



**ANNERLEY-STEPHENS HISTORY GROUP INC. (ASHG)**

# **The Frank Corley House Photo Project: Phase Three**

**NOVEMBER 2017**

# **TRACING TARRAGINDI 1970**

*Frank Corley was a commercial photographer who photographed almost every house in Brisbane in the 1970's.*

*The John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland holds about half of the house photos.*

*Report compiled by Denis Peel*

**ASHG thanks Councillor Krista Adams and the Hon Mark Bailey MP for their support for this project.**

All photos © John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

ASHG Inc. No: IA 54605



Corley Collection Box 9842 E46 04. ©John Oxley Library, State Library of Qld.

The house photographer is in the Morris Mini-Minor reflected in the plate glass door of 80 Barmore Street, Tarragindi. Daniel Joynes identified five other photos with the same car being captured.

“The car seems to appear in shots, obviously square-on to be reflected, and where the home is more recently constructed with very open verandah/patios, large clear reflective glass areas in windows and doors. The car also appears in shots with the subject house slightly lower than the roadway i.e. with windows of house and Mini-Minor approximately level.” Daniel Joynes correspondence 9 March 2017.

The driver of the Mini-Minor is either Frank Corley or one of his employees and the house is being photographed sometime around 1970 to be made into a calendar for sale to the home-owner. On this occasion, for whatever reason, the calendar was not sold and the house photo was kept in the *Corley Collection* of photos that was bequeathed to the State Library of Queensland in 1995.

**In 2014 the Annerley-Stephens History Group launched a community involvement project that has spread across the suburbs of Fairfield, Yeronga, Annerley, Yerrongpilly, Moorooka and Tennyson.**

The ASHG was established in 2013 and aims to promote the history of the suburbs within the former Stephens Shire Council. The group is undertaking a range of local history projects including the Frank Corley House Photo Project.

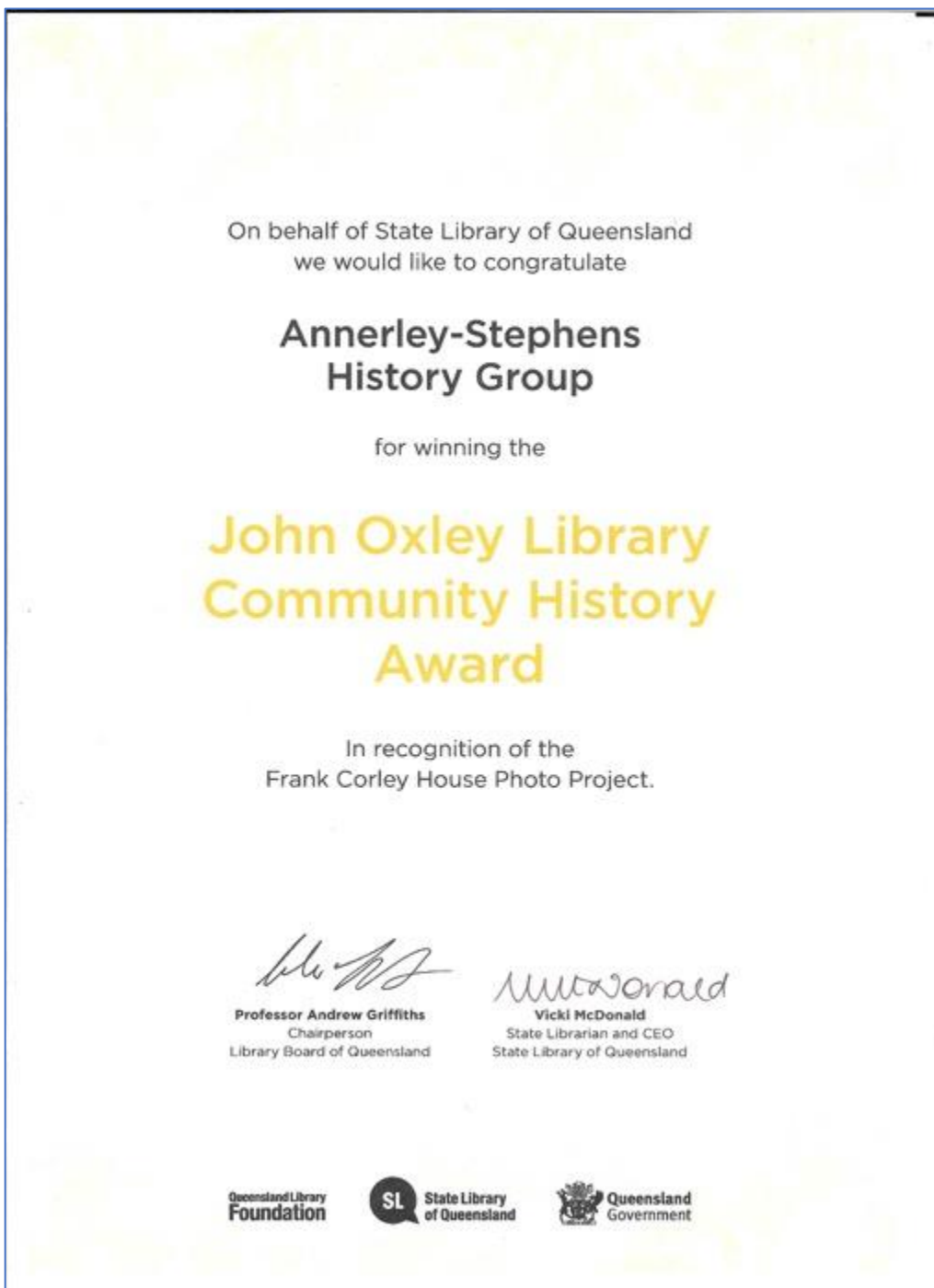
ASHG meets on the 1st Thursday of each month at the Community Plus+ Annerley Community Hub at 556 Ipswich Road, Annerley at 6.30pm.

