

Initial Upload 8 June 2013

**ANDREW COLIN HARFORD (Colin) and FRANCES EILA FREEMAN (Eila)**

Colin was born at Broken Hill on 15 March 1916, the third child and second son of Francis Frank) John Joseph and Blanche Maud Parsons.

A fourth child, Patricia, was born in Broken Hill on 12 March 1919 and Colin told us that after the 1918 Miner's Strike they decided to go to Kangaroo Island. Other writings refer to this strike as 1919/1920 but whatever the precise timing the poor working and living conditions and general instability of the employment market would have been sufficient to lead the family to leave Broken Hill. With four young children Frank would have sought more security than he had working in the mines.

The family left in mid 1920 and went to Kangaroo Island probably via Merbein and Mildura where Frank would have obtained some seasonal work. We know he was at Kingscote on Kangaroo Island in October because he applied for a job with the District Council of Kingscote as a Caretaker, Day man and Night man. His application was accepted.<sup>1</sup>

In December 1921, Frank resigned his job at the Council<sup>2</sup> and we expect he had difficulty getting regular work. However, Blanche took over the boarding house at Muston Salt Lake at the end of 1922 and the family moved there. Frank would have helped Blanche and also would have picked up other work during the season. Colin told me he started school at Kingscote in 1922 and would have had to change to the Muston Salt Lake School with the other Harford children in 1923.

An empty house was made available for the school. The conditions were very rough. It was made of galvanized iron and had four rooms of which three were lined, one with boards, one with bags and one with fluted iron. The exposed situation near the lake and the flat roof did little to make conditions comfortable in winter or summer. The furnishings were long backless desks, a table and chair for the teacher and a school cupboard made of kerosene boxes stacked and hung with cloth.

In 1924 a Fancy Dress Ball was held and the newspaper reported that Miss Patty Harford won the best dressed girl's prize of a box of chocolates and the best dressed boy prize winner was Colin Harford. He was awarded 10 shillings and 6 pence. Whatever they wore would have been made by Blanche.

On Eight Hour Day 1924, Muston held a sports day. The Harford children all participated. Joyce won the Girls 10 to 14 race and was second in the Ladies Open Handicap. Colin was second in the Boys under 10 race and also second in "Apple Eating". Frank off 6 yards was second in the Men's handicap

---

<sup>1</sup> Kangaroo Island Courier 30 October 1920

<sup>2</sup> See Story Francis John Joseph

It is clear the Harford children were at Kingscote School at the end of 1925 and it is most likely they returned earlier in the year once the 1924 summer seasonal work peak had passed and the boarding house closed.

We are sure of the move to Kingscote because Colin was in a school Concert at Kingscote District Hall in December and on 12 December 1925 Blanche was one of a number of ladies thanked, through a newspaper article, by the school for their assistance in making the school concert a success.



**Kingscote School Group, c-late 1920's**

TEACHERS:- U. H. Pearce, V. Gunn, E.M. Sundberg

BACK ROW:- Ron Adams, Jack Saunders, Francis Hartford, Marsden Chapman, Frank Chapman, Sid Letton, Frank Rowe, George Waller, Murray Lenthall, Marj Murton, Edna Anderson, Pearl Sharpe, Ina Sundberg, Kath May, Vera Waller, Joan Murton, Eric Cook, Albert Waller

MIDDLE ROW:- John Anderson, Hilda Bell, Edna Bell, L. Boxer, Doris Snelling, Alice Chapman, Phylis Wiadrowski, Sadie Murton, Violet Burgess, Charles Anderson, Francis Edwards, Ken Cook, Lewis Chapman, Ross Rowe, Klem Edwards, Vic Gasmier, Clarence May

FRONT ROW:- Colin Bell, Gordon Ransom, Stanley May, Fred Christopher, Elwyn Leahy, Colin Harford, Douglas Lenthall, Lesley Lovering, Ralph Bell, Eric Sundberg, Fred Buckland, Doris Burgess, Gwen Uren, Joyce Hartford, Madeline Leopold, Alice Letton, Archie Lovering,

Colin had told us that he did not wear shoes on the island because his parents could not afford them. From the school picture above it can be seen that he is not wearing shoes.

We do not know where the family lived at Kingscote. We have been told that Frank (and perhaps Joyce and Colin) were picked up by the Bell girls in a horse and gig at their house called "Sunnyside" a little out of Kingscote between there and Cygnet River. The Bell girls are in the photograph above. We think Sunnyside is the name of the house they lived in rather than a town.

The family left Kangaroo Island in 1927 and moved to Merbein. Colin, Joyce and Patricia went to two State Schools at Merbein West and then Merbein South. A new catholic school, Our

Lady's, was opened in 1928 at Merbein by the Mercy Nuns from Mildura. Colin was the first boy enrolled and he spent time in both Class 5 and 6. He was turning 12 in March of that year so it seems that he may have lost some school time with their move to KI and also the move to Muston and then back to Kingscote.

