

## The Brien Family of 48 Westlake



Left: Roma Brien and two brothers.

Roma wrote the following about life at Westlake:  
*Mum used to put sand into chaff bags to heat it up. We used this when we had any aches and pains. Also Mum used to heat up a little bit of salt and put it in a sock and tie the end up if we had a toothache. Mum would*

*put bricks or big river stones in the oven in winter to heat them up and then Mum would put them into our beds. It would be nice and warm when we went to bed. We used to have a lot of fruit trees, which we used to pick and sell the fruit. We also had chooks and we used to sell the eggs. One of my favourite things we used to do was to sit down as a family and my Father taught us how to make paper roses and carnations. The boys undid the old chicken wire with pliers and straightened it out and cut it. The girls and Mum used to make the flowers. We made baskets full of flowers and then we used to sell them to help us survive. I remember quite a few times we would go to school with our lunch which was bread with dripping on it. Sometimes we might get a bit of jam. We always had our lunch wrapped in newspaper.*



Left Fred Byrne at Tuggeranong. The family moved to Westlake and he became the second husband of Roma's mother. The boy in the foreground of photograph outside the Westlake Hall is Jimmy Byrne, nephew of Fred.