

# Roundabout

## Monbulk Historical Society Newsletter



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### Farewell Peter Lane

Peter Lane was born in 1929 at his family home in The Patch, and lived in the district for most of his life. He was a gentleman, generous, humble and never short of a joke or a yarn.

Peter's parents were Fred and Hilda Lane (née Hill) who were both born locally. They attended the Monbulk State School and lived in the area for their entire lives. They had 3 sons Fred, David and Peter.

Lane house in The Patch before 1934. Moves towards having a church in The Patch began that year." Hilda died in 1970, aged 63.



Hilda and Fred Lane with David, Fred, Peter in their lounge room at The Patch.

"Half of the kids went to the Kallista School, including the Crerars and Coweys. We walked the mile and a half to the Monbulk school, although, we sometimes had lifts in the bus that took the Upwey High students. I remember that we were able to obtain driving licenses at 17. My older brother Fred was in the first intake. Fred and David worked for U.S. Motors before joining the Navy. Football stopped for a time during the war then started up again in 1944. For entertainment there were balls and dances, but we mostly made our own fun. Films were shown in the Monbulk Hall in the 1940s and through to the 1960s. We had a house cow and grew potatoes and other vegetables. Gooseberries were a popular crop. Rationing only affected those things we could not grow."

As The Patch began to develop its own identity with an upgraded store, a church and a hall, Hilda Lane became involved in The Patch Progress Association and the Hall Committee and the beginning of The Patch CWA.

Peter's early recollections;

"My father returned from the war having lost two fingers on his left hand and needing rehabilitation. He continued to work on his block and he married Hilda Hill in 1925. They lived in Monbulk for a short time until the house was built in 1926 on two of the original 10 acres settled by Henry and Mary Emily. After that he sought a more secure livelihood and joined the Shire of Ferntree Gully as a Road Patrolman. This also entailed oversight of the sustenance gangs during the Depression of the 1930s. He finished his working life at Camms." Fred died in 1980, aged 87.

"My mother was born Hilda Hill in 1907, one of the seven children of David Hill, early Monbulk settler. She had a lifetime association with many of the community organisations in the district. Some concerned the welfare of children, Muriel Peck Cottage (later renamed Wellington Cottage) and the Baby Health Centre and she was group leader for a long period in the Monbulk Play Group until the establishment of the official kindergarten. She served on the RSL Ladies' Auxiliary, the T.B. Ball committee and the Kookaburra Club in Monbulk. The first Bush Mission Sunday School was conducted in the

Peter was a pupil during the entire period of WWII, firstly at Monbulk State School (1935-1941) and then Upwey High (1942- 1946).



Boys enjoy their last Play Group Christmas picnic with Hilda Lane at Nathania Springs. Gary Matthews is on the extreme left and Graham Coulson stands in front of Mrs Lane. December 1958.

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Peter started playing football for Monbulk when he was 16. He played for 10 years including in a premiership side in 1951. Peter was treasurer for the club for one year during the 1950s and later joined the committee and was secretary in 1968 and 1969. In 1978 he was awarded a Club life membership.



Fred, David and Peter Lane at home.

In 1947, after leaving school, he trained as a technician with the PMG in Melbourne and worked as a clerk in Melbourne staying at the YMCA Hostel during the week.

Peter married Myra Fleming in 1957 and took on the operation of the local taxi service that same year with or from his brother Dave while Myra was at home with babies manning the phone. Peter loved driving his Chevrolet 49 Fleetline. Many older Monbulk people would remember the taxi rides with him. Years later he told many an entertaining tale about his passengers, their personalities and peculiarities. Peter and Myra had four daughters in five years, Julie, Tricia, Karen and Pam.

Peter was also involved in the RSL, his daughters' swimming clubs, and was a member of the Monbulk Historical Society. He



Peter and Myra Lane

played golf and bowls and was always ready to give his time for the benefit of these clubs and was well respected in the community.

After exploring many parts of Australia with friends and family, Peter and Myra decided to move to North Queensland to be closer to his daughters and his grandchildren Gemma and Arlen.

From the beginning Peter showed his community spirit by engaging with all that Ingham had to offer. He explored all the local attractions, joined the Men's Shed and supported the local markets, arts and festivals. Peter stayed physically fit, playing golf and bowls and riding his pushbike well into his 80s. In his later years activities became increasingly harder with age, skin cancers and a Parkinson's diagnosis but he always maintained his quick wit.

Peter was a loving son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, brother-in-law, uncle and friend to many. He was committed to family, friends and community and always lived life with integrity.

Peter passed away in Ingham, Queensland during May, after a short illness.



Monbulk 1st XVIII 1951.

Back: Len Vickers (committee), Harry Thornhill (assistant secretary), Len Fleming, Bill Rankin, Ray Brooks, Arthur Jones, Max Seamer, Harold Seamer, Bob Fraser (gatekeeper), Harold Parkhurst, Roger Weavers, John Simpson, Don McAllister, Ned Anderson (president), A. Hodge (committee), Phil Fleming (goal umpire).

Middle: Peter Lane, Kevin James, Harry Seamer, Mick Seamer (captain), Charlie Marr, Reg Jennings, Owen James (coach).

Front: Robert Camm (committee), Max Jennings, Emie McLean, Robert Seamer (mascot), George Russell, Ron Gray, John Anderson (boundary), Arch Kay (committee).

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