

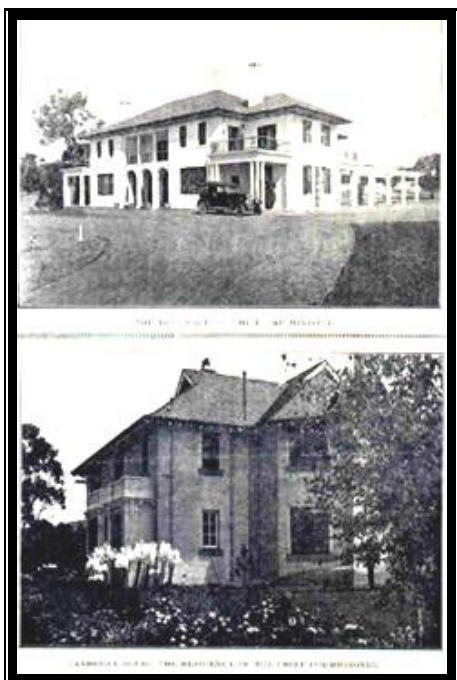
Westlake Newsletter 2003

Shortly after Christmas last year I received the news that Beryl Box, wife of Ron died in November 2002. The couple who lived for a number of years with Ron's father at 25 Westlake moved to Moruya many years ago. Another old Canberran, Amy West (nee Dunshea) of Acton Cottages died just before Christmas.

I had attended a meeting of the Acton Committee in November that was attended by Amy and although she was not well her fighting spirit was. She was the one to stir the Acton people into working towards the erection of a plaque (or other sign) to mark the site of the Acton Workmen's cottages.

Our book *True Tales* has become a source of information by those interested in knowing the history of our area. One person to use it is Julie Gorrell of ANU Education Department. Her office is in old Canberra House at Acton. This stone house by the way I believe and Julie's research supports the supposition that this stone house built for the Administrator is the first permanent building erected in the FCT (now ACT) – it was built in 1912 and predates the Power House by a couple of years.

The photographs below were taken in 1926 and show the Prime Minister's Lodge and below it, Canberra House.



Julie is working on a walk around Acton and has found the information in the book absolutely invaluable. She, like a number of others wanted a copy for ANU Library. However, these books have not been available for years.

The Lodge is a building that few Canberrans see today. The area of the lodge is now ringed with a tall brick wall and guards stand at the gates to monitor those who wish to enter. When we were kids however, it was different. I think there was a wire fence defining the land – mainly to keep the sheep out and there were no guards. I have heard many stories about people visiting the lodge. One I by Carmel Koenig (nee Maxwell). As a little girl she decided to visit her aunt Peggy who worked in the kitchen at the Lodge Peggy was Margaret Maxwell, wife of *Crow* – Norman Maxwell of 43 Westlake. She wandered up to the Lodge, went into the kitchen where she met her aunt. Whilst there the Prime Minister, Mr Curtin, came in, had a chat and gave her a shilling. Another tale I recall was told to me by Tom White who came to Canberra in the early post war years. His home town was Bathurst – same as Ben Chifley who often gave him a lift in the government car when he was travelling back home. Tom mentioned that on one occasion he went up to the Lodge, knocked on the front door. It was opened by Mrs Chifley who told him to come in, took him to a room where he could wait for Mr Chifley, but admonished him not to keep her husband up too late because he was very tired.

Another to join the ranks on the other side is *Mick* Jackson who died in early February this year. Mick, I have been told, was 64 and had 14 grandchildren. I still think of Mick as the kid next door wearing short pance and getting into mischief.



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Above is a photograph loaned by Cecil Jackson that shows Baby Joyce Jackson and her mother Nora (nee Dixon). Until Joyce saw the photograph and identified it we did not know which Jackson child Nora held. It could easily have been Mick or one of the others.

I did not send Charlie Law (one of the original 1924 kids of Westlake) a Newsletter last year. He had moved. In early February this year I received a letter, photograph and 1931 programmes from him – and a new address.



Above is a copy of one of the photographs that Charlie sent. The costumes were made by his mother and we won first prize. We were in 6th class. Charlie identified the girls – Barbara Bossence, Gwen Pinner, Jean Miller, Laurel, Joan Joiner, Olive Marchant, Florence Winterman.

Jacky Dinnerville who lived first at Howies Cottages Westlake and then in one of the cottages in Westlake also joined the ranks of those who have gone before. I am not sure of his date of death but it was early 2003. Below is a photograph loaned by Ken Dinnerville's daughter showing in the background one of Howies Cottages. Ken, who died a few years ago, was a cousin of Jacky – Ken in the shadow. The Westlake cottage design was based on Howies cottages that were erected in 1922 on the hillside above present day Lotus Bay.



Eileen McCauley (nee O'Rourke) died at Nowra on Saturday 15th February 2003. She would have been 82 years of age in early March. Her body was brought back to Canberra for burial and the funeral service took place on Wednesday 19th February. Another member of the McCauley family, Fay, died last October (2002). She was around 60 years of age. The *Canberra Times* 5th May 1943 had a notice of her marriage to Hilton McCauley, fifth son of Mr & Mrs S McCauley of Queanbeyan. Mrs Blundell, sister of the bride was Matron of Honour and Mr McKinnon was best man. Mrs Tommy Williams (sister of bride) came from Sydney for the wedding.



Above: Two of the O'Rourke girls in the 1940s. Brother Frank supplied the army uniform I have been told.



[At the time of writing – 18.2.03] Freddy Byrnes is in hospital. Above is a photograph taken of Fred during the time his family lived at Tuggeranong property. Sadly on Sunday 4th May 2003 Freddy died. His first wife, Teresa (*Tospy*) died in the early 1960s aged 39

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years. She had a family by her first marriage. Fred became their Dad. *Topsy* and Fred had a daughter, Jacqueline, who died as a baby. Their second child, Karen along with another son, Peter survive him. Roma, his step-daughter still lives in Canberra and Helen in South Australia.

On Thursday 24th April 2003 Lily Williams (nee O'Rourke) died at her home. If she had lived to her next birthday in October she would have been 87 years. Of the family only three of the girls now survive - Jane, Valerie and Moya. The funeral was held on Monday 28th April and she joins her husband at Woden Cemetery.

The Hawke family of Westlake came from Araluen. One of the daughters, Marjie - took me to school. One of the Hawke descendents had a death notice In the *Canberra Times* Wednesday April 23rd 2003. Bruce Andrew Hawke Jnr died after a battle with cancer. His dates are 28th April 1954 to 18th April 2003. He was the son of Bruce and Joan Hawke (both deceased) and the husband of Cathy and father of Louise, Joanna and Peter.