home, returning to Fremantle Military Hospital where he arrived on Armistice Day (11/11/1918).

In 1922 Mr. McDonald was again elected to the Road Board, since when he has continued to serve the district in an unbroken term of 25 years, during 17 of which term he was chairman.

Perhaps the most notable achievement of the Board during Mr. McDonald's term has been the evolution of Hay's Swamp to a town beauty spot. During the World War II. Mr. McDonald was appointed Head Warden for the Bassendean District A.R.P. He retired from the Government Service on 3rd February, 1945.

In December, 1946, Mr. McDonald was appointed Deputy Chairman of the W.A. Fire Brigade Board.



BASSENDEAN'S MAIN PROMENADE — PERTH ROAD.

## THE "B.I.C." RESERVE.

This Reserve is one of the beauty spots in Bassendean. It is indeed hard to believe that it is the same area which was once known as Hay's Swamp, being owned by an eccentric old journalist named Hay. At his death it came into the hands of the Board, by whom it has been converted from a definite eyesore and mosquito breeding ground, into a place of beauty; the pride of the district. The Reserve is situated at the rear of the Civic Centre, visible and easy of approach from the main thoroughfare (Perth Road), and in full view of passing train traffic. Its area is nine acres.

The Bassendean Improvement Committee (B.I.C.) came into being on November 28, 1923, at a meeting convened by the Road Board. It included members of the 'Traders' Association, Ugly Men's Association, Parents' and Citizens' Association, and others. At this meeting it was announced that a suggestion had been made to the Road Board that they purchase Hay's Swamp. The genesis of the idea is due to Mr. F. Deshon (Vice-president of the Traders' Association), who was attorney for the executors of the J. G. Hay estate. The proposal was favoured by the meeting, and a committee was formed with the set task



A VIEW OF B.I.C. GROUNDS, 1939.

of raising the necessary funds for the purchase. The price asked was £750, and this amount was quickly raised. The committee then set about the task of improvement of the site, and so became the Bassendean Improvement Committee (B.I.C. for short). At no stage did their enthusiasm lag, and just about ten years after their appointment (1933) the titles were transferred into the name of the Bassendean Road Board, as a permanent Reserve withdrawn from the Lands Transfers Act.

The personnel of that first B.I.C. committee was as follows:—J. M. Steele (Chairman), R. Sargent (Hon. Sec.), T. Beale (President), F. Deshon (Vice-president), S. J. Faithful, A. Scott, J. W. Forsyth, R. A. McDonald, J. Wilkinson P. Orr, W. Potts, Mr. Cairns, A. Woolcock, W. Weir, A. Oakley, H. Chester, A. Drysdale, J. Pickering, H. McGlew, and J. Manning. The Trustees were: B. Perry, W. Padbury and R. Purser.

From the time when the name of the district was altered to Bassendean there seems to have been a persistent play on the two



HAY'S SWAMP IN 1928 (from Perth Road).





A VIEW OF HAYS' SWAMP FROM THE RAILWAY (1928).

"B's.," and the suggestion of "Bassendean Beautiful" has been amply justified. The suggestion was made at a meeting of rate-payers held on December 2, 1923, and the minutes of the meeting record "That Mr. Oakley suggested that they make their slogan, 'Bassendean Beautiful'."

Early in the piece the Board wisely decided on systematic and concentrated effort on the improvement of the swamp, and called for competitive designs for the lay-out of the whole area, offering £15/15/- for the design selected. Mr. A. S. H. McClay, of Brockman Road, Midland Junction, was the successful competitor, and his design and ideas have, to a great extent, been adhered to throughout.

The B.I.C. put in a tremendous amount of work, both on the reserve, and in organising money-raising efforts, but it was the depression period of the early 1930's which provided an unusual and definite opportunity for development. Sharing in the Government Grant of £32,000, provided in 1931 for the relief of the unemployed in the State, the Board offered work to every available man in the district. It is a wonderful testimony to the splendid concerted efforts of these *unemployed* that Bassendean has such a fine picturesque reserve to-day, that is, of course, coupled with the efforts of volunteer specialists on the committee.

In 1931 a competition was held calling for suggestions for a suitable name for the reserve. From the many entries received

the committee selected Mr. B. Chipper's "Temple Park," and he was awarded the one guinea prize, but he was also informed that the name would not be immediately adopted. Nor has this been done up to the present; it is always spoken of locally as the B.I.C.

The following gentlemen, by virtue of their position as chairman of the Board, have in turn presided over the meetings of the B.I.C.:—Messrs. J. M. Steele, J. Gallagher, E. E. Ireland, and R. A. McDonald. But honour, much honour, is undoubtedly due to the splendid and continuous efforts of the ladies of the district for their outstanding achievements in financial efforts. In this regard a resume of the minute book covering the activities of B.I.C. (which Minute Book is now, by-the-way, preserved in the archives of the Board), bears testimony. Here are a few references: "Moved that the matter be left entirely in the hands of the ladies," or "the ladies willingly assisted," and numerous such "a vote of thanks to the ladies." Their activities, the champion effort of which was in connection with the great sports gathering at Pickering Park, included weekly dances, novelty and children's balls, with an occasional fancy dress ball.



A PICNIC AT PICKERING PARK.



THE SWIMMING POOL.

One of the first efforts organised by the committee was the Monster Sports Carnival, held at Pickering Park, on Saturday, January 26, 1924. Mr. Steele was chairman at the time. The Hon. Minister for Works (Mr. W. J. George, C.M.G., M.L.A.), declared the sports officially opened; he was accompanied by Mr. J. T. Davies, M.L.A. It is of special interest to note that at this fixture the now famous annual event, "The Swim Thro' Bassendean," over a course of 1½ miles, was inaugurated. At this initial effort the following shared the trophies:—

First: Alan Kirke (43.45).

Second: Dave Reardon (38.45).

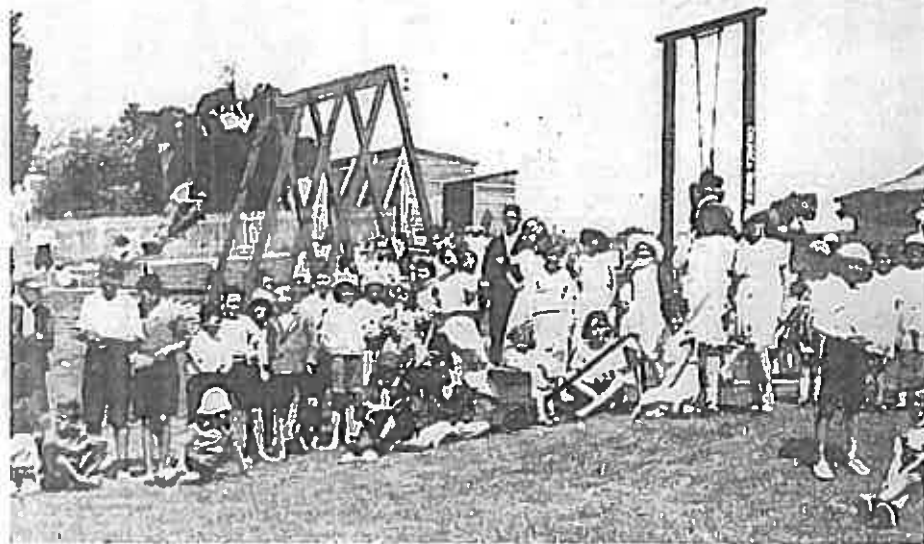
Third: A. Reardon (46.0).

## THE OPENING CEREMONY.

This will be a fitting place to record the splendid service given to the District by the proprietors of "*The Swan Express*." That newspaper's splendid report of the opening ceremony of the B.I.C. is before us, from which we take the following:—

Saturday, November 9, 1936, was a gala day for Bassendean, the occasion being the opening of the B.I.C. Reserve, by His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, the Hon. Sir James Mitchell, K.C.M.G.

Accompanied by the Chairman (Mr. R. A. McDonald, J.P.), Secretary (Mr. L. R. Latham), and Board Members, with their wives and lady friends, Sir James Mitchell made a detailed examination of the Road Board Hall and offices, noting the coloured plans and photographs on the walls; the efficient machinery in the pump house, with tank overhead, and tennis pavilion equipped



CHILDREN'S SPORTS AT B.I.C. OPENING.



THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD (MR. R. A. McDONALD, J.P.) INTRODUCES HIS EXCELLENCY, SIR JAMES MITCHELL, K.C.M.G.

with conveniences for those using the six tennis courts; the well-equipped children's playground; the two basket-ball courts; the oval pavilion; the fire brigade track, where His Excellency was introduced to Captain Neilsen, of the Volunteer Fire Brigade, and a demonstration was given of running the reel to the fire plug, affixing the hydrant and hose, and splashing at the target; the croquet courts, where the Governor was introduced to the President of the Club (Mrs. Shepherd); and the bowling green.

A substantial platform had been erected for the accommodation of His Excellency the Governor, the Parliamentarians, and numerous distinguished guests.

The Chairman of the Board (Mr. R. A. McDonald), in welcoming His Excellency, related a little of the history of the ground, which in 1923 had been a swamp, with two feet of water in the centre, and covered with ti-tree and undergrowth. A Committee had been formed at a meeting held on November 28, 1923, at which 16 persons were present, and at which £4 was subscribed to start a fund for the purchase of the land. The committee had become known as the Bassendean Improvement Committee, or B.I.C. for short. Various functions had been held with the object of raising funds, and a donation of £100 had been received from Mr. P. A. Connelly. Eventually the Committee had raised £720 towards the improvement of the land, some of which had been bought for

£222, and the Road Board had resumed other blocks for drainage purposes, 11 acres of land being secured by their combined efforts. The clearing of big trees and heavy scrub had cost £115, and Purser & Co. had ploughed the land. Unemployed men had been utilised in the work on the ground, which was an asset to the State as a whole. Being on the main railway line of the State travellers saw the ground, the improvements on which added much to the attractiveness of the State. The Board was grateful for the good work done, and the Swan Road Board had helped them considerably. He paid a tribute to Mr. McClay, the designer of the lay-out of the grounds. Mr. Lindsay, a former secretary, had been responsible in the early days for the supervision of the work, and from him Mr. Latham had carried on. From funds made available by the Government for unemployment relief, £4,000 had been spent on drainage, and the Board had raised a loan of £2,500 to effect the final improvements. On behalf of the residents and ratepayers of Bassendean he asked His Excellency to perform the Official Opening Ceremony. He regretted that Lady Mitchell was unable to be present.



SOME OF THE BASSENDEAN IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE ON OPENING DAY.



HIS EXCELLENCY THE LIEUTENANT  
GOVERNOR, HON. SIR JAMES MITCHELL,  
K.C.M.G.

to see provision made for the enjoyment of the children and that the various sporting activities were well catered for. They had made use of their opportunity in utilising unemployment grants. They had had bad times when 17,000 men had lost their jobs and it would have been splendid if all the municipalities could have done the same as Bassendean. He was glad to be there to congratulate them on having the ground, and he did not think there was a better one in Perth. He remembered the swamp and the old building, having seen it once a week for 30 years as he passed in the train, and now he opened the finished job. He congratulated them on the work done, and had much pleasure in declaring the ground open.

Three cheers were accorded His Excellency.

Sir James said that Lady Mitchell was attending a function at Queen's Park. There was no trouble in opening the Reserve, for it spoke for itself. All over the world it was necessary for young people to have sports grounds, for the Empire had been made on the sports grounds. A good sportsman could not be a bad man. Formerly the trees were the best crop that could be grown, but that day there was a far better crop in the children present. It was pleasant

The Hon. J. McFarlane, M.L.C., moved a vote of thanks, which was supported by Mr. J. Hegney, M.L.A.

At the Official Opening of the Bowling Green on the Reserve, Mrs. McDonald had the honour of rolling the first bowl.

On the Children's Playground trees were planted by Sir James Mitchell and Mr. Millington.

At Afternoon Tea, which was served in the Town Hall, about 500 visitors were served.

After the Official Opening the Bassendean Improvement Committee, having completed the task which ten years before they had set out to accomplish, handed their books over to the Road Board, and for the present cease to function. No doubt, should the necessity again arise, the committee will emerge as willing and successful as ever.

To day the Reserve provides splendid accommodation for the following sports: Bowls, Croquet, Tennis, Football, Cricket, Basket Ball, Baseball, Fire Brigade Training Track; also a well-equipped area for the Children's Play Ground.



OPENING DAY CROWD LISTEN TO HIS EXCELLENCY, SIR JAMES.

## COMMUNITY INTERESTS

ON June 3, 1879, the first sod was turned in connection with the Fremantle-Guildford railway, as first section of the Eastern line. This ceremony was performed by His Excellency Major-General Sir Harry St. George Ord, R.E., K.C.M.G., and formed part of the programme in the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Colony. (The spade used by Governor Ord, is now preserved in the Public Library, Perth).

The line was opened to traffic on March 1, 1881, by the new Governor of the Colony, Sir Frederick Robinson.

The Bassendean Railway Station was built in 1910, nine years after the holding of the first Road Board meeting. The opening ceremony took place on May 1, 1910. There had been almost continuous agitation by the ratepayers and several deputations had met the authorities in support of the station, but the culminating factor which swayed the Railway Department was the coming of the firm of Cuming, Smith Ltd. to the district. During the course of the erection of the station there is a minute in the Board's book as follows:—

*"February 10, 1910. Mr. McSwain submitted a motion suggesting 'that the name of the district be changed to Florida.' There had been some talk of changing the name, and now that the railway station was under construction he submitted that the present time was opportune to come to a decision. Incidentally Florida is the name of Cuming, Smith's brand of superphosphate.*

*"After a full discussion by the Board Mr. McSwain withdrew his motion and Mr. Davies submitted the following:*

*"That a referendum be taken at the annual elections as to the advisability or otherwise of changing the name of the district."*

*This motion was carried.*

However, it was not until 12 years later (1922) that the name was changed. Bassendean was selected, this being the name given to the original holding by Mr. Peter Broun in 1829. That 5,000 acres is now all incorporated in the residential area of the district as foreseen by Mr. Broun (see p. 11), and it is fitting that the name has been restored. Only about 12 ac. were left when Mr. Hams purchased the homestead in 1940.

History tells us that the early settlers were occasionally set upon by raiding natives, and this is born out by the provision of a stronghold in the original Bassendean homestead, with iron-barred windows. (One of these is now in the archives of Perth Public Library). But modern Bassendean has also experienced at least one hair-raising adventure, in which an aboriginal was the chief actor. His name was Billy Esperance, and he belonged to the Albany district. The same year as the Railway Station was erected a regrettable shooting incident happened. The night officer (Mr. Percy Whitford) missed a small parcel from off the platform after the departure of a train, and some children reported that they had seen Billy remove it. Mr. Whitford returned to his office to report the theft, and the youngsters called to the native: "Stationmaster going to ring up for the police." The native promptly darted into the bush and quickly re-appeared, carrying a gun. He stepped on to the edge of the platform, and, as the S.M. looked towards him through the ticket-window, the native raised the gun. Mr. Whitford fortunately ducked just before the shot, which hit the table and the door behind him. The native was later arrested, and charged with stealing and also with shooting with intent, and he received nine months hard labour.