If you would like to find out more about the Frank Corley House Photo Project, contact Project Manager Denis Peel by mobile on 0408 001 362 or via our website on page 4.

## The project received two major boosts in 2017 from the State Library of Queensland (SLQ).

Firstly, the SLQ began the process of digitizing the Corley Collection enabling utilization of the digitized images from Box 9842 which covers the greater part of the modern-day suburb of Tarragindi.

Secondly, ASHG's work was recognized through the awarding of the *John Oxley Library Community History Award* for 2017.



**Two previous reports cover the progress of the project up to October 2016 and they are available online at <http://annerleystepshistory.org/>.**

In February 2017 the Queensland State Library provided ASHG with a digitized record of box 9842 of the Corley Collection. BCC Councillor Krista Adams and the Holland Park Ward office were very supportive of the project and facilitated the printing of the house images in a usable form.

The public meeting at *The Gindi Coffee House* on Saturday 25 March 2017 was attended by around forty people who identified a lot of the houses while telling stories of the area. Many volunteers took away sets of photos to work on.

Some enthusiastic Corley volunteers from the past two years also did the detective work of finding addresses for the house photos. On Sat 1 July another public meeting was held to display the entire catalogue for the photos and hear stories from some of the present Tarragindi residents.



**A partnership between *Queensland Walks: Tarragindi 10 000 Steps* and ASHG developed when ASHG was approached by Jana Novak of Queensland Walks. The Corley photos have been useful in developing history walks through the suburb, for example this extract from the walk to launch Tarragindi 10 000 steps:**

Some historical things to look for on your walk today:  
 Note: All photos except for the two otherwise identified are from around 1970 and are copyright of the Corley Collection, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.



159 Toohey Road. Most of the houses on this side of Toohey Road were built by the Housing Commission after World War Two. While the houses were being built, some families were accommodated in the former 156<sup>th</sup> US Army Station Hospital at the Sexton Street end of Toohey Road.



296 Toohey Road (some changes have been made). The eastern side of Toohey Road has a mixture of pre- WW2 and post WW2 houses.



Coward's Butcher Shop on corner of Marshall Road and Toohey Road 1950's. Photographer unknown. Photo supplied by Fay Dean.



"Terraqindi Lodge" stood at 14 Prior Street. It operated between 1974 and 1992 as a home for teenage boys who had been in Boys Town. It was operated by the De La Salle Association. It has been replaced by the child care centre. There was also a home for girls further up Prior Street, and an enduring rumour that Ronald Biggs (the Great Train Robber) once rented a house in this street.

You are about to walk over Sandy Creek which passes through pipes under Prior Street at its lowest point. Sandy Creek was also a former name for this area.