BASSENDEAN RAILWAY STATION.

In the very early days mails for residents were delivered to a store, situated near to the present entrance of the Oval, which was kept by a Mr. Cumberland. Later the Post Office business was shifted to a little mixed store (situated on the block near to the Station entrance, about where C. & G. stores now stand), managed by a Mr. Chambers. That gentleman enlisted and served in the World War I., leaving his wife in control of the business. It was his lot to make the Supreme Sacrifice. Mrs. Chambers, his widow, carried on, and was much esteemed by the residents. She did a splendid job for the district as Postmistress, up to the time of the opening of the present building in 1923.

The handsome building now in occupation was officially opened on September 22, 1923. A lengthy report of the visit of the Premier to Bassendean on that occasion, is reported in the columns of the now defunct "Bassendean Magnet." This report says: "On Saturday last (22/9/23) Bassendean was enfeete, when the residents turned out to meet the Premier (Sir James Mitchell, K.C.M.G., M.L.A.), who had come to open the new Post Office. The Premier was accompanied by Mr. Lloyd (the Deputy P.M.G.), and Mr. Kennedy (the engineer), and was met at the Town Hall by Mr. J. T. Davies, M.L.A., together with Mr. J. M. Steele (chairman of the Road Board), the Board Members, and a large gathering of the residents of the town and district of Bassendean. After light refreshments had been partaken of the party adjourned to the Post Office, where the chairman asked Mr. J. T. Davies to call on Mr. Lloyd to present the key to the Premier, and ask him to open the new building. Sir James said that he was very pleased to have the opportunity of being with them on such an occasion. He especially desired to thank the Deputy P.M.G., and he appreciated the thoughtfulness of the Postmaster-General (Mr. Gibson) in asking him to perform the ceremony. The Premier then opened the Post Office, and hoped it would prove a great boon to the residents, facetiously remarking that it would prove a boon to the young folk, who would get their love-letters, and a curse to the old people, who would get their bills through this medium. After an inspection of the building a tour of the district was made. In the last eight years the population of the Bassen-

dean district had trebled itself, and this progress was being maintained. The drain recently constructed by the Board at a cost of £4,000 (without Government assistance) was inspected."

"During the ceremony pleasing reference was made by the chairman of the Traders' Progress Association, to the love and esteem in which the local Postmistress (Mrs. Chambers) was held by the residents. When a deputation waited on the P.M.G. some eighteen months previous it was stated that 'they would rather wait for a P.O., if it meant that Mrs. Chambers was to lose by it.' Mr. Lloyd assured the gathering that he was keeping his promise in mind of another suitable position for the postmistress."

The gold key with which the Premier opened the New Post Office was inscribed: "Presented to Sir James Mitchell, K.C.M.G., on the occasion of the opening of the Bassendean Post Office, September 22, 1923."

Mr. William Edwards is the Postmaster to-day, and he has a staff of eight (including three postmen).

A non-official Post Office was established at the corner of Walter Road and Ivanhoe Street, in December, 1946.



BASSENDEAN POST OFFICE



## THE CHURCHES

### ANGLICAN.

St. Mark's Parish was formerly part of the Parish of St. Matthew, Guildford. The first recorded service in West Guildford (now Bassendean) was held in the Girls' High School (later "Eventide Home"), on Sunday, April 18, 1909. Mr. E. H. Myerson took the service. Mr. de Vie took service on May 2, 1909.

The opening service of the first Church building in Lord Street, was on June 13, Canon Everingham being the Celebrant. Mr. H. L. Kirke was the organiser of the first services, and Mrs. Kirke was the pianist. On July 4th, the Archbishop of Perth (Charles Owen Lever Riley) dedicated the building. The first Confirmation service was held on Wednesday, March 25, 1910.

Mr. A. E. Nadebaum (now secretary) took his first service as Lay Reader in St. Mark's, on April 26, 1913. A highlight about the same time was the first Scout Parade.

On Friday, February 26, 1915, the building in Lord Street was blown down, and it was decided to erect the building in Wilson Street, that position being deemed to be a better centre. On June 6, His Grace, Archbishop Riley, declared the building re-opened.

On October 9, 1915, the present building, consisting of a brick



"ST. MARK'S," BASSENDEAN, OPENING DAY, JUNE 13, 1909.

Sanctuary and Chancel was begun with the laying of the foundation stone by Sir Edward Stone, K.C.M.G. The dedication service was conducted by the Archbishop, and the names of Winspear Farmer (the Archbishop's Staff-bearer), The Rector (Ernest Foster), Reginald Lawrence (student), F. R. Fivash (secretary), C. E. Carter, J. H. Hall, T. D. Lawson and A. E. Nadebaum are mentioned in connection with that service, in the records. The Consecration of the completed edifice took place on Jan. 15, 1916.

Reginald Lawrence, whilst Priest-in-charge of St. Mark's died on October 11, 1919.

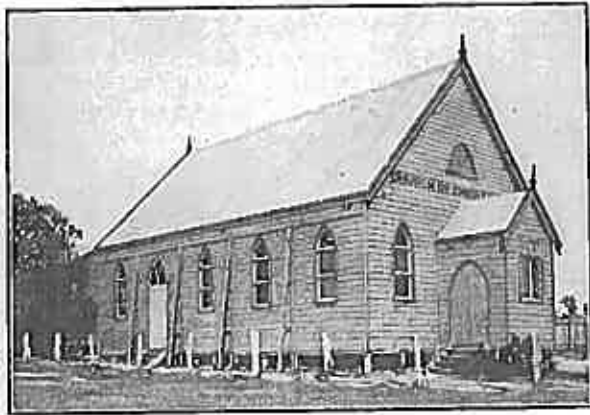
The present Canon (Rev. W. K. Elphick) was appointed to St. Mark's in January, 1920, and was succeeded by Rev. W. A. Everitt in August, 1924. He died on July 29, 1935. The Rev. W. B. Kirby succeeded him, and remained till December 6, 1942. During his time the present Nave was built (1937), the old wooden church being moved back towards Parker Street to form a Parish Hall. On December 25, 1942, Rev. T. Eric Currie, Th.L., began his ministry in St. Mark's, and remained as Rector until he left to become Principal of St. Gabriel's Boys' School, in Malaya, on June 12, 1947. The Rev. F. E. Ecclestone was appointed Rector in August.

### CHURCH OF CHRIST.

On August 8, 1912, a number of members of the above Church met at a home in Guildford to discuss the desirability of forming a Church in the Guildford-Midland district. For a time meetings were held in the Mechanics' Institute, Guildford, but it was realised at the inaugural meeting that the most desirable part of the district to form a Church was in the rapidly growing and promising Western Road Board area. Efforts made to secure a suitable building were fruitless, and the small band decided to build a chapel. After a good deal of investigation it was decided to undertake, by voluntary labour, the rather formidable task of building in one day a hall 50ft. x 30ft., with two vestries at the rear.

That little group of sixteen were fortunate in having amongst them a capable organiser (Mr. G. A. C. Payne), and a competent builder (Mr. J. Rogers), as well as a number of practical men, prominent among whom were Messrs. J. W. B. Robinson, D. McKinnon and J. Prior. One donated a block of land, nearly opposite the Railway Station, and the date for the building was January 4, 1913.





CHAPEL ERECTED IN ONE DAY (Jan. 4, 1913).

In response to a call for volunteers about 120 men, members of the Metropolitan Churches assembled, and commenced at an early hour the erection of the building which is still used each Lord's Day. The huge task went forward without a hitch, and the building was used the next day for the first services of the Church. The ladies performed nobly in feeding the large band of workers throughout the day.

In 1920 an additional hall (30ft. x 20ft.) was built for Kindergarten use, under the leadership of Mr. Gracham.

In 1922 it was found desirable to move the building to another site, owing to the growth of the district and the attendant increase of work in the railway yards, and the noise of the trains. A very fine block was obtained in Ivanhoe Street, and again by voluntary labour the building was re-erected on its present site. Mr. E. Smith organised this effort.

The Church has endeavoured to help the young of the district, and from the first various Clubs and Youth movements had had prominence. The outstanding feature, though, of the work amongst the young people has necessarily been the Bible School, which commencing with a membership of 17 has grown as high as 180. At present it stands at 120.

## METHODIST.

The Methodists were the first to make a local effort in the spiritual life of the community. Bassendean was included in the Guildford Circuit, of which the Revs. Finch and Potts were in charge. The first meetings were held under a tree, on land now occupied by Webster's Garage, but when the enthusiasts had purchased two blocks of land on the corner of Perth Road and Hamilton Street, they shifted their meeting place to the shelter of an oak on their own land.

The Rev. Geo. Potts preached the first sermon in the open on September 30, 1904, his audience including Christians from all denominations. Services continued to be held in the open for about twelve months, and only once did the congregation have to retire to the shelter of a nearby house on account of rain. Plans to build a chapel with weatherboard and stamped metal were carried out with voluntary labour, and the opening services of the new building were held in September, 1905. This was the first building in the district suitable for a public meeting of any kind, and it was in great demand from the start. The Church still treasures one sacred link with those early days. When the oak tree under which they had met for so long was felled, a piece of the wood was selected from which was made the Communion Tray.



THE METHODIST CHURCH.

This now has a silver plate on it stating that fact. It will no doubt serve for many years, and be treasured by generations.

The first couple to be married in the new building were Mr. and Mrs. Bathols (nee Miss Barnes), and they have been in membership ever since. The first organist and choirmaster was Mr. Chas. Burge.

The first Trustees were: Rev. F. S. Finch, Messrs. Barnes, Bathols, Huelin, McMath and McSwain.

Some years ago an imposing front of brick and stone was added to the original structure. Although still ministered to from Guildford (the Rev. T. Burt is the Circuit Minister), the congregation is a very live one, with auxiliaries combining all ages: a Christian Endeavour Society, Ladies' Guild, Girls' Comrade, The Order of Knights (for boys), and a Tennis Club.

### PRESBYTERIAN.

Owing to the prevailing shortage of ordained ministers Bassendean is without a residential preacher. It is worked as a Home Mission station by Mr. Boon, of Maylands Presbyterian Church.

### ROMAN CATHOLIC.

It was in the year 1912 that Mass was first set up in Bassendean. Prior to that the worshippers had to journey to Guildford. Father Morris conducted the first Mass, which was held in the Road Board Hall. Land was bought in 1913, on which a Church

Marshall's Store was established over 20 years ago by Mrs. E. Marshall (on the North Side); since her death, some years ago, the business has been carried on by her son. In order to cater for the quickly growing population and consequent increase in trade, Mr. Marshall deemed it expedient and worthwhile to build the present shop, with residence attached, and at the same time introduced a refrigeration unit. This store is in Kenny Street.

Marshall's Store in catering for a portion of the Bassendean people, has found them responsive in co-operating; especially when the shortage of commodities proved such a severe test on their endurance during the difficult war years. The proprietor here wishes to extend thanks to one and all for their past support, and he trusts that the Store's popularity will continue.



"ST. JOSEPH'S," BASSENDEAN, OPENING DAY.

building was erected. This was opened and dedicated to St. Joseph. A four-roomed dwelling house was purchased for a Convent in 1914, but this property was later destroyed by fire. Another was erected, and five Sisters of Mercy came out from Victoria Square, Perth, and started a school, using the cottage and the Church building, until such time as the Church verandahs were extended and enclosed, and they now serve for the school. The cottage is now used as a music room. The new brick Convent was built in 1925, and was opened by Archbishop Clune, in January, 1926. The establishment is staffed by fourteen; three Sisters go to teach at Guildford each day, and three to Bayswater, and the others remain at Bassendean, where there is a roll of about 120 pupils. Rev. Dr. Kearnan, of St. Mary's, Guildford, has the oversight of the Bassendean Catholic Community.

### SALVATION ARMY.

At one time the Baptists held meetings in the town, but eventually sold their building, which is of weatherboard, to the Salvation Army. Bassendean is an Army outpost of Guildford, and is in charge of Adjutant E. R. Smith. The local activities in James Street include usual Sunday services, Sunday School, Young People's Legion (Thursday), and Home League (for women), which also meets on Thursdays.

## BASSENDAN OVAL

The Oval is vested in the name of the residents of the District, and the Swan District National Football Club has a lease agreement.

It is refreshing, and typically Australian, to learn that within the first Board elected, there were some who were interested in sport. They had the vision of a well developed town and great crowds of virile youth, for whom provision had to be made in their planning. Thus we find that amongst the first major moves of the Board was the selection of this recreation area in 1901. In the original survey the Perth-Guildford Road crossed the reserve, but it had not been surfaced, and when the Government was approached, they readily agreed to the suggestion of the Board for a deviation. Surrey Street was surveyed and formed the necessary link, and that section of the road which traversed the reserve was permanently closed.

The next move was to clear enough space for cricket, and a concrete pitch was put down. A challenge was issued to the members of the Guildford Council to play the opening match with the members of the Board. This proved to be a very popular fixture for many seasons. Then some tennis courts and a shelter shed were constructed.

In 1929 a contract was let for the clearing, grading and fencing of the grounds, in order that they might be used for League Football. The official opening of the Oval transpired on December 7, 1929, the ceremony being performed by the Hon. Phil. Collier.

In 1932 a Grandstand was erected at a cost of £1,323, and capable of seating 800 persons. The popularity of football at Bassendean soon overtaxed the capacity of the grandstand, and at the request of the Swan District National Football Club, a second structure was erected, capable of seating 1,000 persons. This is now referred to as the McDonald Grandstand.



A VIEW OF BASSENDEAN, TAKEN 1912.

SWAN DISTRICTS NATIONAL FOOTBALL CLUB, 1934.



Front row (left to right): M. Parnham, K. McInerney, J. Park, G. Krepp, G. Clarke, R. Millwood, G. Broomhall, N. Gorn, N. Hunt, H. Mosey.  
Second row: A. Andrews (Trainer), E. Ford, J. Reilly, A. Zilko, S. Sinclair, R. Grieve (Vice-Captain), G. Bee (Captain), H. Forbes, J. Zilko, A. Jamieson, J. Pemberthy, F. Sweetapple, W. Hunter, L. Jamieson (Trainer).  
Back row: R. Bryant (Trainer), E. Byrne (Vice-President), W. Dobson, T. Woods (Timekeeper), S. Noell (Property Man), G. Macaulay, L. Latham (Treasurer), R. A. McDonald (President), J. F. Jenner (Secretary), F. Lange (Vice-President), D. Manning, C. Wicks (Vice-President), J. Warn (Trainer), G. Oakley (Selector).

With such a splendidly equipped and well-situated oval in their midst, it naturally follows that the game of football is a highlight in the sporting activities of the district. The following excerpts are reproduced from the first annual report of the Swan Districts National Football Club (Season 1934), so that they may be preserved together with other history of Bassendean, and be handed down to future generations.

The first annual meeting of the Club was held in the Bassendean Town Hall, on Tuesday, February 12, 1935, at 8 p.m.

The first office bearers of the Club were as follows:—Patron, P. A. Connolly, Esq.; President, R. A. McDonald, Esq.; Management Committee, Messrs. C. Wicks, H. Walker, G. C. Macauley, F. C. Lange, G. Oakley, and G. McGregor; Association Representatives Messrs. J. and A. Motteram; Delegates to W.A.N.F.L.,

Messrs. T. Neilsen and H. Walker; Captain, G. Bee; Vice-captain, R. Grieve; Coach, G. Bee; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. L. R. Latham; Asst. Treasurer, Mr. T. Neilsen; Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. P. Jenner.

The secretary, in his report to the meeting, said: "It is with pleasure that I have the honour of presenting the Club's First Annual Report, and in doing so sincerely trust that the Committee's activities and management of the Club's affairs during its initial season meets with your approval. We commenced the season full of confidence and although we did not succeed in getting into the final four, your committee feel that an auspicious and encouraging entry into League Football has been made, and desire to congratulate the players on the very fine showing they put up, in a season full of hard knocks. The fact that nearly all of the players had not had previous experience in first class company should receive due appreciation in analysing the team's performance, and with the experience gained it is felt that the team can be relied on to make an even better showing this coming season.

The Club gained 7th position for the season, having played 21 matches, and winning seven of them.

Following is a list of the players who took part. The first two played in all matches, the next four in twenty, whilst the number gradually diminish, and the last six mentioned played in one only:—J. Park, H. Mosey, G. Clarke, R. Millwood, J. Penburchy, E. Ford, R. Grieve, G. Krepp, G. Dee, K. McImmerney, H. Forbes F. Sweetapple, J. Reilly, J. Zilko, N. Gorn, A. Zilko, N. Hunt, A. Jamieson, E. B. Cook, G. Broomhall, S. Sinclair, W. Hunter, M. Parkham, A. Thornton, S. Dawes, A. Daly, I. Burge, C. Perham, C. Hellmrich, G. McRae, C. Buckley, F. Hall, K. Knee-bone, W. Mose, F. Woolcock, J. Lewis, S. Fitzgerald, A. Richards, J. Angove, J. Dickson.

To Hugh Forbes goes the honour of being the first representative of the Club to play in an inter-State game. Although it was Hughie's first season in League ranks his performance in the second game against South Australia was most creditable. He also represented us, together with R. Grieve, in the Kalgoorlie trip; both players are to be congratulated on their selection.

Your Committee feel sure that you will agree that the facilities at the Club rooms and the condition of the oval, reflects credit on the Road Board. The Board have shown a willingness



MR. AND MRS. R. A. McDONALD.

Who, for 25 years, have sponsored every movement in the advancement of the District

to fall in with any reasonable suggestion throughout the year and as you know they have proved untiring in their efforts to provide a ground that bids fair to become one of the best in the State.

During the year, and for many years prior to the actual formation of this Club, Mr. R. A. McDonald has worked hard in the interests of the National Game and towards the founding of this Club at Bassendean, and it is mainly to his efforts that we owe the fine Oval. He has ably carried out the important position of President, and besides attending every meeting has given the Club much valued support and advice, which is appreciated. He has worked hard towards the breaking down of the much discussed Midland Junction barrier, and this is practically certain to result

decided to recommend that we endeavour to put the players on a professional basis in a small way. This they feel can be accomplished, with a tightening of control, and should obtain the best results from players.

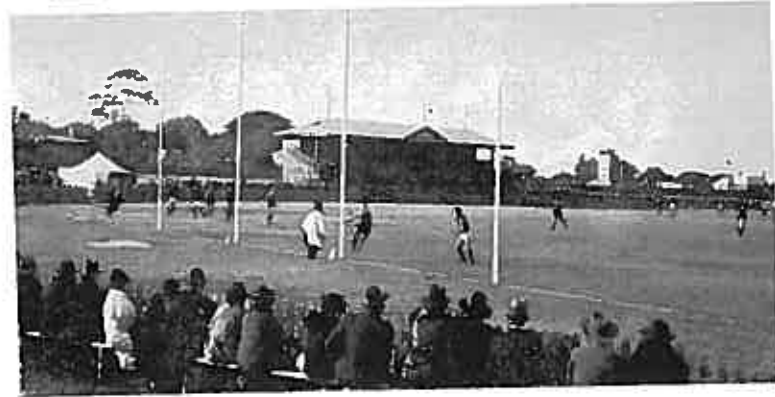
The Club's present position record (not including finals) is as follows:—1934, 7th; 1935, 5th; 1936, 7th; 1937, 3rd; 1938, 3rd; 1939, 6th; 1940, 8th; 1941, 8th; 1942 (did not field a side); 1943, 4th; 1944, 6th; 1945, 4th; and 1946, 7th.

Following is a list of players for the season with the number of games played in parentheses:—D. Anderson (19), V. Hardy (19), G. King (19), R. Annesley (19), E. Holdsworth, R. Till and V. Ashworth (18 each). J. Davies and R. Latham (17 each), G. Moir, G. and L. Bowen (16), L. Hawkins, F. Pearce and J. Murray (15), W. Gath and N. Baty (13), T. Radiach (12), C. Rosewarne and M. Bamford (10), D. Aitken, W. Summerton and H. Andrews (8), R. Maynard (9), A. Edwards (7), E. Ellery and E. Brindley (4), R. Watt (3), J. Vurisich, R. Vigar, A. Smith and S. Roberts (2), K. Graham, B. Porter, A. Morton, R. Ritchie, R. Riley and K. Callow (1).

For the Colts side the following is the list of players:—A. Anderson (22), A. Morton (22), J. Cusack (22), B. Doig and R. Porter (21 each), R. Pearce, K. Graham, D. Drake-Brockman and N. Jamieson (20), T. Barker (19), R. Watt (17), E. Brindley (16),



FIRST GAME OF FOOTBALL ON THE NEW OVAL, JUNE 4, 1932 — BASSEDEAN P.S.A. v. BAYSWATER P.S.A. The Chairman Kicks off,



LEAGUE FOOTBALL AT BASSEDEAN, 1934.

R. Lowry (14), I. Jeffrey and R. Riley (13), I. Doig and W. Fornero (11), D. Aitken, R. Bowen and J. Till (10), and the following played in under ten games: N. Clark, B. Bamford, R. Durrant, E. Ellery, W. Summerton, S. Roberts, T. Radiach, W. Rose, A. Bamford, A. Andrews, D. White, W. Patterson, T. Doig, G. Baker, R. Tandy, R. Ritchie, R. Scott, D. Hampson, W. Jolly, N. Baty, S. Pearce, A. Bamford, W. Robinson, H. Browning, C. Doyle.

Over the thirteen years the Club's presidential chair has been served by only three gentlemen, as follows (with years of service in parentheses):—

R. A. McDonald (1934, 1937).

F. C. Lange (1935, 1936, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942).

E. J. Reilly (1943, 1944, 1945, 1946).

The Secretarial duties have been shared as follows:—

J. F. Jenner (1934, 1935, 1937, 1938).

J. Motteram (1936).

R. M. Lethbridge (1939, 1940, 1941).

W. Dobson (1941, 1942, 1943, 1944).

L. G. Lowry (1945, 1946).

The Committee has been pleased to appoint the following Life Members:—C. R. Wicks, T. H. Neilsen, R. A. McDonald, Dr. E. Kyle, F. C. Lange, J. F. Jenner, E. P. Byrne, H. Mosey, G. Roberts, Dr. Buttsworth, E. J. Reilly, W. Counsel, H. E. A. Holdsworth and J. Hollis.



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## CRICKET.

Keeping an appointment, arranged per telephone, the writer called on Mr. A. F. Lethbridge (a patron of the Bassendean Cricket Club) at his home, "Sunnyside," Bassendean. We found him busy with his prize stock of poultry, and arranging for the reception of the first batch of the season of chicks from his electrically controlled incubator.

Speaking of cricket in Bassendean, Mr. Lethbridge told how many a good game had been enjoyed on the old Recreation Ground, since the formation of the Club in 1907. In those days, the game was played on matting wickets, with a rough outfield, and trees for the boundary line.

Thanks to the foresight of an enterprising Road Board, under the chairmanship of Mr. R. A. McDonald, this ground was converted into one of the best ovals in the State. In July, 1932, a meeting of those interested in the formation of a Turf Cricket Club, was convened by Mr. Roy Lethbridge. Thirty-five enthusiastic cricketers attended that meeting, and it was unanimously decided to form a Turf Cricket Club.

The first officers appointed were:—President, Mr. A. F. Lethbridge; Vice-president, Mr. J. Pow; and a strong Committee, with Mr. Roy Lethbridge, secretary.

Two teams entered the W.A. Cricket Association competitions. The leading team, captained by Mr. Jim Pow, won the second-grade Premiership for the 1932-33 season, and received the Pennant Flag, presented by the W.A.C.A. on that occasion.

The Club went into recess in 1940, as most of the players had joined the Military Forces. Several of them paid the Supreme Sacrifice. In 1946 the Club was reformed, and again played in the Second Grade Final, but were beaten by Subiaco.

The present officers are:—President, Mr. J. Pow; Vice-president, Mr. G. Buck; Secretary, Mr. R. Kirk; Treasurer, Mr. T. Strickland; Committee, Messrs. E. McGlew, R. Gosling, W. Slater, E. Regan, and D. Gravenall.

## Bassendean Volunteer Fire Brigade.

The Volunteer Fire Brigade was formed on January 31, 1911, with an enrolment of 11 members. Following are the names of that first muster:—Mr. R. Ellis (Captain), Mr. J. D. Trott (Secretary), and Messrs. V. Howe, J. Miller, D. McKinnon, B. Bailey, J. Bull, W. Orr, J. Lunt, C. R. Weeks, and J. Page.

On May 8, 1912, the Brigade took over the premises vacated by the Road Board, when their first Town Hall was completed. This property was the shop opposite the Oval gates, with stables owned by Mr. Guppy. In April 1919, the old Bayswater Fire Station was removed to this site, the lessor agreeing to such and to the station remaining the property of the W.A. Fire Brigades Board. This station was removed to the rear of the New Quarters, for use as a recreation room for Brigade members. The New Fire Station was occupied on February 10, 1934. A motor fire engine was placed in commission at Bassendean on September 8, 1929, and this was replaced by the present engine on December 4, 1938.

The Brigade won its first Demonstration at Geraldton, in 1938, and had further wins in 1939, 1941, and 1947. The Brigade has also competed at Geelong (Vic.), in 1932, and Ballarat in 1939.

The title of Champion Fireman of the State has been won five times by members of Bassendean Brigade, with one dead-heat, as follows: L. Malatzky, 1929; K. Ferguson, 1940, 1941, 1946, 1947. The dead-heat was in 1919 by L. Malatzky.

During World War I. eleven members joined the armed forces, and of these F. W. D. Cole and B. Bailey lost their lives.

During World War II. twenty-five members joined up, and of these one only (F/O. T. W. Henderson, R.A.A.F.), lost his life, whilst over France on June 10, 1944.

The following members have occupied the position of Captain since the foundation of the Brigade:—R. Ellis (1911); V. Howe (1912-13); H. Pratt (1913, six months); V. Howe (1914); W. Braysher (1915-17); A. C. Moyle (1918-24); D. Manning (1925-27); A. Thompson (1928-29); A. Loveridge (1930-32); A. C. Moyle (1933); H. Lean (1934-35); J. Neilsen (1936-37); A. G. McDonald (1938-47).

The present strength of the Brigade is: 25 active members, 6 first-class reserves, and 9 second-class reserves.

# BASSENDAN VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE - - CHAMPIONS, FREMANTLE, 1947.



Back row (left to right): L. G. Lowry (Trainer), D. McDonald, N. Bamford, A. W. Brown, W. Walsh, K. Howe, H. E. Smith, P. E. Mayger, R. A. Stagoll, H. G. Wansbrough, P. A. Peirce.

Centre row: A. King, R. H. Kirk, C. Adie, V. J. Howe, F. W. Gerhard (Chief Officer, W.A. Fire Brigades), A. G. McDonald (Captain and Coach), L. E. Cary (President, W.A.V.F.B.A.), R. C. Watt, J. Mullins, K. G. Ferguson (Champion Fireman).

Front row: R. A. McDonald (Chairman Bassendean Road Board), F. A. J. Woolcock (Trainer), C. A. G. Oakley (Secretary), T. J. Gardiner (Foreman), R. Pearce (Apparatus Officer), J. R. Neilsen (Coach), H. Rowlands, A. V. Rose (Vice-President W.A.V.F.B.A.).

## THE RIFLE CLUB.

The Rifle Club was formed in September, 1915, being No. 191 on the Register of the Fifth Military District. The first Committee comprised the following:—President, Mr. B. Perry; Captain, Mr. J. Pickering; Vice-captain, Mr. H. Barnard; Hon. Secretary, Mr. G. Wyndham; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. T. Davies; Committee, Messrs. C. G. Loveridge, G. Arthur, P. M. Bathols and R. G. Hewson.

At the inception of the Club the first World War was in progress, and every member was keen in his desire to do something worthwhile. The Club held night-time parades for drills, aided by a specially constructed portable carbide torch.

Remembering those in the fighting area special efforts were organised and gifts of Christmas puddings, and other delicacies and woollies were sent through the Trench Comforts Funds Committee.

Training on the rifle range engendered a high standard of efficiency, so much so that nearly half of the membership enlisted for active service, and won credit for their home town.

All through that war the interest was keenly maintained in Club matters. In the various Combined Rifle Club matches Bassendean gained prominence, and captured many Club trophies, as well as individual honours. The Club often had four teams competing in these inter-Club matches, arranged by the Swan Districts R.C. Union, which combined Bellevue, Midland, Guildford, Bassendean, Chidlow, Woooloo and Mundaring. Two annual popular fixtures were the shoots at Bunbury and Chidlow.

The ladies were keen supporters of the Club not only as regards their help in the various social events, but in scoring "bulls-eyes." A Ladies' Shoot was an annual fixture, with an average of over 80 ladies actually competing.

When in 1939 the Government called in all arms and surplus ammunition, all members either went into the V.D.C. or joined up with the forces. But local interest was kept up with the youth of the district by an inter-Club committee, who mustered four .22 rifles. Regular drills were held, and as occasional supplies of ammunition became available practice shoots would be held.