34 Prior Street a Courier Mail Garden Competition Prize Winner in the 1960's. Photo: BCC Brisbane Images.

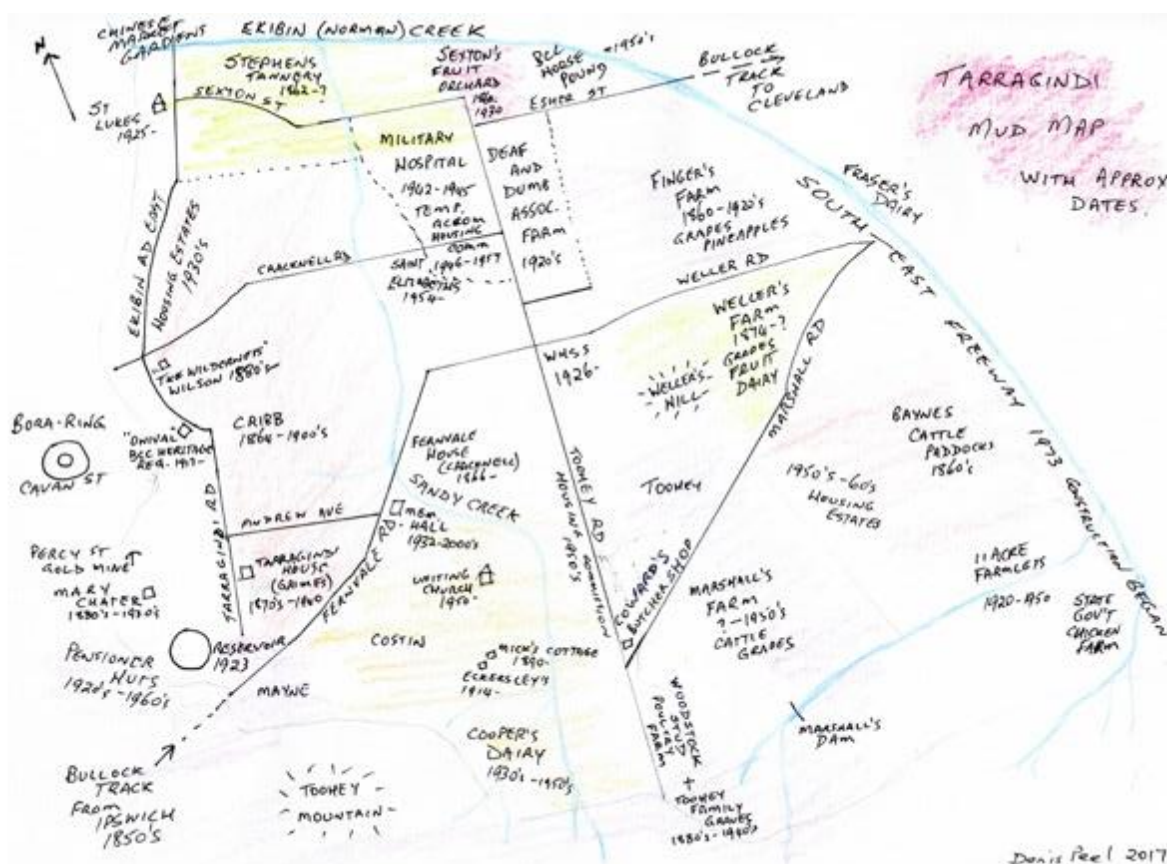


54 Prior St (corner Windmill St). The Eckersley's farmhouse built in 1914. The oldest house in this area is Mick's Cottage built 1890 (near the diagonally opposite corner).

# TRACING TARRAGINDI 1970

The working title for this phase of the project was *Tracing Tarragindi 1970* which alludes to the aim of using the Corley photos to add to the historical documentation of the suburb.

To encourage discussion of the history of Tarragindi a map was prepared for the *Tarragindi 10 000 Steps* community afternoon tea on Saturday October 7. The map draws upon publications such as *A History of Wellers Hill Tarragindi and Ekibin 1850-1976* by Juliet O'Brien and George D Dean and oral history interviews that have occurred as part of the project.



The post WW2 building of Tarragindi featured approaches ranging from Housing Commission and War Service homes to owner-builders and speculative developments. Many long-term residents have shared their stories and insights into the transition of Tarragindi from farmland to suburbia.

**E L (Betty) Wylie (nee Anderson) lived in the army hospital huts in Toohey Road for two years as her family waited for a housing commission home to become available.** Betty married John (Ian) Wylie who was a son of Robert and Ethel Wylie who emigrated to Australia from Glasgow in 1948.

## **217 Toohey Road, Wellers Hill (Tarragindi) by E L Wylie 1/7/2017**

Robert and Ethel Wylie came from Glasgow (after WW2) to live in Australia in 1948. They applied to the Housing Commission and bought a block of land, on which the Housing Commission built the house at 217 Toohey Road in 1950.

The four-bedroomed building was constructed of hardwood and the roof was fibro. The walls inside the house were Burnieboard, except for the bathroom and kitchen which were fibro walls.

In the kitchen was a wood burning stove and an enamel sink. In the bathroom was an enamel bath and a woodchip heater for hot water. There was no laundry, but in a corner under the house was two laundry tubs. Under the house was a dirt floor with wooden batten surrounds.

In 1965 when Robert Wylie was ill he asked son John (Ian) Wylie to move in and take over payments, so Ian and wife Elizabeth (Betty) came with their four children; later they had two more children. Robert's five children had meanwhile married and moved on.

In the 1970's Ian and Betty decided to modernize the house and arranged for alterations. Aluminium cladding (which was as strong as steel) was placed over the hardwood walls and the old push out windows were all replaced with steel framed sliding windows. By this time the wood stove was replaced by a gas stove.

There was a gas copper for washing clothes which was later replaced by an electric washing machine. Under house dirt floor was replaced by concrete and battens were replaced by besser block walls. In the early 2000's a shed with a concrete base was erected in the yard and a rainwater tank installed.

In the 1950's there was a backyard toilet, which was replaced when we got sewerage. The toilet being in the bathroom now. The bath was leaking in the mid 2000's so we had it removed and replaced with a new glass shower recess and the bathroom floor was tiled.

Re-paints of walls in the house have been done by family. In 2011 as the old fibro roof was deteriorating and leaking it was removed and replaced by wrought iron roof colourbond. The front landing was replaced by a small verandah and my son-in-law built the wrought iron gates and railing.

The house has always belonged to the Wylie family. Due to the expenses involved E L (Betty) had to take out a reverse mortgage which is owed to the bank.

Sincerely,

E L Wylie.

The Wylie's daughter Ethel Marion Wylie married George David Williamson and remained in Scotland when the rest of the family emigrated. When Robert and Ethel Wylie were established at Tarragindi they nominated George and Ethel Williamson and their son Douglas to come to Australia in 1954. They bought a house in the early 1960's at 18 Craigmont Street, Tarragindi.



18 Craigmont Street, Tarragindi Box 9842 E35 25 ©John Oxley Library, State Library of Qld.

George Williamson was an art instructor at Kelvin Grove Teacher's College (subsequently Queensland University of Technology) and his artwork was exhibited by *The Half Dozen Group of Artists*. The house name *Kirn* is an old Scots word which meant a celebration of feasting and dancing and was the name of Ethel's aunt's house in Scotland.



**This George Williamson watercolour is the view from Wellers Hill State School looking north towards Weller Road.**



**Hillcrest Estate was part of the Marshall's farm that was sold in 1953. Local residents have contributed their stories and photos of the development of the area.**



20 Lisle Street, Tarragindi Box 9842 E42 44 ©John Oxley Library, State Library of Qld.

### **Notes from an interview with Alex and Edith Romow, 20 Lisle St, Tarragindi. 20 June 2017.**

“We came from Germany to Australia in 1953.”

At the end of the war Alex was in Denmark. The Soviet Union was putting pressure on Denmark to return Red Army soldiers voluntarily or by force.