The activities of the Club were revived in 1947.

## THE R.S.L.

The local Sub-Branch of the R.S.L. was formed in 1919, the foundation secretary was Mr. Geo. Arthur. Within the year he found it necessary to resign the position, and Mr. H. L. Kirke was appointed to the vacancy, and he carried on very successfully for eleven years, resigning in 1931.

For a period after formation the Sub-Branch was linked with Guildford, and meetings were held fortnightly, alternately at Bassendean and Guildford. This has been discontinued long-since, and each district now has its own roll. At the start the enrolment was 25, but it now stands at about 500.

The Bassendean Sub-Branch's Ladies' Auxiliary was one of the first formed in the State, the late Mrs. Lydia L. Kirke was foundation secretary; and Mrs. Mary McKinley, who held the office of State President for some years, was one of Bassendean's first Presidents.

Each year the Sub-Branch, in co-operation with the Road Board, organise the local celebrations on Anzac Day, meeting in the Town Hall.

An enthusiastic Building Committee are hard at work at present seeking ways and means of raising money for the erection of a Memorial Hall. Elaborate plans have been prepared, and if the present hopes of the Sub-Branch materialise they will possess a Memorial which will be worthy of Bassendean, and also a valuable asset. The site purchased is on corner Perth Road and Kathleen Street, adjacent to the Railway Station.

The President is Mr. T. Brewer, and the Secretary is Mr. R. R. Smith, 13 Chapman Street, Bassendean.

## THE WAR MEMORIAL.

The Memorial erected to those of the District who served in the first World War, is situated on a site adjoining the Road Board offices, and at the corner of the turn-off to the B.I.C. grounds. It was erected by the people of Bassendean in 1920. The Board purchased the site for £90 (lot 17 on plan 1786), and funds were raised by a special appeal to the residents. The unveiling ceremony was performed by His Excellency the Governor in December, 1920. The Memorial contains the names of 154 men who went from Bassendean, 26 of whom paid the Supreme Sacrifice.

## THE BOWLING GREEN.

The Bassendean Bowling Club was formed in 1934. Theirs was the first section completed on the B.I.C. Reserve. The Clubhouse was built in 1936, and the official opening was held in the presence of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor (Sir James Mitchell), with other distinguished visitors. The Clubhouse is replete with necessary fittings, and has a kitchen adjoining, the latter being shared by the Ladies' Croquet Club who are always in evidence with afternoon teas and suppers.

The Green is 120 feet square, is splendidly lighted for night play. There is a load of 9,000 watts distributed over nine 20-in. RLM type reflectors. Each unit, which is equipped with a 1,000 watt Philips standard gas-filled lamp, is mounted 20 feet above the ground.

Mr. A. E. Nadebaum was the first President of the Club (1934-36), with Mr. Geo. Harber the first secretary, and Mr. R. A. McDonald (Chairman of the Road Board), who convened the meeting, Patron of the Club. Mr. Charles Gardiner was elected as Mr. Nadebaum's successor, and he has served the Club so well that he has been re-elected each season, and he can thus claim unbroken service as President of the Club since 1936. The same happy experience has been the lot of the secretary, Mr. H. E. Holman.

Club Leaders are listed upon the Honour Board as follows:—Mr. R. H. Liebenow (1939-40), A. E. Nadebaum (1940-41), G. G. Loveridge (1941-42), W. B. Gould (1942-43), G. Preedy (1943-44, 45-46, 46-47), E. Smith (1944-45).

The Jacoby Cup is a handsome trophy which was originally presented for competition between Clubs of the Swan District, i.e., Glen Forrest, Midland Junction, Swan, Bayswater, and Bassendean. Bassendean has captured it twice (1936-37 and 1939-40), besides which they were Pennant winners for Division 7 in 1939-40, and Division 5 in 1941-42.

The above honours are a source of great pride with the members who claim that, for either day or night playing, their rinks are equal to any of the suburban grounds in the vicinity of the City. The Bassendean Club has a membership of 80 members.



OPENING DAY ON THE BOWLING GREEN, NOVEMBER 9, 1936.  
Mrs. R. A. McDonald puts down the first bowl.

## THE CROQUET CLUB.

The Ladies' Croquet Club was formed in 1934, the club green also forming part of the B.I.C. Reserve. The grounds adjoin those of the Bowlers, which situation lends itself nicely to an inter-club kitchen. This arrangement is a happy one indeed, and as the clubhouse is also frequently in commission for evening card parties, its advantages are thus multiplied in the democratic bond of good fellowship which has been developed with the B.I.C. Reserve.

Mrs. Shepherd was the first President of the Club, and continued to serve in that capacity for five seasons, and then for a further two years as secretary. Mrs. Liebenow was the first secretary.

Other Club Presidents have been: Mrs. Yelland (two seasons), Mrs. Watkins (three seasons), Mrs. Cruttenden (two seasons), whilst those who have served as club secretary have been Mrs. Liebenow, Mrs. Cruttenden, and Mrs. L. Smith.

A reference to the Trophy Lists exhibited on the clubhouse walls show that Mrs. Cruttenden has won distinction for herself and the Club on many occasions in State Championships. She was British Gold Medalist for seasons 1936 and 1937; Silver Medalist 1932, with four bars, and State Gold Medalist 1935.

The Club started off with a membership of 25, and has now 40 members. Mrs. Cruttenden is the President, with Mrs. Doig as Secretary.

## BASSENDEAN CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE.

Infant Welfare and Pre-School Education in Bassendean are combined in the Bassendean Child Development Association. A Committee has been functioning since 1940 to raise funds for a building to house the Kindergarten to accommodate ninety children and an up-to-date Infant Health Clinic, all under one roof.

Over £3,000 has been collected to date, and when materials are available the building will be erected on land made available by the Bassendean Road Board. At present a Play Centre is conducted in the McDonald Hall, on the Football Oval. The committee is indebted to the Swan District Football Club for the use of this facility, and although only a temporary arrangement, the Centre is a great success.

## RED CROSS.

The Bassendean Red Cross Branch was formed in August, 1914. Mrs. Garnsworthy was elected President, and she continued to serve in that position until her death in 1934. Mrs. R. A. McDonald was elected to the vacancy, and has served the Branch as their President ever since. Mrs. Yelland is the secretary, with Mrs. Townsend the treasurer.

The first secretary appointed was Mrs. Warmold, and she was succeeded by Mrs. Loveridge, who served for eight years before Mrs. Birkhead was appointed.

The following Foundation members of the Branch are still in active membership:—Mrs. Loveridge, Miss Fiveash, Mrs. Townsend, Mrs. McDonald, Mrs. Murray Gardiner, Mrs. Chas. Gardiner, Mrs. Geo. Smith, and Mrs. Jourdain. A special honour by the Red Cross Society is their Medal for twenty years of service, and all the above received one in 1939, just prior to World War II.

Mrs. McKinley and Mrs. Wallace (both deceased) also received the Gold Medal.

Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Wallace regularly attend at Perth Hospital Tuck Shop for years; now Mrs. Doig and Mrs. Townsend (daughter of Mrs. Wallace), are regularly following up the work.

During World War II the Branch formed a Camp Comforts Committee with Mrs. Corry as their secretary, and this Committee functioned from February, 1940, until the end of hostilities. They sent parcels to all Bassendean men serving in Egypt. Quantities of material was bought and paid for by the Branch, which, after it had been made up, was donated to the Red Cross Society.

At the present time (1947) the Branch is actively supporting the Food for Britain Fund, and Flood Relief.

## Australian Legion of Ex-Servicemen and Women.

The Bassendean Sub-Branch of the above was formed on November 12, 1946, with an initial membership of 100.

The aims of the Legion are to assist members in every way: Socially, financially, or in the matter of employment.

A "Bulletin" is published each month, printed at the local Printery, and this is so well supported with local advertising that it is no charge on the funds of the Sub-Branch.

The officials are: President, Mr. F. G. Kirk; Secretary, Mr. E. L. Standen, 52 Fourth Avenue. There is a very energetic Ladies' Auxiliary.

## Daffodil and Horticultural Society.

The inaugural meeting of the Bassendean and Districts Daffodil and Horticultural Society was held on July 7, 1931. This meeting was convened by the Road Board, and was held in the Board Room. The following were present at that first meeting:—

Board Members: R. A. McDonald, Esq., J.P., Messrs. J. Gallagher, A. Drysdale, T. E. Johnson, H. L. Brisbane, J. L. Watkins and F. J. Shepherd. Messrs. G. Lindsay, Rhodes, Jackson, Townsend, Piesse, Bird, Hoops, Hams, Richards, Royer, and Mileham. Also Mrs. E. Hams.

Those present decided to form a Society, under the above name, and to hold a Show on the 16th October, 1931. This show was a signal success.

The following were the first officials elected:—

Patron, Sir Chas. Nathan; President, R. A. McDonald, Esq., J.P.; Secretary, Mr. Fred Jackson, Treasurer, Mr. B. J. Richards.

The first Autumn Show was held on April 15, 1932, featuring Dahlias and Chrysanthemums, and this was an Annual fixture for the next five years.

The Ladies' Auxiliary formed on September 8, 1931.

The Society conducted a Daffodil Show on September 2, 1932, the first of its kind in the State. In appreciation of their initial effort the Horticultural Council of Western Australia appointed the Bassendean Society to conduct, at Bassendean, the first State Championship for Daffodils. This was held on September 2, 1937, and it has now become an annual fixture. The officials of the Society have always been encouraged and liberally supported by the members of the Road Board.

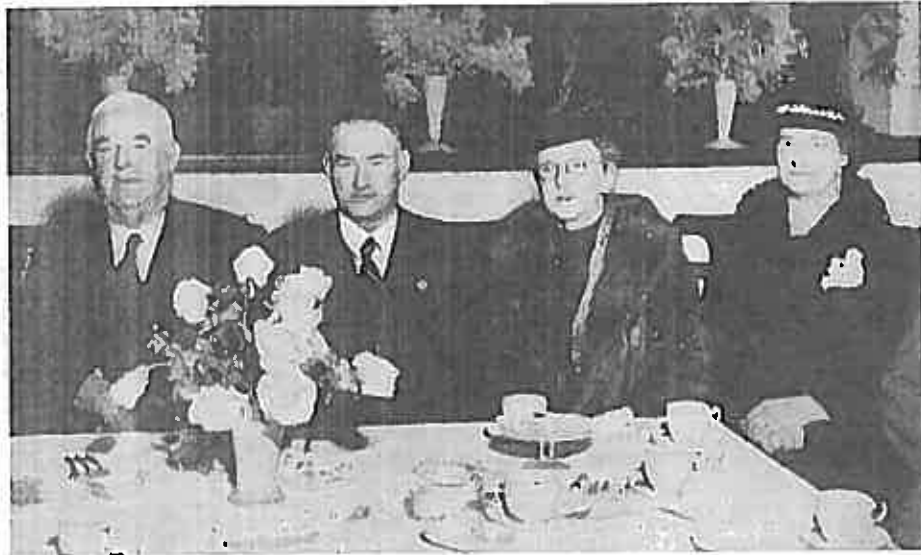
During the years it has been proved conclusively that Bassendean is an ideal garden suburb, composed of many and varied types of soil, capable of producing dahlias, gladiola, daffodils, sweet peas, carnations, and annuals of the highest quality.

Some years ago the Society constructed a Demonstration Rosebed on the B.I.C. Reserve. Each year a demonstration by officers of the Society is

held. These are attended by enthusiastic local growers and visitors from afar. Mr. Jackson, the secretary, resigned in 1933, and he was succeeded by Mr. Geo. Harber, and Mr. E. C. Brinkworth followed him. Then Mr. Jackson was re-appointed, and carried on from 1937 to 1943. On Mr. Jackson's appointment to the secretaryship of the National Rose Society, he tendered his resignation to the local society, and Mr. Jas. A. Gillan, (Head Gardener to the Road Board) was appointed to the office, with Mr. H. A. Bird as treasurer.

The following have been elected Life Members of the Society:—Mr. and Mrs. R. A. McDonald, Mrs. A. Welbourn; Messrs. F. Jackson, H. A. Bird, W. Marshall, Geo. Harber, and C. Townsend.

Throughout the war years all proceeds from the Shows, and sales of flowers were given to Patriotic Funds (in rough figures about £50 per annum).



ARBOR DAY, JULY 2, 1941.

Lieut.-Governor (Sir Jas. Mitchell), R. A. McDonald, Esq., Mrs. A. E. Joyner, Mrs. Martin.



## THE ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY.

The West Guildford Orchestral Society (now known as the Eastern Districts Orchestral Society), was founded in 1913, on the suggestion of Mr. C. E. Williams, of West Road, Bassendean. This Society now ranks amongst the oldest existing musical societies in the State. The first President was Mr. T. A. Wood, with Mr. J. R. Greenwood as Conductor, and Mr. Owen Williams as Secretary and Treasurer. A room for rehearsals was made available by Mr. C. J. McSwain, who then resided in Wilson Street, and the Society accepted this hospitality for six months. At the Annual Meeting, held in 1915, Mr. McSwain was made first Life Member.

The Society then rented accommodation from the Road Board, and many changes took place during the first World War. Whilst the Society continued to gain in membership, a number left for active service, and in June, 1916, the Society suffered a great loss in the death of their conductor. The late Mr. Greenwood placed the Orchestra on a very sound footing, and gained high esteem in the musical fraternity of the State. The vacancy caused by Mr. Greenwood's death was filled by Mr. Harry Whitmore, who successfully carried on during the remaining war years.

In 1920 Mr. Whitmore resigned, and the Society obtained the services of Mr. Roy Rodd, who conducted until November, 1923, when Miss Winifred Wright, L.R.A.M., was appointed, and continued in the work for a further four years.

On the resignation of Miss Wright the services of Mr. Arthur Young were obtained, and he held the position for three years, relinquishing the conductorship again to Mr. Roy Rodd. In July, 1933, Mr. Charles Gamba took the baton, and on his resignation in 1936, Mr. Baden Fixter carried on the work, he being followed in 1938 by Mr. Tate.

When, in 1941, the position again became vacant, the Society met with further success in securing the services of Mr. Eric Palmer, Music Master at Guildford Grammar School, and that gentleman is the present Conductor.

Apart from the education derived, the members get a deal of enjoyment, socially and musically. The appreciation of one enthusiast is particularly called to mind. The late Mr. John Bell (of East Guildford) joined the Society shortly after it was

founded, and continued in membership until a few months before his demise, in 1944. In appreciation of the happiness and interest derived by her late husband, Mrs. Bell presented her husband's Viola to the Society.

The work of the Conductor has been aided by able Secretaries, and those who have held this position are: Mr. Owen Williams, Miss Ivy Williams, Mr. Noel Wright, Miss R. Burns, the late Mr. and Mrs. Greer, Miss Devenish and Mrs. R. Smith. The position of Pianiste has been filled by Miss Ivy Williams, Miss Fox, Miss L. Asquith, the late Mrs. Greer, Miss Rita Gardiner, L.T.C.J., Mrs. Matthews; the present pianiste is Mrs. Morrison, with Mrs. Phipps as assistant.

Rehearsals are held in the C. of E. Parish Hall. Amongst its activities the Society has given fifty-four concerts in the Road Board Hall. It is the desire of the members to continue in this phase of their work as opportunity offers.

The following is a list of the office bearers for 1947:—President, Mr. F. W. Godfrey; Vice-presidents, Dr. Buttsworth, Dr. Bell, Dr. Arndt, Messrs. C. Shalders, E. Payne, H. Devenish, J. Hollis, T. A. Wood and Mrs. Despeissis; Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Ivy Williams; Chairman, Mr. T. A. Wood; Librarian, Miss J. Macaulay; Auditors, Messrs. M. & G. Gardiner; Trustees, Messrs. F. W. Godfrey, T. Wood and C. Gardiner. The following have been made Life Members of the Society: Messrs. C. J. McSwain, C. E. Williams, C. Gamba, C. Gardiner, M. Gardiner, T. A. Wood and Miss Ivy Williams.

Mr. C. E. Williams, the promoter and father of the Society is still a playing member, although he has passed the eighty second milestone in life.

## RINDERPEST OUTBREAK.

Some notoriety was caused for the district during December 1923, when it was reported that several cases of "Rinderpest" had been discovered to exist in the herd owned by Mr. Kirkham. His property is adjacent to the old "Bassendean" homestead. Although there were but seven cases of proved Rinderpest in Mr. Kirkham's herd, the whole of his 40 head of cattle were destroyed. Other owners within a prescribed area also lost their cows, and there were many urgent meetings of indignation held. Eventually, all the losers were compensated by the Government, but it took long time to build the herds up again.

## THE SCOUTS.

The Bassendean Scouts, 77th Group, at the present time number about 100 young folk. Over the years the movement has been responsible for the training and discipline of many lads and lassies of the district; helping them to develop character on the right lines. Testimony to the value of the work is often found in the Scoutmaster's letter box; as they leave the home town and go into business, and to various occupations far apart, the young folk do not forget their leaders, and letters are exchanged. Prominence is given to swimming, and also in St. John's First Aid work; in fact the standard of the First Aid work with the Bassendean Troop is very high, and in competition recently won the Life Saving Record (Aust.) with Penmant. The Group comprises 50 Sea Scouts, 30 Air Scouts, and 24 Cubs, and their interest is so intense that they have voted the present hall too small and badly situated. With the idea of new quarters they have a strong building fund, steadily growing, and also great hopes of acquiring a suitable Army Hut from the Disposals Branch, or some such building as a home base.

Mr. H. Davies is Groupmaster, and Mrs. Davies is Scoutmaster, with Miss J. Jones as Cubmaster.

## BASSENDEAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY.

This Society was formed in September, 1946, with a nucleus of six members, and keeps strictly to a programme of sponsoring amateur radio work among the youths of the district. Senior members voluntarily conduct theory and practical instruction each Friday evening to the Junior members, of whom there are now over thirty enrolled.

The office bearers are: Patron, Mr. R. A. McDonald; President, Mr. R. A. Newbey; Vice-president, Mr. J. Macham; Hon. Sec., Mr. R. Mann; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. E. Nicholls.

The Society purposes an election of officers each year, with the idea of having young members take office, to enable them to gain experience in controlling their own Society.

Recently the Bassendean Voluntary Fire Brigade required an electrical timing device to enable them to accurately time their practice runs. The job was successfully completed on time, and the experience gained in designing the instrument must prove of value to Club members. There is nothing of its kind manufactured

commercially, and it is to be expected that the Fire Brigade will receive great advantage by its use.

The Society hope to be soon operating its own Radio Transmitter, and also a Short-wave Receiving Set, designed by the Club, and manufactured by the Junior members.

## THE STATE SCHOOLS. BASSENDEAN.

At about the same time as the site for the Board office was allotted in 1904, a school site was also granted, and activities began for the establishment of a State School in the district. The site selected was at the corner of Devon Street and West Road. On the 12th October a special meeting of the Board was called, to arrange, in conjunction with the Women's Social Political League, to celebrate the opening, and the School was opened on October 15, 1906. The initial enrolment number 85 children, and it is of interest to record that Mr. Stan Smith claims to be the only remaining scholar of that first enrolment now residing in the district. Mr. A. H. Loveridge was the first Headmaster appointed, with Miss Ella Crease as his assistant. Then in February, 1907, Mr. Roy Potts was appointed to be junior assistant. In 1914 Mr. Potts enlisted, and served in the World War I. He was mentioned in despatches, and was awarded the M.C. distinction. At the time of his death Mr. Potts was Headmaster of the Perth Boys' School. In 1914 Mr. Nadebaum was made Headmaster, and since his retirement has continued to reside in Bassendean. In September, 1919, Mr. T. E. Edmundson took over; at the present time he is Chief Inspector of Schools in W.A. Mr. D. Baines, the present Headmaster, was appointed his successor to Bassendean School, and he has a staff of nine assistants and a monitor, with an enrolment of 450 scholars.

## EDEN HILL.

The Eden Hill School was established in 1914, and at the present time the classes range from Infants to Class VI. The Headmaster, Mr. Herbert Minchin, is a descendant of the Minchin's, of Guildford, who came to the colony in s.s. "Caroline," a boat of 330 tons, carrying 60 passengers. They landed in October, 1829. The present staff of the Eden Hill School is three teachers and a monitor, with an enrolment of 163 children. Mr. Minchin was appointed to Eden Hill on January 3, 1946.

## The 100th Birthday.

Mrs Margaret Lawson came to W.A. from Scotland, on February 1, 1912, accompanied by her son and two daughters. She was a widow. The following year her son built a dwelling house in Bassendean, in anticipation of his marriage, which took place in 1914. After the marriage of her son the old lady continued to live with the young couple. Her son predeceased her by several years. One of Mrs. Lawson's daughters is on the staff at Government House and the two bottles of wine in picture were a present from Sir James Mitchell. On her 100th birthday (September 10, 1940), the Bassendean Road Board gave the old lady a Party. Besides a cake which carried 100 candles, there was a silver cake knife, engraved as follows:—

*Presented to Mrs. Margaret Lawson  
by the chairman and members of  
the Board, and residents of Bas-  
sendean, on the occasion of her  
100th birthday.*

Mrs. Lawson passed away about eight months later.



("The Western Mail" Photo)

MRS. LAWSON CELEBRATES HER 100th BIRTHDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1940.

THERE IS IN LONDON a daily newspaper devoted entirely to sport! It was established in 1822, i.e., before the establishment of Swan River Settlement. In 1859 the title was changed to "Sporting Life." Since 1883 the paper has been published daily.—which goes to prove how much a sportsman likes to read of sporting life. To get the best results a sport should buy only the best material offering: remember the old maxim—"The best is the cheapest in the long run." THERE IS IN LONDON COURT, Perth, a firm who stock only the Best in all Sportswear. Specialists in Racquet Re-stringing and Repairs. Note address carefully: TAYLOR'S SPORTS STORE, 26 London Court, Perth (B 2020).

PAGE FIFTY-TWO—

Housework is drudgery, but not always. The kitchen is much more compact and conveniently fitted in these days, to what it used to be. But a woman likes a change even so. That is why "Home-made Cakes and Handy Foods" is such a welcome sign in any town. Mrs. Tobin, in Perth Road (who hails from Lancashire), has been established in Bassendean for nine years, and "Best Quality" is always associated with her goods. It is next to impossible to get help in the house these days, so buy Cooked Meats, Tinned Goods and your Cakes at Tobin's, and your housework is that much lightened—and they're Home-made. Why not place a standing order? Tobins also stock Sweets, Ice Cream, and Cool Drinks.

## CHAPTER FOUR.

# PUBLICITY DATA

*The following pages give some indication of the progress of the Commercial Life of the District, besides incorporating some further interesting history.*

**MR. F. W. A. DESHON** started in business as Auctioneer, Land and Estate Agent, in the year 1912, being greatly helped in his decision by one of his best friends, the late Mr. J. O. Fisher, of the Church Office. Mr. and Mrs. Deshon have always been staunch supporters of Anglican Church work. The above picture shows the premises he built for himself, and it is of interest to notice that the adjoining premises was the first home of Brisbane's Garage, and petrol bowlers used to stand on the front footpath. For some years prior to launching out, and whilst with the W.A.G.R., Mr. Deshon was in demand as an auditor, in fact, he acted for several years in that capacity for The Swan Districts Benefit Building, Investment, and Loan Society.

In the year 1919 (on July 30 to be exact), Mr. Deshon received his Certificate of Appointment as a Sworn Valuator. A glance at some of his old ledgers gives ample evidence of fairly large transactions in the early days of Bassendean and Guildford. Such sales as Morrison's "Waterhall Estate," and "Sainsbury's Estate," meant handsome commissions. When Mr. J. T. Short bought the "Lockeridge Hotel" with the idea of establishing a Hospital, Mr. Deshon was the business agent. Another transaction, which by the way, had happy repercussions, was the sale to the Road Board of Hay's Swamp. Whilst handling the late J. G. Hay's Estate for his daughter, as Executor, Mr. Deshon saw the possibilities of the area, and contacted the Board. To-day we see the resultant effect in the B.I.C. Reserve—from a mosquito farm to a beauty spot. Mr. Deshon was President of the Ugly Men's Association at the time—an Association which did good work for the District, and also helped a lot in collaboration with the B.I.C.

It was in 1895 that Mr. Deshon resigned his position with the Bank of Australasia, in Beechworth, Vic., and came to W.A. On arrival at Fremantle he obtained a position as a clerk in the

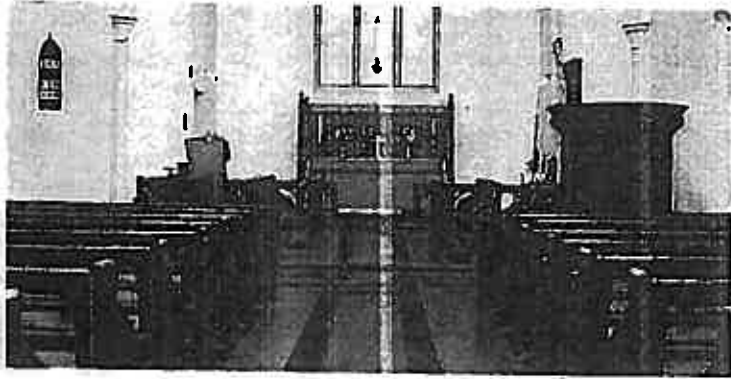


A 1912 SNAP.

W.A.G.R., under Mr. R. B. Campbell. When the Eden Hill Estate was cut up into building blocks he bought a block. The location was all bush at the time, and the block was hard to find, but in 1905 Mr. Deshon built his residence on it—to-day it has a frontage to Anzac Terrace.

Some years after the Railway Workshops were transferred to Midland Mr. Deshon became dissatisfied, tendered his resignation, and launched out on his own account: a move which he has never regretted.

To-day, after 35 years, Mr. Deshon is as keen as ever, not only to sell land, or property, but to sell it with a view to the progress and best interests of Bassendean. He also acts as agent for absentees, for insurance, in fact in any capacity of an up-to-date agent.



INTERIOR OF ST. MARK'S, BASSENDEAN.

*"If a thing is worth doing at all it is worth doing well."* This is a very old saying, but it stands true to-day, be it in the home, at school, or in business. In fact, many a business man has built a solid business on the principle involved: only the best is good enough.

Thus when, in 1932, Mr. J. H. Smallman started in a small way as a Furniture Manufacturer, by carrying out that principle in all his work, he soon made his presence felt. He soon found that he was too busy to go looking for orders, but folk would seek him out and bring their orders to him. Thus we found him when we called in the interests of this publication, and talked to him as he worked.

To-day he has a roomy factory, well lighted and equipped, situated at the rear of his residence, 62 Whitfield Street, Bassendean. "My major difficulty," said Mr. Smallman, "is not the getting of orders, but in fulfilling them. Suitable timber is hard to obtain, and well-seasoned boards are worth chasing after. We have to be so very careful, as so much of the timber to-day is delivered to us insufficiently seasoned for our work, and we needs must stack it for months before use, sometimes for years for use in very special work."

Mr. Smallman had a share in the furnishing of the Bassendean Road Board offices, and several of the Churches in the district contain pleasing evidence of his craftsmanship. The seating ac-

commodation with other furnishings of St. Mark's, the local Anglican Church, is referred to as one example. If you desire something special in your home—be it a single piece, or a full suite of furniture, drop a note to Mr. Smallman, or ring him for an interview ('Phone Gldfd. 74).

Mr. Smallman was only 12 years of age when he came to W.A. with his parents from England. He served for three years in the World War I. He learned his trade under the Repat. Service. In 1940 he was elected a member of the Bassendean Road Board, and is keenly interested in the growth and development of the district. When, in April last, Mr. McDonald expressed a desire to be relieved of the duties of chairman which he has fulfilled for so many years, the Board showed their unanimous confidence in Mr. Smallman by electing him to the high office of Chairman of the Board.

Remember the Address: 62 Whitfield Street, Bassendean, and also notice that buying direct means a better and cheaper deal.

Mr. C. T. Walton has been established in Ivanhoe Street, Bassendean, for many years as a Pastrycook and Smallgoods Baker. He purchased the business from Mr. A. J. Hine in 1937, coming from Kalgoorlie. Then in 1941 he enlisted in the A.I.F. and served till hostilities ceased. On his return from the Islands, and his discharge in 1946, he re-opened the business, and is once more happy in his work. Wedding and Birthday Cakes are his Speciality.

Established many years ago the Tea Rooms (with Cake Shop and Handy Foods), situated at 184 Perth Road, Bassendean, have for the past twelve months been under the control of Miss Simpson and Mrs. Angus. The new management has quickly established a reputation for efficiency. A Frigidaire display counter has been installed, thus ensuring best care of cooked meats and handy foods, together with another overdue innovation in the shape of an electric pie warmer. Light luncheons are served. Cold Meats and Salad, Sandwiches, Hot Pies, or Tea and Cakes. Make it a habit to get your Cakes and Handy Foods from Simpson & Angus, 184 Perth Road. When in town shopping call there for Afternoon Tea. Milk Shakes, Cool Drinks, Ice Cream, Chocolates and Confectionery stocked.



Opened in September, 1946, Knight's NUKLEEN Service is an entirely new venture in Bassendean, and fulfills a much needed service in high-class Dry Cleaning and Dyeing to the residents.