Alex was accepted by Germany and found work and married Edith. Seeking resettlement in another country they applied to Australia and Canada. “It was free passage so long as you signed a contract to stay two years.”

“We arrived in Melbourne and went to Bonegilla Immigrant Camp. They told us we were free to go anywhere in the country to look for work. We had met a Russian fellow on the ship who had a brother in Brisbane so we came here.”

“I got a job working for a plastering company under the Story Bridge. Willmore and Randall (Real Estate Agents) showed us three blocks of land together in Lisle Street and we chose one and paid £330 for it.”

“We chose to build a brick house because a wooden house would have needed a lot of help with lifting the timber. On weekends, we cleared the land and a German family gave us a

shed for the back yard. We got to know John Ehm who was building the house next door. John was a bricklayer and spoke a little German so he was able to give us advice.”

**“The council would not allow us to live in the garage so we built the laundry first and lived in that. We got some bricks from the plaster company at a good price but it was hard to buy bricks because the Princess Alexandra Hospital was being built and was using all the supply.”**

“Ten months later we were able to get 10 000 bricks and they were delivered by a truck that drove straight across from Marshall Road into our back yard. I made the foundations with shovel and buckets and we carried water across from Marshall’s farm.”

“We borrowed £1000 pounds from the bank and the officer came every three months to inspect progress. When we realized that they were charging us two pound ten shillings for every visit Alex said to me the next time he comes don’t make him a cup of tea!”

Alex’s book, *Alexei Bandura*, was written in German first and then Alex translated it into English so that his children could read it. A copy can be found in the John Oxley Library. Alex’s doctor has read the book and thinks that Alex has lived such a long life because his body got used to deprivation in his early years.

Alex and Edith have two daughters, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. “We had very good neighbours, all the children in the street would play together.”

Alex was interviewed by Olga Bodrova for ABC Radio after writing his book.



The Courier Mail 1995.



John Ehm's house, 22 Lisle Street under construction.  
Photo Alex Romow



22 Lisle Street. Box 9842 E42 43  
©John Oxley Library, State Library of Qld.

**One of the first ready-mixed concrete delivery trucks in Brisbane. The drum is driven by a car engine mounted on the tray of the truck and connected by the exposed tooth gearwheels! Concrete was poured into the wooden trough then shoveled into wheelbarrows and placed to make footings.**



Ready-mixed concrete delivery for John Ehm (in the overalls), 22 Lisle Street c1954. Photo David Baddiley

**In following the story of the Corley photos of Tarragindi links are made to other parts of the collection as many of the post WW2 settlers spent their childhoods in adjoining suburbs.**

### **Interview with David Baddiley. 25 May 2017**

Dad owned 10 acres from Hyde Road, Yeronga to the river. We lived at 50 Ellesmere Street (previously called Rose Avenue), Yeronga, just round the corner.



50 Ellesmere St, Yeronga Box 9847 E21 1 ©John Oxley Library, State Library of Qld.

There were cow bales and stables in the block next door to our house and my parents owned this block also. In the afternoon when I got home from school (Yeronga State School) the cows would be waiting at the gate to the paddock and I'd walk them round to milk one or two of them. Dad milked in the mornings. One of my three brothers, Harry built his house at 135 Hyde Road when he got married. Harry did his apprenticeship with Trevor Early who had a cabinet making business in Venner Road just as you go over the railway line. The 1974 flood just got to the corner of Harry's yard.

Archie Armour and his wife lived at 54 Ellesmere Street. After Mrs Armour died Archie would come over each night to our place for his evening meal. There were two cars in the street and Archie had one of them. He parked it in the garage at the back and would roll it out without turning the engine over then roll it down the hill and clutch start it to save on the battery.

Mendham's had a car too. They did their engineering work under their house. (Now Mendham Motors at Ipswich Road, Rocklea.)

Hart's lived in Lily Avenue opposite Wiles, they owned "banana rooms" in Roma Street where they ripened bananas for the markets. We traded our milk with them for bananas and other fruit.

We had a horse and sulky, it was a good trotter. We'd ride out and back to Enoggerra to visit our grandparents.

The Morse family lived in Shottery Street. They had the job of sweeping the gutters. He had a dray and draft horse and in those days people drained their sullage into the gutters. It all got swept down into the river.

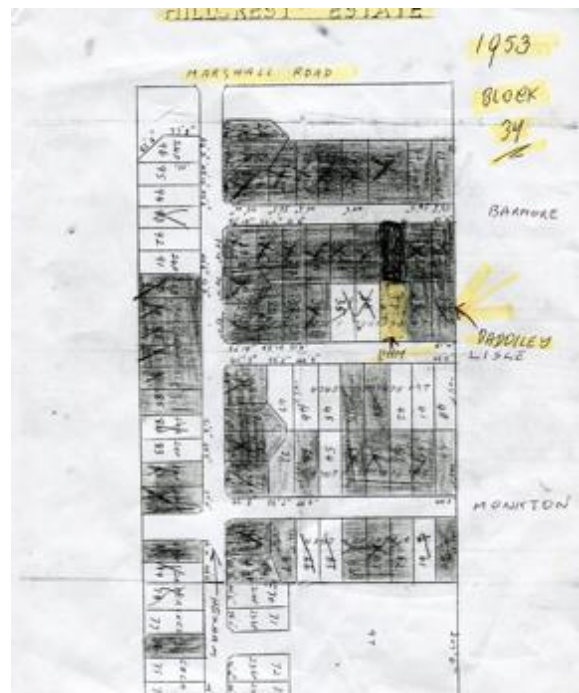
I was an apprentice fitter and turner with HG Fredline and Co. They had a homemade crankshaft grinder and did engine reconditioning and general engineering but later changed to repetition work.

This small family company became Reliance, then RMC and ACTROL. For some time, it was floated on the stock market, but Muntz who became the main shareholders turned it back to a private company and it is now known as RMC World-Wide Corporation. I spent over 40 years, my whole working life at the one company.

When Joy and I were first married, we lived in a little cottage on the Hyde Road property that had a shingle roof originally. The roof was twin gabled with a box gutter in between the two gables. Miss Ida Woodall lived there before us. We lived there from September 1953 to October 1955. Then we moved to 28 Lisle Street, Tarragindi where we are still living now (2017).

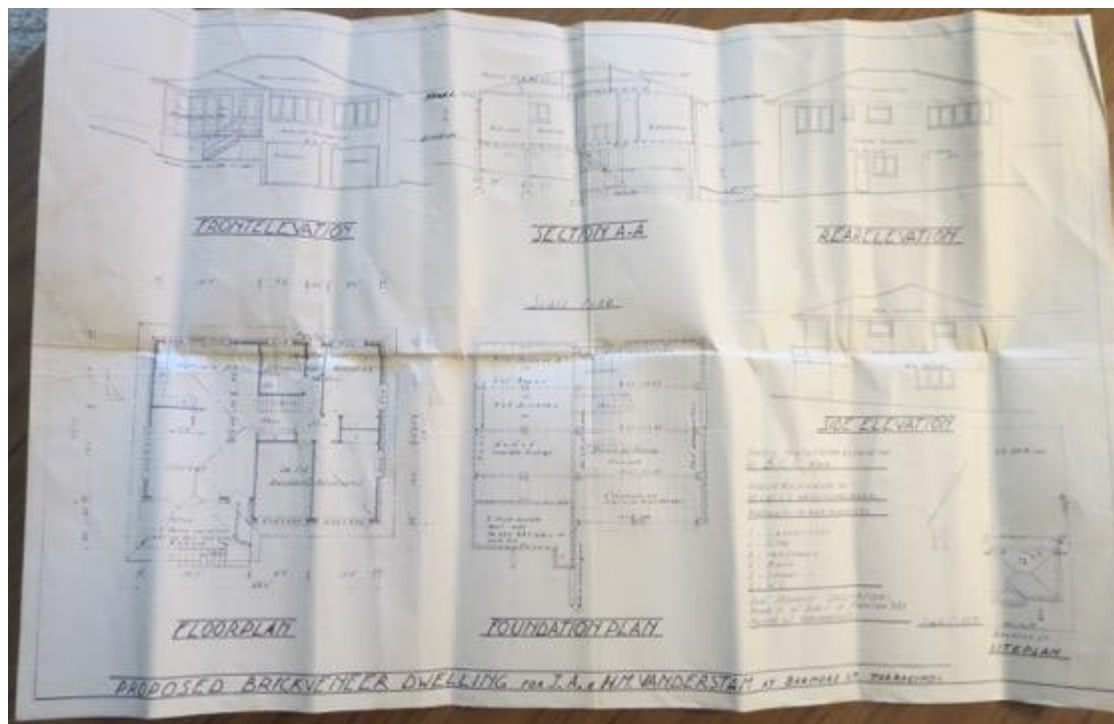


28 Lisle Street, Box 9842 E42 41  
©John Oxley Library, State Library of Qld.



Original Hillcrest Estate plan supplied by Dave Baddiley

**A group of homes in Barmore and Marieander Streets were built by “spec builders” J A and H M Vanderstam .**



### **Interview with Bill Smit 28 June 2017**

Number 80 Barmore St, Tarragindi (photo on page 2) was bought in 1967 for \$13000. There was space underneath for a darkroom and a car.

When my father became ill I lived in and cared for him and made money through developing.

“I started black and white processing for commercial enterprises and magazines e.g. *The Golfer* and *The Pork Producer*, and did work for lecturers at the University of Qld and Royal Brisbane Hospital.”

“In the fifties there was a lack of supply of Kodachrome film. You paid for the developing when you bought the film. When the queen was here it took six weeks to get the developed film back and then you had to mount your own slides.”

Bill has exhibited slides all over the world and has been judging photographic competitions for 50 years, including being flown to Sydney twice to judge international competitions.

Bill won an Australian Photographic Magazine Competition for which his photo was on the cover of the magazine and he won a flight to Hawaii.

“My father and mother came to Australia from Holland in 1912 and 1914 respectively.

They bought two and three-quarter acres of Bell's Paddock at Marshall Road, Rocklea, where *Bunnings* is now. Language was a problem so dad did pick and shovel work before becoming the gardener for *Queensland Cement and Lime* at Darra for many years. Mum did odd jobs and cleaning etc." (including working for Francey's dairy who supplied warm milk to neighbouring suburbs).

"When war started they extended Archerfield Aerodrome and all the planes were placed around the perimeter rather than in the middle to be safer in case of attack. Pre-war there were Air Pageants and Air Races. One event was to drop a bag of flour onto a moving truck. A single-engine Puss Moth crashed in the Showgrounds.

After year six at Rocklea State School we went to Yeronga State School as it was regarded as better preparation for the Scholarship Exam. Then I travelled by train to the Industrial High School in the city."