Although NUKLEEN is a new business, the owner, Howard Knight, first started with his father, the late Mr. H. A. V. Knight, in 1927, trading as Knight & Son, Universal Providers, in Padbury's Buildings (opposite the station). After the death of his father Howard Knight took over the business, and continued trading as Knight & Son, in his new and modern premises, at 200-202 Perth Road, until his enlistment as Lieutenant Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve, when the business of Knight & Son was sold.

NUKLEEN is equipped with the newest and most modern machinery, made by Australian workmen, and operated by highly skilled craftsmen. The factory is light and airy, with ample space for extension and plans are laid to make it the penultimate in cleanliness and efficiency, in most pleasant surroundings—ensuring courtesy and individual attention to, and the complete satisfaction of every client.

A post-war venture (staffed 100 per cent. by ex-servicemen), Knight's NUKLEEN Service is already meriting the reward of foresight and enterprise, in supplying a decided want in high-class work and conscientious service in Bassendean.



Mr. R. V. Allen came to Bassendean from Geraldton, in 1939, and was settling in nicely when the World War II. started. This not only upset his staff, but he also was called up for a time, and his wife had to carry on: but this was only one firm of many which were upset in the same way, and the customers were very considerate and understanding.

Mr. Allen's Store is conveniently situated, being at the corner of James Street and Palmerston Street. It was built in 1927 by Mr. P. A. Everingham, and managed by that gentleman for 12 years. Previous to building Mr. Everingham was the manager for a Co-Op. Store in the main street (opp. Mr. Deshon's). But he realised that it was not necessary for a Grocer's store to be in the main street; as a matter of fact that position tends to increase overhead expenses, and these must necessarily go on to the prices.

Since taking over the business Mr. Allen has installed a modern Frigidaire counter, in consequence of which his popularity for cooked meats and handy food has grown.

If you wish for better service send a message to Mr. Allen (corner of James and Palmerston Streets), and he will make a personal call. Orders called for and delivered, satisfaction guaranteed.





Cabinet-making is a term derived from the Italian, through the French, used for the finer forms of Furniture Making. It is really an improvement on the ordinary Carpenter and Joiners' work. The word appears to have come into use in England in the 16th century, and was applied to the workmen who wainscoted, i.e., lined with wood panels the walls of the old English mansions and also those who manufactured panelled cupboards and cabinets, which were of exquisite workmanship.

Mr. E. E. Ireland, of 2 Parker Street, is a trained Cabinet Maker, and he established the Bassendean Cabinet Works in April, 1922, although he originally came to reside in Bassendean in 1912, from Kalgoorlie. Mr. Ireland specialises in Municipal and Road Board furnishings, and there is a good illustration of his craftsmanship to be seen in the Bassendean Boardroom (see page 6), also at Kalgoorlie and Boulder Council Chambers.

The workshop is equipped with some of the most up-to-date machinery, which enables the proprietor to very favourably compete with City firms in the production of high-class household furniture and also shop and office fittings. Mr. Ireland was with the R.A.A.F. for three-and-a-half years in the maintenance branch.

## WESTON & BERESFORD ON BROADWAY

Messrs. Weston & Beresford are, we believe, the very newest firm in Bassendean (they started on April 24, 1947, to be exact); at the same time the business is a distinct acquisition to the rapidly growing district.

The principals are brothers-in-law, with mother as manager, and her daughter as assistant—what a lovely combination for a business in the production of Home-made Cakes and Pastries.

Both Mr. Weston and Mr. Beresford saw service in the Great War, and it was soon after his discharge that the firm was established. With a large-size Hecla Electric Oven installed, and the very latest in electric appliances, their Bakehouse is a hive of industry. Already a second electric oven has been placed on order.

Delivery is made per motor van to all parts. Weddings and Parties, and other functions catered for, with everything of the best quality. The address is No. 80, Broadway, Bassendean.

"SUCCESS STORE," so named as it is in the vicinity of Success Hill, at the corner of Seventh Avenue and Anzac Terrace, was established by Mr. R. L. Rowles, in November, 1936. It is well-equipped as a General Store, and serves a large area, assisted by a covered motor delivery van. Mr. Rowles' sons, Eric and Roy, who saw service during World War II., now manage on behalf of father, and promise all who will give a trial order Courteous and Prompt Attention.

\* \* \* \*

The Bassendean Fruit and Vegetable Supply, at 189 Perth Road, is one of the very oldest businesses in the town, having been established 30/40 years ago, by Mr. Davey. Although it has changed hands several times of late years it has always retained its identity; and with the years its standard for freshness and quality of goods has been improved, for moving with the times the Frigidaire has been introduced. In December, 1946, Messrs. McGrath and Flegg purchased the business, and they are sparing no effort in order to give satisfaction and service. Mr. Flegg was in a similar business in N.S.W. prior to enlisting in the Army Transport Corps. Cakes, Sweets, Ice Cream, Cold Meats, and Handy Packed Foods always in stock.



THIS IS A "MELRAY" STORE.

**MR. GEORGE PAYNE**, Proprietor of the Ivanhoe Street Store, came to Bassendean from London, with his parents when only a lad. He received his education at the local school, and still greatly enjoys the friendship of those schoolmates, now widely scattered, but many of whom take pleasure in returning as opportunity offers to have a part in the annual "Bassendean Old Boys' Re-union." When George had finished schooling he settled down to a business education, and started straightway in the service of his father, and in that well-known and old-established business he acquired a thorough training which well-fitted him to branch out on his own account. In August, 1943, he bought a small shop from Mr. Cruickshanks, in Ivanhoe Street, and put up his own sign.

When we called on Mr. Payne and suggested that he could help the Bassendean Road Board in the publication of this History, by having a page in it, he readily agreed. In the course of our conversation we learned that he was greatly encouraged from the start, by the goodly number of friends who supported him in his venture, indeed, he very soon found it necessary to extend his shop, which he did by removing a dividing wall. This enabled him to introduce an up-to-date refrigerator counter. But from our own observations we have no doubt that the mainspring of the business is found in the personality of Mr. Payne, and in his personal attention to all orders received.

Mrs. Payne finds time to help in the shop at peak periods.

and it was from her that we got three points which make it easy to understand, "the pains" that "the Paynes'" take to give "Service with a Smile." She says:—

We always **SELECT** our Stock so that we may with confidence recommend it to our clients.

We always **STUDY** the Customers' convenience, and our delivery service is at their disposal always.

We also **STRIVE** to give our best "service with a smile" to even the smallest order.

"And what do you do with your spare time, if you ever have any, Mr. Payne?" we enquired.

"Oh, yes, all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, and that is still true. I like shooting, and am a member of the Rifle Club. But **MY FAVOURITE PASTIME** is fishing and boating." Mr. Payne is very proud of his motor launch, "*Penguin*," and every long week-end (and other favourable opportunity) finds him and his family, slipping down to Safety Bay where the "*Penguin*" lies moored.



THE "PENGUIN."

One last word: If you happen to be a new-comer to Bassendean, or if you feel that you are not getting just that service you desire, make a note of the address, and give this firm a trial order.

**GEORGE R. PAYNE**, The Grocer, 37 Ivanhoe Street, Bassendean. Phone Gldfd. 144. (This is a Melray Store).



AN OLD LANDMARK — NOW R. B. YOUNG'S PREMISES.

Mr. R. B. Young, of Anzac Terrace, when on January 1, 1941, he started in business as a Produce Merchant and Poultry Food Expert, introduced to Bassendean an industry which is destined to grow to proportions. No doubt the Poultry Breeding industry in Australia to-day is developing rapidly, both in production of eggs and birds for table use. Here are some big figures:—

On April 21, 1947, at Fremantle, R.M.S. 'Orion' loaded 2,845 cases of poultry, comprising 50,275 birds, shipped in connection with the 'Food for Britain Appeal,' by the Red Cross Society. A week previous the Society had despatched, per 'Nestor,' a consignment of 8,000 cases (or approximately 144,000 birds). A total of nearly 200,000 birds in only two shipments from Fremantle alone. These facts give us a little idea of the huge task of feeding, and the inroads it must make on the cereal production of Australia.

Mr. Young was at one time farming in the Narrogin-Williams district, but left the farm to become better acquainted with the poultry industry, and opened a Produce Business at Swan View in 1933. On account of the growth of his business, as a specialist in the preparation of Poultry Foods, he moved to his present Bassendean premises which now house an up-to-date bulk wheat installation, and poultry food manufacturing machinery. This building has been a landmark in Bassendean since 1897. Built as a brewery

(by the same company who built the Lockeridge Hotel), it was never worked as such. It was bought by Mr. A. J. Despeissis, M.R.C.A. (in association with Mr. Lindley-Cowen), as a storeroom and cellars for Santa Rosa, to be used in conjunction with the Valencia Vineyard at Caversham. Mr. Despeissis, it will be remembered, was at one time Under-Secretary and Acting-Director of Agriculture for W.A., and was later appointed Commissioner of Tropical Agriculture for W.A. He published a 'Comprehensive Treatise on Horticulture and Agriculture.'

After the demise of Mr. Despeissis, the building was bought by a Mr. Thompson, a Building-Speculator, with the idea of establishing a residential area in the vicinity—demolishing the old structure and using the bricks in the houses. But his scheme failed to further materialise, and when Mr. Young put a proposition of purchase before him in 1940, he was pleased to have the property taken off his hands.

Mr. R. Bullen, Greengrocer and Fruiterer, first opened business in Bassendean in 1942, in premises now occupied by the E. S. and A. Bank. Recently he shifted right next door, into a more commodious shop (opp. hotel), Tel. UL332. Mr. Bullen can always be relied on for fresh fruit and vegetables. Also sweets and confectionery.

\* \* \* \*

'The Jacaranda Florist' has opened in 97 Perth Road, next to Mr. Bullen's Greengrocery Store. Mrs. O'Garr, the Principal, has an established Nursery in North Road, on the river shore. Thus most all flowers and plants purchased in her shop have the added merit of being locally grown. Cut flowers, bulbs and seeds always in stock. Weddings and all floral work catered for. UL332.

Twenty-two years in the same suburb is a good recommendation. Mr. L. J. Brennan, the Butcher, came from Collie in 1925. Whilst things are very difficult with him as with all butchers at the present time, his service is just as reliable and pleasing. The refrigeration facilities in his shop, 188 Perth Road, are extensive and adequate, and the system employed in regulating the transfer of the meat from one refrigerator to the other is a guarantee of the continued supply of fresh and tender meat. Mr. Brennan has four employees, and deliveries are made daily per motor. Phone No. UL44. Fresh supplies of Prime Mince meat always in stock.

## BEAUFORT KENNELS IRISH RED SETTERS

"THE BEAUFORT KENNELS" were established by Mr. W. H. Thayer, at 47 Anzac Terrace, Bassendean, in 1943, but on account of his military duties, Mrs. Thayer carried on to the best of her ability until his rehabilitation. Prior to his enlistment Mr. Thayer was farming in the Wheatbelt.

The original of the Stud is the "Duchess of Bristol," (Champion Bitch in Western Australia), and her litter was the foundation stock of the Kennels. She was mated with "Wensley Hallmark," owned by Mrs. G. Millington, Grand Champion of W.A., who is the son of "Marksman of Ide," a Champion in England and Australia. "Marksman of Ide" was imported from England to Victoria in 1940, and is probably the best Irish Red Setter ever imported to Australia. Puppies of this strain have been exported by Mr. Thayer to Malaya, India, Ceylon and Singapore, also to all parts of this State.

So soon as cement and other materials are released Mr. Thayer plans extensions and improvements to his Kennels.

Note the Address: "Beaufort Kennels," 47 Anzac Terrace, Bassendean.



"Wensley Hallmark," owned by Mrs. G. Millington. "The Duchess of Bristol," owned by Mrs. D. Thayer.



Mr. C. Thompson, the proprietor of the Northside Store, has been a resident of Bassendean for 37 years, and consequently is no stranger to its development—nor to its everyday needs.

It was during the depression period of 1934 that Mr. Thompson established his business at 78 Railway Avenue, with a young girl to assist behind the counter, whilst he attended to the delivery and general management. His shop is on the corner of Railway Avenue and Broadway (right opposite the Northern entrance to the station). It was built in 1917 as offices for a Timber Yard on the site, but was never used as such. It was first occupied by the local Printer. When he vacated, the tenancy changed hands several times up to the coming of Mr. Thompson. He has steadily built up over the years, until to-day his staff includes one senior male, and three female assistants.

Mr. Thompson claims to have been the second storekeeper in Bassendean to introduce the refrigerator, and his initiative has been rewarded in the attraction of a wonderful connection for Dairy Produce and Meats, with a local fame in Fruit Cream Blocks; also Ice Cream and Cool Drinks.

If it's Quality you desire, backed by Prompt Service, just ring Gldfd. UL365, and let Mr. Thompson call on your home address.



WILLCOCKS' GARAGE, PERTH ROAD, BASSENDEAN.  
(Near the Entrance to Oval.)

The Bassendean Garage, on Perth Road ('Phone UL 244), was built by Mr. C. Brisbane, on a site which was one-time a swamp. The property was later purchased by Mr. Frank Hooper, who was then conducting a repair and sales business at 29 Ivanhoe Street. It was in 1945 that Mr. John Willcocks purchased the Garage and Engineering Works.

Mr. Willcocks was previously engaged in Auto Maintenance and General Engineering with one of the largest Passenger Transport Firms in W.A. He has a wide range of experience in repair and maintenance of all classes of vehicles, including Diesel.

\* \* \* \*

HOOPER'S TAXI and "DRIVE YOURSELF" SERVICE is situated at 29 Ivanhoe Street. The proprietor, Mr. Frank Hooper, seeing the dire need of such a service locally, commenced this business in June, 1946, and the immediate response is testimony to the soundness of his judgment. From January 1 to May 31, 1947, eighty-four emergency hospital runs were made from Bassendean alone. Undoubtedly it is a great boon to the people of the district to have this emergency service. Smart, modern, efficient cars are available for hire at any hour, day or night. For any type of Taxi Work ring 'Phone UL 410.

## HOLLIS' NEWSAGENCY.

It was Dr. F. W. Boreham who wrote: "Man must have his newspaper, and even if he be buried in the deepest seclusion of the Never Never Country, he will contrive some way of getting it. The Australian squatter sits outside his lonely humpy, and hungers for Europe and Asia and America and Africa, and for all the scattered inlands of the rolling seas . . . He must feel the throb of all your revolutions and tumults; he must know all your inventions and discoveries; he must read all your sports and politics; he must keep in touch with all your commerce and your industries." A man wants to know all that is going on in the world. It is a fearful and a wonderful thing, this craving for news, and that is what our newspapers cater for. That is why they appoint agents in every town and district. The Newsagent in Bassendean is Mr. J. H. Hollis, and he came here in March, 1931, from Kalgoorlie and Boulder. His shop at 191 Perth Road, Bassendean, carries full stocks in all stationery, toys and magazines, and there is really no need to go to the City for these things. To start delivery of the paper ring Gldfd 142.