**"I started work as an apprentice fitter and turner at South Brisbane Dry Dock. We reconditioned Australian Navy boats during wartime. After the war I was transferred to Evans Deakin at Rocklea. We worked on steam locomotives that needed to be rebuilt because they'd been run into the ground with the war effort."**

I asked Bill if he knew the Fogarty's (story included in Phase Two Report) who also worked there. He said his brother, Jim Smit had been the best man for Ces Fogarty's wedding in Roma. Jim worked in the office at Evans Deakin for his whole working life.

"Then I was the quality control officer at English Electric who were making diesel electrics for Queensland Rail and the mining companies. This was a steep learning curve as I had to check the boilermaking and painting etc as well as the fitting and turning."

*Tapestry of Time – A History of Rocklea State School and District* has an article on the Smit family on page 110. Bill prepared all the photographic work for the printing of this book.

*More than a Haircut and a Shave* by David Jones and Peter Nunan is a book about the history of the South Brisbane Dry Dock that Bill was interviewed for.

Before the introduction of Television there were fifty-seven camera clubs in Queensland.

.....Continuing..... 12 July 2017

"The house (photo) in Vivian Street, Tennyson was built by a relative of my mother. The family had all come to Australia together. Their name was Roelofs. Next door to the house was a factory that made concrete pipes. Each afternoon when they finished for the day there would be some left over mixed concrete that instead of being industrial waste was used by the Roelof family to make steps down to Oxley Creek and paths around the house.

Tennyson used to have its own small Post Office which was called Camelot."

**The Roelof's home in Tennyson is the first Corley photo where a removed house has been located in our research process.**



37 Vivian Street, Tennyson, Box 9847 B28 48 ©John Oxley Library, State Library of Qld.

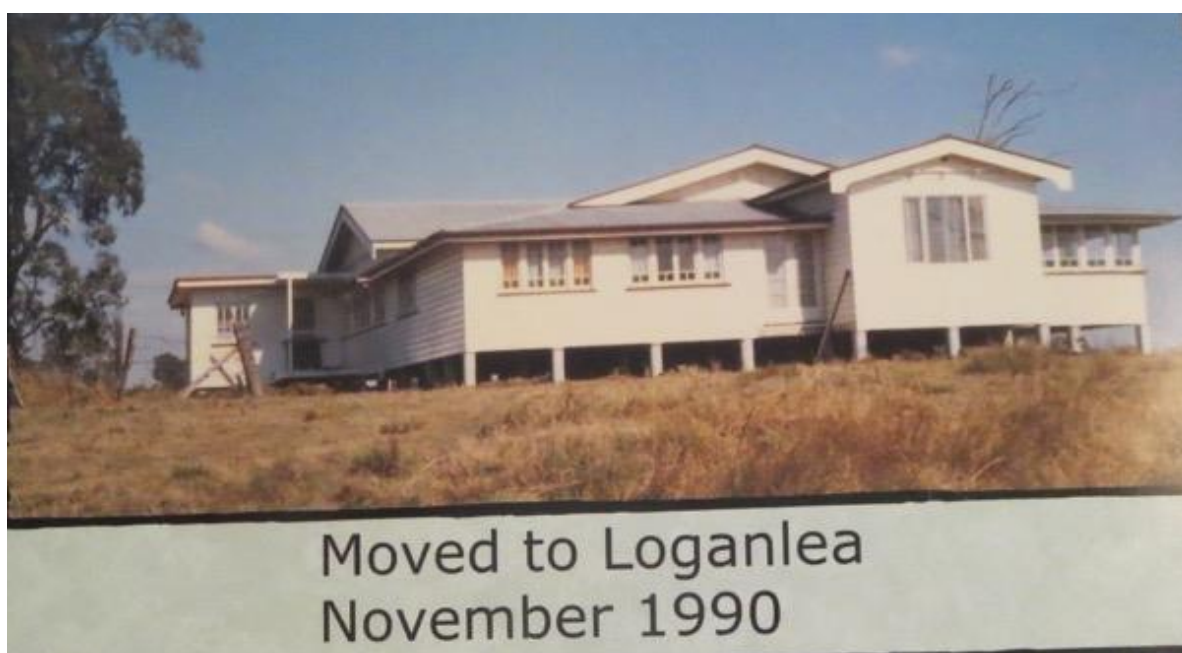


Photo from Smit family collection



**Some Tarragindi homes have survived more than a century and their stories have been preserved as the properties have changed hands.**



Eckersley Home, 54 Prior Street, Tarragindi Box 9842 E32 27 ©John Oxley Library, State Library of Qld.

*Mrs Eckersley held Euchre parties on the verandah to raise funds for the school. She outlived her three children. Her son Keith Eckersley was shot down over Britain during World War 2.*

From History of Wellers Hill Tarragindi and Ekibin, O'Brien and Dean

## **Interview with Paul and Barbara Wells 5 July 2017**

**“In 1973 we were living at 104 Homestead Street, Moorooka, when the tornado struck (5<sup>th</sup> Nov at 6 pm) .”**

“The week before I had cut a trapdoor into the floor and so I lowered the four kids through it and we all sheltered down stairs as the windows upstairs were blown in and the house covered in broken glass. We also had a brick wall outside blown over.”

**“I had been working on the building of a house in Mayfield Road and the next day there was only one window frame left standing, everything else was blown over.”**

Paul worked for Coupon Furniture Co and also collected and refurbished rocking chairs, one of which was bought by an ANZ bank manager who suggested they buy their own home with a bank loan. In 1960 they paid 1300 pounds for 104 Homestead Street.

Paul had also bought a rocking chair from Mrs Eckersley (at 54 Prior St) before they bought the house.

**Mick's cottage is the oldest house in Prior Street, built in the 1890's. Mick Squires was a gardener around the local area.**

The 1946 aerial photo shows the farm that operated in Pallaranda Street. The Eckersley's built 54 Prior Street in 1914. The back yard still shows likely evidence of furrows from when the land was cultivated.

When Paul and Barbara bought the house in 1979 they moved it eleven feet towards Windmill Street and raised it one foot higher. The profiles on the top of the fence palings were all done individually after the fence was constructed by Paul with a jigsaw.

***"When we were living at 83 Monash Road in the 70's we found a turtle walking up the road one day and took it home for safety." Tommy the turtle is now over 50 years old and lives in the pond at 54 Prior Street.***

***"Our daughter found a penny farthing turtle and we put it in the pond and never saw it again. Many years later Tommy came out to sun himself one day and we noticed that he was bleeding from near the tail and had been attacked. This went on for a few days until we discovered that the penny-farthing turtle was still in the pond and had become a large long-necked turtle. We released it into the local creek and left Tommy to continue his long life peacefully."***

Cyril Tritton and Valmae Tritton had a son Nick who lives in Tamarind Street.

Henry Beckwith the traffic policeman who was one of the point-duty dancing policemen lived two doors up and died just before he turned 99 in 2016. He was still mowing until the day he died!

Laurie Stinton (Prior St) won many Courier Mail garden competitions.

Paul has written poems about some of the local residents including George Bell who walked past every day from 26 Pallaranda Street (address found in 1980 electoral roll).



65 Denham Terrace Box 9842 E50 19 ©John Oxley Library, State Library of Qld.

**Tim Griffin is the second owner of 65 Denham Terrace. The house was built in 1941 by Ernest Albert Knoblauch, who was one of three sons of Ludwig Knoblauch the founder of Crown Stoves.**

**A close relative of Ernie and Ivy Knoblauch who has vivid memories of visiting the house and the Crown Stoves factory in Logan Road, Greenslopes.**

**They shared their stories with ASHG's monthly meeting in July 2017. Notes recorded by Kate Dyson.**

Ernie was President of the Queensland Orchid Society and his orchid house in the back yard was warmed and humidified by a coal-fired steamer.

Tim bought the property in 1998 from Ernie's daughter Dorothy and her husband Keith Broadbent. The house had been vacant since Ernie's death and still contained some furnishings, collections of various things, the original blueprints for the house and receipts for the building materials.

These receipts show that many of the materials were purchased in the name of Crown Stoves as it had "Protected Industry" status in the war years. During renovation of the house a door jamb was removed to reveal a tin can hidden in the cavity behind it. The can was full of £5 and £1 notes.

**Fay Dean identified the houses from reel E6 hoping to find her own house, but it seems in this instance the houses on her side of the street were overlooked. Nevertheless, Fay has provided this account:**

In November, 1958 George and I purchased a building block in an unnamed street off Windmill Street, Tarragindi. Later designated 8 Woolton Street, our property adjoined 43 Windmill Street and was part of a new estate, including Crophorne Street, marketed by John A. Schofield. The price for the 23.9 perch property was £600 for which we paid cash. Additional fees and charges amounted to £15.14.6.

Building on the block immediately was out of the question as at the time a credit squeeze was looming and obtaining finance was difficult, especially so in our case as after paying for the land, we had no cash behind us. Add to that the fact that George was in the process of trying to establish a new business and income was rather low. From a bank's point of view, we were a risky proposition.



*Grose's house at 43 Windmill Street C.1956*

**Rather than renting we chose to live in a caravan on the site as Council regulations at the time did allow for this, albeit with certain conditions.**

However in order to do so, it was necessary to have plans for our future home approved by Council. It was now about November and we were getting married in the following April so there was no time to waste.

George prepared the required plans thanks to experience gained while working in the building industry and these were duly approved without change. We were always going to have a high-set house to enable gear and equipment to be stored on site, but we also made sure the height would be acceptable if at some future date, we wanted to convert downstairs to a living area. Additionally, we needed to park two cars under cover.

One other aspect to consider was being able to move the caravan out of the property when we had dispensed with it. Thus sufficient space was left on the eastern boundary for this purpose.

We purchased a 12ft. van from a vendor in Moorooka but as it was non-custom-built and the side cladding covered the wheels, we were unable to remove the latter before putting it up on blocks for the period of our occupation.

But it was obvious that the caravan alone would not be large enough so George pre-fabricated a demountable annexe of marine ply outer sheeting with roof, under our family home in Waterton Street, Annerley. Dad then helped him move this and the van onto the block and set it up prior to our wedding.



The result was comfortable enough, but storage space and cooking facilities in the van were limited. The annexe rectified this to some extent. It ended up providing space to cater for business paperwork, a small shelf for the phone, Silent Night element refrigerator (later replaced by a Charles Hope sealed unit model), clothes boiler with a 1½ gallon Langco sink heater above, 2ft. square shower cubicle along with hanging space for clothes plus a general purpose bench behind suitable for cooking with a frypan. Three sets of louvres provided light and ventilation.

When we later moved into the house, we saved and eventually re-used all the materials that had been used in the annexe. Nothing got wasted.

Another necessity was the toilet so we purchased an outside unit complete with “thunder-box” from some premises in Toowong where sewerage was just being installed. It cost £5. Unfortunately George had to completely dismantle it to transport to Tarragindi whereupon it was re-erected on the rear right-hand corner of our land. So now all was in readiness for us to move in.



*Backyard showing toilet and original aviary.  
The rustic chairs were made from tree branches.  
The house at the rear is at the bottom end of Thornycroft St.*

We did eventually put in septic when the house was built which was a stop gap measure while waiting for sewerage to come to the area.