## FREIBERG'S FURNITURE WORKS



Established only last year, the business of Mr. P. C. Freiberg is a rapidly growing one. He is a Furniture and Cabinet Maker, with a factory at 47 Cyril St., Bassendean. Mr. Freiberg was first apprenticed to Mr. Negus, and on the knowledge acquired under that gentleman, he served as a civilian employee with the U.S. Navy. He spent four years in the Navy's splendidly equipped workshop at Fremantle. Those four years of added experience in cabinet making for world-wide use, using the most modern equipment, will undoubtedly prove of life-long value to Mr. Freiberg, and should prove a big factor in his success in business competition of the future. After having so long been privileged to handle the best of world timbers, which were delivered at Fremantle in anything up to 400-ton lots, progress will be restricted on the present-day shortage of timber supplies. But these conditions can't last, and no doubt Mr. Freiberg will "battle through."

## BASSENDEAN-ROCHDALE CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED

FORMED in 1944, the Bassendean Rochdale Co-operative Ltd., in its lusty growth typifies the Co-operative Spirit first evidenced by the early pioneers, and since maintained by the residents of this progressive suburb. The initial direction of the Bassendean Rochdale Co-operative Ltd. was in the hands of a Board of Directors comprising the Hon. W. D. Johnson, M.L.A. (Chairman), Mr. E. C. Barnett and Mr. W. H. Lockard, with Mr. J. B. Kuhnberg as Manager and Secretary. The Company acquired the business being conducted by Mr. E. Isaac trading as Knight & Sons and Co-operative trading commenced late in July of 1944. Difficulties of supply and staffing of the Co-operative were considerable in its early stages due to war-time exigencies but despite the many unavoidable restrictions and limitations, the Co-operative steadily increased both its membership and its turnover. In November, 1944,

the Manager was recalled to his duties with the R.A.A.F., and there were numerous breaks in the continuity of management until the return of Mr. Kuhnberg as Manager in November, 1945. Early in 1946 several ex-service personnel returned to join the staff and by the end of the Co-operative's second financial year, the Directors were able to announce the full reorganisation of the Company's staff and substantially increased trading profit for the benefit of its members. Before the expiration of the lease of the premises occupied by the Co-operative in July, 1946, the Directors were able to announce the purchase of a valuable property in the heart of the Bassendean shopping centre formerly known as the Wonderview Picture Theatre, which was earmarked as a site for the erection of the Company's own premises at some future date. In the meantime arrangements were finalised for a short-term lease of the property known as Padbury's Buildings, and in July, 1946, the whole of the Company's stock and plant were transferred to these premises. The premises now occupied have, by virtue of better lighting and display facilities, further contributed to the Company's solid progress. A barber shop has been opened for the convenience of members and a Ladies' Hair-dressing Salon on modern lines is among the activities scheduled for early attention. The Co-operative Directorate has been broadened by the inclusion of three local members, namely, Messrs. J. G. Blockley, C. O. Freiberg and W. T. Lampard, Mr. Lockard having retired after giving valuable honorary service. Practically the whole of the Co-operative's capital has been subscribed by residents of the Bassendean district and approximately 400 families are now sharing the benefits of this community-owned enterprise, which is destined to play a big part in the future progress of Bassendean. The scope of this Co-operative business is intended to be all-embracing and its future will be watched with interest. On the social and cultural welfare side, there is a Co-operative's Women Guild, which is expected to do good work for the community and its efforts in this direction will be fostered in every way by the Company.



A MID-MORNING SNAP OF ONE CORNER OF OUR STORE.



## *"Bristile"* TERRACOTTA TILES AND POTTERY . .

A few years ago when the Bassendean Roads Board decided upon the policy of beautification of the district, which has produced such pleasing results, they approached Messrs. H. L. Brisbane & Wunderlich Ltd. to take over that area of land situated at the corner of Surrey and Dodd Streets, and turn it into one of the usual decorative "Bristile" parks which are to be seen on various spots around the metropolitan area. Messrs. H. L. Brisbane & Wunderlich Ltd. gladly agreed and to-day as the illustration at right shows, the one time untidy vacant area is now quite an attractive place. Although the factories of Messrs. H. L. Brisbane & Wunderlich Ltd. are not actually within the boundary areas of Bassendean Roads Board the fact that they are in adjacent districts has had a beneficial effect on the progress and prosperity of Bassendean.

Originally the main activity of the Company was to make "Bristile" Terra Cotta Tiles, Texture and Face Bricks at their Belmont Potteries. From that beginning they have expanded to a series of Factories.

At Brown Street, East Perth, are now produced all kinds of "Bristile" earthenware pipes and fittings for deep sewerage, and agricultural drain pipes for draining wet farm and orchard land. Here also are manufactured Bullion furnaces, firebricks, fire-lumps, mining assay crucibles, and liatom earths. The Subiaco Factory is devoted to the production of all kinds of kitchenware and crockery for household, hotel and institution use, pedestal pans,



urinals, washbasins, drinking fountains and special laboratory sinks. The fine quality of "Bristile" crockery has developed a demand that has extended all over Australia and many places abroad.

Head Office is in Lord Street, and here too is another Factory devoted to the production of steel and wood working. Shop fronts counter and storage display, ice chests, steel storage lockers and cabinets for office factory and warehouse use, also stainless steel sinks. In this connection it is interesting to note that all the stainless steel sinks installed in the new Royal Perth Public Hospital were manufactured at this Factory.

H. L. BRISBANE & WUNDERLICH LTD., Lord St., Perth. FACTORIES, Lord St., Brown St., Subiaco, Belmont

## Through the Years . . . .

At the time that Bassendean was being surveyed as a townsite in 1831, a man in Fremantle was laboriously hand-writing a news sheet for the information of the small community of settlers living on the sandy shores of the Swan River estuary.

Soon after that the first newspaper was printed and ever since the year 1833, there has been a newspaper printed in Western Australia.

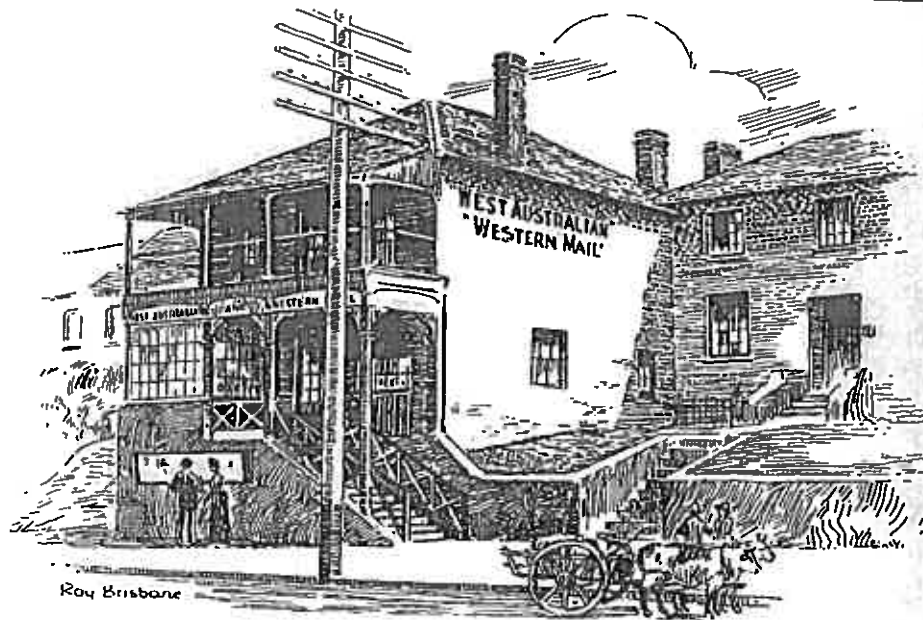
It was not until Bassendean had developed into a thriving centre that a weekly magazine was printed especially for the people of Western Australia. On December 19, 1885, the first issue of "*The Western Mail*" was delivered throughout Western Australia, and although distribution figures are not available, it is safe to say that some copies of the issue went to the settlers of the Bassendean district.

From its very beginning "*The Western Mail*" set out to provide for the particular needs of the people in the State. It offered them news of events in which they were vitally interested.

"*The Western Mail*" altered in style and size with the changing fashions of the passing years, but always its maintained its policy of catering first for the needs of the people, and year by year its reputation grew amongst the ever increasing communities throughout the State.

To-day, after sixty-one years of continuous weekly publication, "*The Western Mail*" is still the first choice of people everywhere.

This year, its circulation has reached a level never achieved before throughout the years of its publication. "*The Western Mail*" has maintained its position in the community because it has ever been alert to the inevitable changes which the years must bring. By progressive editorial management "*The Western Mail*" has been able to anticipate vital changes in the needs of the community.



*The Offices of "The West Australian" and "The Western Mail," in St. George's Terrace, Perth, in 1896.*

In 1946, "*The Western Mail*" made another tremendous step forward in the field of weekly magazines. Realising that women throughout the State need a magazine of their own "*The Western Mail*" set out to provide that need. The answer was not another different magazine, but a separate artistically presented supplement that satisfies the reading needs of women throughout the State. The Women's Magazine supplement to "*The Western Mail*" anticipated this year's trend.

Next year and the year after and the year after that, there will be other changes, other needs to be satisfied. We don't know the form these coming needs will take, but we do know that just as it has always anticipated to-morrow's needs to-day, "*The Western Mail*" will be ready to satisfy the changing moods and desires of its readers in the years ahead.

## CUMING SMITH & MT. LYELL FARMERS FERTILISERS LIMITED



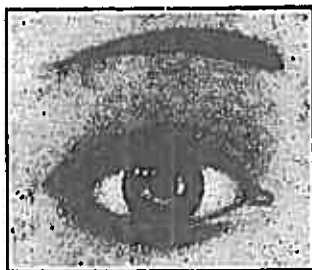
**WHEN** Cuming Smith & Company Proprietary Ltd. decided in 1909 to build Superphosphate Works at West Guildford, now known as Bassendean, it not only meant a great deal to the farmers of Western Australia, but helped to pioneer a now flourishing town. On completion of the Works in 1910 at a cost of well over £100,000, the Government Railways built the station of West Guildford. Employees of the Company built their homes in the district, other Manufacturers followed and Bassendean, under the far seeing policy of its Road Board, is now a suburb of well over 6,000 residents with a League Football Oval, Bowling Greens, Croquet Lawns, and general sports grounds, the equal of any to be found in the Metropolitan Area.

About the same time that Cuming Smith & Company Proprietary Ltd. were constructing Superphosphate Works at Bassendean, The Mount Lyell Chemical Works decided to build Superphosphate Works at North Fremantle. Since then the two Companies have amalgamated as Cuming Smith & Mt. Lyell Farmers Fertilisers Ltd., with works at Bassendean, North Fremantle, Bunbury and Geraldton. In 1922, before the amalgamation, representatives from each firm visited the Agricultural districts to in-

augurate a series of 5 acre experimental plots to show the effect of top dressing natural pastures with Superphosphate. At that time Clover pastures as we now have them were unknown. Some 78 plots were in operation over a period of three years, with results little short of amazing. The verdant clover and mixed pastures that we now have from Ajana in the North to Albany in the South, are the direct result of the enterprise of these firms.

The Bassendean Works when first completed was capable of an output of 20,000 tons of Superphosphate, but ample provision was made for the output to increase coincident with the advance of Agriculture in this State and the Works now has an output capacity of 120,000 tons of Superphosphate and mixed fertilisers and supplies the State's requirements of Sulphuric and other Acids for commercial use as well as manufacturing sprays, stock licks and other materials for Agricultural purposes. The Bassendean Works is among the largest and most up-to-date of its kind in Australia.

In 1928 when four scientists, known as "The Big Four," visited Western Australia during their world tour, the Chairman, Sir Arthur Duckham, publicly stated that the Company's Bassendean Plant was the best of its kind that he had seen anywhere.



## CHAS. M. NELSON, F.S.M.C., F.I.O.

(REFRACTION HOSPITAL, LONDON)

*Ophthalmic Optician,*  
32 Forrest Place, Perth.

LET us tell you a little of the history of spectacle making.

Guinano in the 18th century made the first attempt at homogeneous flint glass manufacture, by constantly stirring the molten glass; and in 1824 the Royal Astronomical Society appointed a committee to consider the question of optical glass making. The committee agreed that the first essential of optical glass is that it be homogeneous, and therefore it was one of the most difficult glasses to produce.

The researches of Abbe and Schott, at Jena, however, on the various effects of oxides on titrous fluxes led to the invention of Jena optical glass, now in general use. The old varieties of optical glass consisted mainly of silicates, while modern glass contains many oxides, e.g., those of barium, zinc, aluminium, etc., silicates and boric anhydride which enable lenses of remarkable purity and suitable optical qualities to be manufactured.

The glass has to go through a number of processes (moulding and annealing) and the high proportion of finished glass which has to be rejected on account of air bubbles, fractures, and other defects, makes the glass actually fit for optical purposes very expensive. On account of such defects it has been claimed that not more than one-fifth of the total glass manufactured for optical purposes can be used by highly qualified Opticians.

Then, when your Optician has secured a good stock of the best lenses procurable, his own work begins. He must know how to test each individual sight, for which purpose he must possess the most accurate and up-to-date instruments. With his instruments the Optician very carefully tests the lenses of your eyes, and

writes the result of the test on your personal card as his guide or pattern. Then he must set to work and grind and fit the glasses to suit your eyesight. Some persons' sight need a concave lens (short-sighted folk), others need convex lenses, and some are fitted with a perfectly flat lens—the whole process is too intricate to explain here, but we have given sufficient to enable you to see that the Optician's task is indeed a highly skilled one. In the hands of an unskilled man, the most perfect lens may easily be rendered useless.

The term Optician is often used by those who sell spectacles, but more properly it should only be used by those who have passed the necessary exams., set by the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers, London, or some such authority. The Spectacle Makers' Company holds a Royal Charter, and grants successful candidates a diploma, and the right to append the initials F.S.M.C. The Fellowship of the Institute of Ophthalmic Opticians is open only to Sight-testing Opticians who are qualified.

The need of using stock glasses is thus a thing of the past, and residents of Bassendean, together with folk elsewhere, should be very careful in the choice of their optician, realising that the optic nerve is far too valuable to good health and to the comfort of all for anyone to take risks. If you suffer headache, or see spots or indeed have any eye trouble, you should heed nature's warning.

Mr. Charles Nelson has made a life-study of the human eye, and obtained his degrees at the Refraction Hospital in London. If you have any doubt about your eyes, call and seek his advice at his business address, 32 Forrest Place, Perth, or Atwell Arcade, Fremantle.