When we first moved into the caravan the water had not been connected, so George arranged with the Council to install a connection point to their water main near No. 43 Windmill Street from where a pipe was run on top of the ground along the fence dividing our neighbours on the western side (the Groses and Thompsons) and which because of its exposure to the sun usually delivered hot water for a short time when the tap was first turned on. We actually had to resort to bathing in an old-fashioned circular iron tub for a week or two until the water was permanently connected.

Now we only had to wait for the phone to be installed before I could look for work. In the six weeks that elapsed before this was done I commenced digging the foundations and tidied the yard while George was at work.

Caravan life was quite comfortable once we were properly set up and the fact that we were both away during the day did not present a problem when it came to everyday food needs.

**The local butcher delivered to the door daily and left the meat in our refrigerator which was housed in the annexe, letting himself in with a key which we left in the washing tub outside the back door. Similarly, the baker would leave our bread in the tub, protected by a sheet of fibro (a frequently used material then). The milkman called daily, likewise the postman who also delivered on Saturdays.**

An electric boiler was used for the weekly washing after which the clothes were transferred to the three tubs outside the back door for rinsing. The clothes line stretched across the yard and was supported by props as was the usual practice at the time although the Hills Hoist was becoming more evident in backyards.

When we initially transferred our electrical business to Tarragindi the tray of George's Holden utility became our "storeroom". But when sufficient funds became available to put in the brick foundations, he stored his materials and gear in metal shelving under a tarpaulin behind the front wall. Fortunately, it looked reasonably tidy from the street; such was not the case from behind (see below).



*This photo would have been taken approx. 1962/63 so the house opposite (11 Woolton Street) and those visible up Crophorne Street would have been built sometime after 1959 and before that date.*

*Our house was finished externally by April, 1964. by which time we had moved in.*

We paid the main contractor £1,783.80 to erect the frame and for this price we got the exterior chamfer boards, windows, doors, rear stairs, but inside a floor only. Extras amounted to £403.1.7. But the final building included additional expenses mainly due to various components that could be termed as "non-standard" for the time. For example, it was high-set and enclosed under, it had a 2ft.6in. over-hang, concealed pelmet lighting, circuit-breaker switchboard complete with safety switch (in the lounge room hidden under a curtain), Masonite lined walls, built-in wardrobes with sliding doors, tiled/terrazzo bathroom with clothes chute to laundry, separate toilet upstairs and a second one plus additional shower downstairs.

Sisalation in the exterior walls made for more comfortable living conditions, although in our original planning care had been taken to position the rooms to make the most of the breezes that prevailed. The only windows on the western wall were in the second bedroom and high up at that to prevent the afternoon sun from causing discomfort. The result was an extremely livable house ..... warm in winter and cool in summer. In later years, the insulation from old hot water systems was put in the ceiling space to further help cool the house.

Plumbing and electrical work was handled by George himself. Having a Dux instantaneous hot water system meant we were able to have three-phase connected to the premises.

**The original permit for the caravan was only for three months and consequently at regular intervals we would receive a visit from the local building inspector checking on progress and as long as long as he could see that something was being done, there were no problems.**

After three years however the situation started to get less friendly. We received a letter from the Council to the effect that we had three months to vacate and move into the house. It was not at a habitable stage at that point so George went to see the inspector and pleaded for a little more time. Although initially successful a further letter advised that the next time we heard from them would be the last. If we did not comply, they would send out the bailiff.

As luck would have it, one of the electrical travellers who visited regularly, indicated that he would be interested in the caravan to use as a holiday “home”. We agreed on a price of £225 which was what we had paid for it. But because the wheels had not been removed, when it was taken off the stumps the tyres had deteriorated to such an extent that they had to be replaced. We therefore dropped the price to £180. **That meant that the three years we had spent in the van had only cost us £45 all up.** We actually took up occupation of our new house prior to the birth of our son in April, 1964.

Putting everything into perspective, an average new home then would have cost in the vicinity of £4,000. In fact, that was what our neighbours paid for theirs. However, because of the additional requirements, our figure was closer to £5,500.0.0.

The house remained unchanged until in the 1980s it was felt better use could be made of the area occupied by the workshop under the house. A 20ft. x 20ft. shed was erected at the rear of the property to accommodate the electrical gear which allowed the downstairs area to be devoted solely to personal use.

**Apart from incorporating a small section of the rear patio into the kitchen, no structural changes have been made to the building. Considering the period of construction, viz. 1959-1964, this rather ordinary looking home does have some quite distinctive features -**

- High-set – for later use under as living quarters
- Scallion roof with some raked ceilings
- Bevel-edged Masonite meant no cover-strips
- Built-in wardrobes
- Tiled bathroom with terrazzo floor
- Insulation (sisalation) in walls and ceiling
- Vermiculite ceiling in lounge/dining room
- Front stairs supported by handrails
- Switchboard in lounge (behind curtain)
- Three-phase power



(All photos George and Fay Dean)

The alphabetical index for house numbers and streets covered in Box 9842 in Tarragindi is viewable online at <http://annerleystephenshistory.org/>.

Research into all the Corley photos identified in the former Stephens Shire is continuing and the identification of the photos of the remaining part of Tarragindi extending into Holland Park will be the next phase of this project.

**ASHG wishes to thank the volunteers who have helped in the identification and recording of house addresses, as well as the interviewees who have contributed their stories and photos.**

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A special thank you to Daniel Joynes for applying his professional architectural eye and contributing a huge amount of time to this project again.

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