THE firm of H. J. Chipper, Family Butchers, was established in Bassendean in 1923, in the corner shop opposite the Oval entrance. About 10 years later, the present up-to-date residence and shop was erected in Perth Road, only about a stone's-throw from the original starting point. An up-to-date Refrigerating Plant was also installed.

The founder, Mr. H. J. Chipper, was connected with the early pioneers of Western Australia, of the same name, known for their connection with the old Criterion Hotel, in Hay Street, Perth, and other well-known hostelrys of early days. The memory of Mr. Chipper's grandfather was perpetuated by the W.A. Historical Society's action in erecting an engraved tablet on Greenmount. This tablet marks the spot spoken of as "Chipper's Leap," because of that gentleman's desperate leap from a precipitous rock, in his efforts to elude capture by pursuing black-fellows.

At the time when Mr. Chipper learned the butchering trade, a butcher had to understand not only the selection and handling of the beasts, but he had to be able to do his own slaughtering. By the introduction of the Abattoirs to Perth, when slaughtering became specialised and protected by Act of Parliament, the whole business was simplified, and the retail butcher was stepped up to the position of salesman and purveyor. Whilst he must still be familiar with every section of the carcase, and how to divide it up, he must also understand its cooking values so as to be in a position to assist his clients in their purchases when desired so to do. He also must understand the principles of refrigeration, as the control of that apparatus most vitally affects his stocks of meats.

Mr. Chipper passed away on 16th February, 1947, but the firm for the time being will continue to function under the old familiar name. Mr. Bernard J. Chipper will manage on behalf of his mother.

The late Mr. Chipper was a popular citizen, always keenly interested in the growth of Bassendean. He was an active member of the Progress Association, and could be relied on to help every movement which was for the progress of the town. Although the exacting nature of his business precluded him from acceding to the repeated requests over the years to nominate for a seat on the Road Board, when the position eased he did nominate, and he was elected a member of the Bassendean Road Board in 1945. His death this year was a matter of distinct loss, not only to the personnel of the Board, but to the Bassendean district.

**H**AS it ever occurred to you as you have sat in Mr. Faithful's shop, and waited patiently for your prescription to be made up, just how fortunate we are to-day to have a Pharmaceutical Chemist in most every town. Science has discovered so many drugs with medicinal properties, and has so catalogued the distinctive curative property of each in regard to the human system, that in a few minutes you have the skilfully prepared medicine handed to you, bottled, wrapped, and neatly sealed.

Away back in history, say 400 B.C., the ancients knew quite a lot about Chemistry, but their knowledge was mostly analytical. This fact is born out by the work of archeologists, who in their excavations continually discover pottery and glazed tiles, etc., of superb quality and workmanship, together with gold and silver pieces.

A new direction was given to chemistry in the first half of the 16th century by a man named Paracelsus, who taught that "the object of chemistry is not to make gold, but to prepare medicines." Thus from 1500 to 1650 chemistry was prosecuted mainly in order to discover new remedies which might be used for medicinal purposes.

The art of mixing drugs for medicinal purposes, and of prescribing and administering them is of ancient origin no doubt—even going back to the 12th century. Those who practised it were known as apothecaries, and were druggist (they prepared their own drugs) and chemist (mixed the drugs) and doctor (wrote out the prescription) all in one. Naturally the range was small and the whole business rather crude, and possibly didn't go much further than pills and mustard plaster, but they were indeed, the forerunners of the Medical Practitioner and Chemists of to-day.

In the 17th century the word Pharmacist began to be used for the compounder of medicines, and the work of the chemist became separated from that of the Doctor.

In the year 1841, the Pharmaceutical Society was established for the purpose of advancing Chemistry and Pharmacy, and promoting greater facilities for the education of those who practice



the same. Under the Pharmacy Acts the Society conducts qualifying examinations for Chemists and Druggists. Its members may use the letters M.P.S., after their names.

After 1852 Registered Chemists were distinguished from un-registered ones by being termed Pharmaceutical Chemists. These Pharmaceutical Chemists are, of course, quite distinct from those who follow the calling of a Chemist in regard to the preparation of foods, the testing of metals and soils—these are the Analytical Chemists. You may therefore be assured that our local Pharmacist and Chemist is a qualified and practical man on whose integrity and skill you can confidently rely.

Mr. Faithful returned from World War I. in 1919, and went to work with Tilly's Pharmacy, in Hay Street, Perth. He first opened for business in Bassendean in February, 1921. He opened in his present premises in 1926.

In keeping with all up-to-date Chemist Shops of to-day, Mr. Faithful stocks a wide range of Fancy and Toilet Goods. There is really no need to go outside of Bassendean to shop.

S. J. FAITHFUL, M.P.S., Pharmaceutical Chemist, Bassendean. Telephone ML 116.



## THE NEW ZEALAND INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

**THE NEW ZEALAND INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED** was established in New Zealand in 1859, and from time to time it extended its activities and opened Branches in many parts of the world. At the present time it has Branches or Representatives in almost every Country.

In 1887 the West Australian Branch was opened and a few years later the Company purchased a building in St. George's Terrace, from which to conduct its business. In 1905 due to the steady progress of the Company and the State, it was deemed advisable to demolish that building and erect on the site what was then an up to date building. This has served the purpose of the Company and also provided space for letting until the present day, but now in 1947, plans have been prepared for the erection of a modern building to replace the present one at 105 St. George's Terrace.

Agents for the Company were appointed at towns throughout the State and in 1912 when Mr. F. Deshon commenced business in Bassendean, which was then known as West Guildford, he agreed to accept the Agency of The New Zealand Insurance Company. Since that date Mr. Deshon has been closely associated with the progress of Bassendean and the Company is proud of the many friends it has made in the district.

At the present time the Company underwrites all classes of insurance with the exception of Life, and is in the happy position of being the largest Australasian Insurance Company, and of being one of the leading Companies in this State.

During the war years many difficulties had to be surmounted as over 75 per cent. of the male staff in this State enlisted in the Services, but with the return of these servicemen and the gradual

resumption of trade generally the Company looks forward with confidence to making steady advancement in the insurance field in Western Australia.



PREMISES OF THE COMPANY.  
No. 105 St. George's Terrace, Perth.  
F. W. A. Deshon, Bassendean Agent.

**MR. J. H. ARMSTRONG**, founder of the Bassendean Printing Works, was born at Manchester, England, and when 18 years of age, sailed for Sydney, where his elder brothers had settled a couple of years before. He was apprenticed to the printing trade in England, and immediately on arrival in Sydney, secured employment as a compositor, before the linotype machine was thought of—or at least before it was perfected. Its introduction, although it drove many of the "paper compositors" to other avenues of labour, did not affect him to any extent, simply because he had specialised in the "jobbing" or "display work." However, in 1895, like thousands of other young Easterners, he joined in the stampede to the Goldfields, looking not exactly for gold, but adventure—and the first job he got was assisting in the construction of hessian camps! Later he secured a position on the staff of "*The Coolgardie Pioneer*." Then the gold fever got him and he joined a prospecting party to the Murchison (Kookynie, Yerilla, and Mt. Remarkable); but his fever soon subsided, and we find him back in the "Inky Way" once more, working in turn for "*The Golden Age*," "*The Morning Chronicle*," and "*The Kalgoorlie Sun*."

Then he came to Perth and settled in Bassendean. One day he was tempted to buy an old Treadle Printing Machine for £5. With that, and a small selection of type, he founded his present business. That was in 1919—28 years ago. He taught his son the business of a Printer; his son grew, and his plant grew also, and to-day they possess a plant capable of handling any class of Commercial Printing. Whilst chatting to Mr. Armstrong we noticed that his clientele extends beyond the borders of Bassendean District: in many lines he is quite capable of competing with City Printers.

Mr. Armstrong, senr., in his younger days, was a good sport. In 1901, whilst a member of the Kalgoorlie Rifle Club, he won a Championship, and many times came to Perth to take part in competition shoots. In 1908, when the American Fleet was at Albany, he was one of the State's representatives in a match with the Yanks. He was also in the teams, at the Annual Rifle Competitions, Goldfields versus Coastal. While still an active member of the West Guildford Rifle Club, his chief pastime in summer now is playing in the pennant matches as a member of the Bassendean Bowling Club.



*This is not a Local View.*

The picture above is printed as a splendid example of the art of Wood Carving or Engraving by hand. (The Wood Engraver was replaced by the Camera, just as the hand Compositor was replaced by the Linotype later). The block was kindly loaned by the Government Printer. On the back is the name "F. I. Lawrence" which we assume is the name of the craftsman. There is also the figure "88," whether this is merely a catalogue number or the year of production nobody can say. But it is significant that it was in the year 1880, that one, Levy, of Philadelphia, invented crossline screens as used by Blockmakers to-day.

Whilst the making of Line Blocks by Photo-etching became commercially practicable as early as 1865-70, some years passed in an experimental stage before the half-tone method used to-day was evolved. The modern method is really simple, and is done by photographing the original on to a sensitive plate, through a fine ruled screen of crossing opaque lines. Cross-line screens for this purpose were made by Levy about 1880, and from this time half-tones began speedily to come into general use. One great advantage of the present system is that the screen of the block can be made to suit the paper used, so when placing an order with the Blockmaker it is wise to advise him in this matter. Blocks for newspaper illustrations are made with a 60 to 80 screen, but for better papers the 100 to 130 screens are advisable. All new blocks made for use in this book were produced by ART PHOTO ENGRAVERS, of 13 James Street, Perth, who used the 100 screen for the purpose.



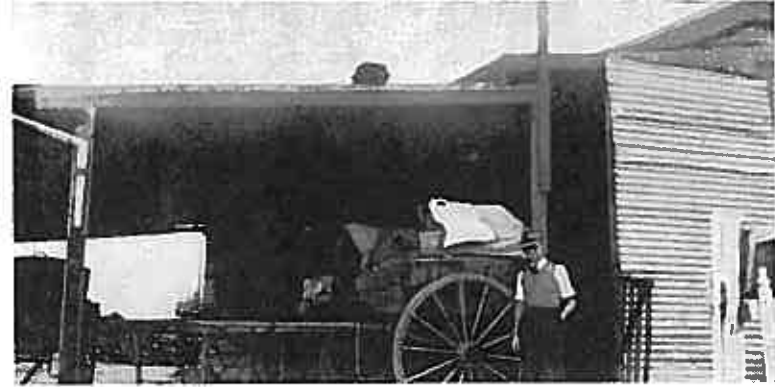
A Diamond when taken from the earth is never a thing of beauty until it has passed through the hands of a skilled polisher. It is a curious fact that all gems are unattractive in their crude state. Similarly the various metals found under the earth must go through their various treatments before they can be turned into things of beauty or usefulness by the artificer.

Grinding is one of the essential processes. In the larger mines it has replaced the old battery system. By the aid of expertly prepared metal balls of various sizes, which are used to grind the ore, the precious metal (be it gold, silver, or copper), is extracted from the ore.

There is a firm in Bassendean (Messrs Webster & Lumsden) whose one and only product is Grinding Balls. The Head Office is at Alexandria, a suburb of Sydney, N.S.W.

Mr. W. L. Webster was sent to Western Australia in 1935, to establish the branch, and in an interview that gentleman told the writer that they had only two customers here at the time—Lake View and Star Mines, and Swan Portland Cement Company. They now supply practically all the mines in W.A.

The firm has its foundry (with a separate building for wash and change rooms) in First Avenue, and 30 hands are constantly employed. Electric power is used throughout, and this also is purchased from the Bassendean Road Board, so that altogether the works form a valuable contribution to the industrial wealth of the district.



Pompeii, situated at the foot of Mt. Vesuvius, was destroyed by an eruption of the volcano, in the year A.D. 79. The city was buried 20ft. deep in hot lava and ashes, and was not excavated until about the year 1860. Tourists to-day are shown the bakery, which when unearthed was found to contain a complete batch of bread, burnt to a cinder, and thus preserved over the centuries.

The construction and shape of the modern baker's oven is the most important feature. Thus in 1920, when MR. NORMAN LOVELOCK decided to build in Bassendean, he was most particular and exacting in regard to the construction of the two large brick ovens in the bakehouse.

Prior to World War I. Mr. Lovelock was in business in Belmont, but sold out after deciding on joining up. For 18 or 19 years things went well with his Bassendean venture, and then came World War II. His three sons, who were then helping their father, joined up. Ron was in the Air Force for two years, Eric joined the A.I.F., and Jack saw three-and-a-half years' service in the Transport Section, serving in India and Syria. During their absence father had to manage as best he could, but labour of any sort was hard to get, consequently he had a tough time. Even firewood presented a major difficulty at times, and often Mr. Lovelock had to make a week-end trip into the hills to endeavour to place a contract for regular supplies.

To-day the establishment has a staff of four bakers, and four carters. It takes about 1½ tons of long wood per week to keep the oven fires going nicely, and about 60 bags of flour are used.



**BASSENDEAN** has in Hadfields Steel Works one of the most modern and mechanically equipped Electric Steel Works in Australia. Founded in 1934, Hadfields (W.A.) 1934 Ltd., acquired as a going concern the Steel Works of Hadfields Australia Ltd., Western Australian Branch. This Branch was established in 1921 by the Sydney Company and comprised one three ton 2-phase Electric Furnace, a building one hundred feet square, and employed some fifteen men.

Since that time considerable extension has taken place. New electric furnaces, modern machines of every description, new laboratories and extensive buildings have all been added.

From one melt per week in 1921 the Company now does ten melts per day in its four electric furnaces, and the shops have a floor area of more than 65,000 square feet. Castings of from 10lbs. to 10 tons are produced. The works also comprise a forging shop and modern Shot Blast Plant. Fully staffed the Company would give employment to some 200 men.

The Company claims to have capacity for the production of Steels of all types and descriptions and will undertake research and investigation in regard to consumers' problems.

During the war period the Company spent large sums of money in buildings and equipment for the manufacture of munitions of war. Mortar Bombs in their scores of thousands, Bren Gun Carrier wheels and parts, Diesel Cylinder blocks and pistons, Ship Castings of every description. Anchors of all sizes and in large numbers, Railway engine and waggon parts, were all produced at Bassendean. Many damaged ships were successfully supplied with vital spares and returned promptly to duty as a result of Hadfields efforts.

Electric Steels and special Irons of every description are manufactured not only for Western Australia, but the Company's products go to every State in the Commonwealth and before the war their export market was increasing rapidly, especially in Manganese and Chrome Castings for Dredging and Crushing Plants. The Company has a further large programme of expansion ahead which is unfortunately being held up because of the difficulty of obtaining delivery of important plant only procurable abroad.

Bassendean welcomes the activities of this organisation and realises that when conditions become more normal considerable expansion of the Works will result.