Register Number	Date of Admission	PUPIL'S NAME	Pupil's Age	Religious Denomination	First Communion	Confirmation	Place of Birth	Parent or Guardian	Date of Admission to each Class					
								Name	Residence	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth
1	31-1-28	Harford Colin	11-9-6	10-2-7	10-2-7	10-2-7	10-2-7	Harford Francis	Merbein					2-28
2	31-1-28	Lierney Albert	12	8-4-7	8-4-7	8-4-7	8-4-7	Lierney William	St. Brynes St. Kees					2-28
3	2-4-28	Green Jack	14	11-4-7	11-4-7	11-4-7	11-4-7	Green Robert	St. Kees					4-28
4	31-1-28	Berriman George	11-2	8-4-7	8-4-7	8-4-7	8-4-7	Berriman James	Merbein					2-28
5	31-1-28	McKenzie Thomas	12	8-4-7	8-4-7	8-4-7	8-4-7	McKenzie George	St. Kees					2-28
6	31-1-28	Berriman Alfred	10	8-4-7	8-4-7	8-4-7	8-4-7	Berriman James	Merbein					2-28
7	31-1-28	Bruce Fred	10	8-4-7	8-4-7	8-4-7	8-4-7	Bruce Arthur	St. Kees					2-28

### 1928 Enrolment Book Our Lady's Merbein

When he was thirteen (1929) Colin went to school at Douglas Park, NSW. The college was run by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. There were 120 students all wanting to become missionary priests.

It is not clear how this education was organized or paid for. Frank definitely could not have afforded it. We are left with the conclusion that Blanche organized it with the order and the prospect of Colin becoming a priest and a missionary. Blanche always wanted some of her children to be members of the clergy.

However, after four years at Douglas Park Colin returned to Mildura. As Colin has written: *"after four years there it was decided that I did not have a vocation to be a priest."* It appears this was not Colin's decision and perhaps that he was not wanted for whatever reason.

Within a year or Colin went to the Redemptorist Monastery at Ballarat with the objective of becoming a Lay Brother. At that time the Monastery was the base for thirty priests who went round Victorian parishes giving Missions. Colin was always very impressed with their preaching skills. There were also about 80 students for the priesthood there.



Roman Catholic Redemptorist Monastery, Ballarat



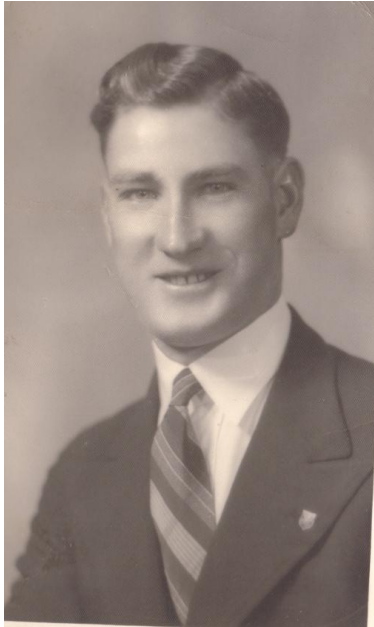
In about 1935/6 Colin entered the Redemptorist Novitiate at Newcastle. He received the Redemptorist Habit worn by all Redemptorist priests and brothers. However, *“at the end of twelve months it was decided that I was not to be a Lay Brother.”* Once again this does not appear to be a decision that Colin made.

Colin returned to Mildura and in 1938 he commenced work on the Victorian Railways as a fireman. Colin met Eila Freeman there a year or so later.

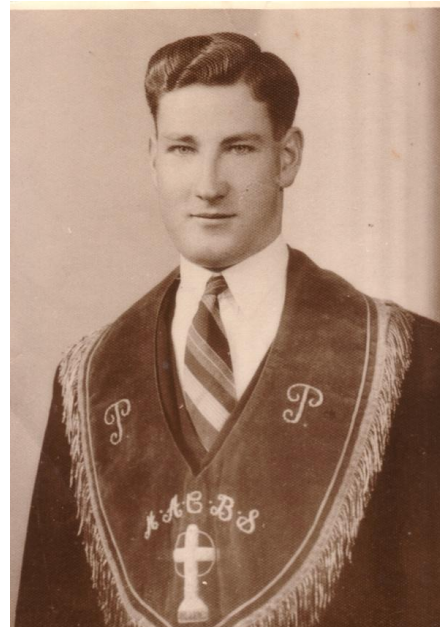
Eila was born on the 28 December 1912 at Ararat, the fifth child and fourth daughter of Patrick Freeman and Beatrice Sherwin. Eila was baptized on the 20 January 1913 at St Mary's Ararat. Her godparents were Kathleen and Alfred Matheson.

Eila trained as a nurse initially at Aradale Mental Hospital in Ararat quite close to her home in Grano Street. She later moved to Mildura, doing 12 months of general nursing. The house of the Tierney family was a meeting place for out of town nurses. The Tierneys family were also friends of the Harfords and it is here that Eila and Colin first met.

Eila later gave up nursing and moved to Melbourne where Colin was now residing. She boarded with friends, the McCormicks, in Mary Street Richmond and took up a job in the munitions factory, a career move that later she was to decide she would have been better not taking. Colin continued as a fireman and was living in Melbourne with his mother.



**Colin about 1940**



**Colin in sash of Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society**

On the 1st February 1941 Eila and Colin married at St Mary's East St Kilda. Their wedding party included Connie Freeman, Eila's sister, and Frank, Colin's brother. Colin had been called up for National Service on the week before their marriage. Because of the marriage Colin was able to defer until the next draft. As it happened, there was a change in government policy, and there was no further draft.



**Eila & Colin, Connie & Frank**



**Colin, Blanche & Frank**

After they were married Colin and Eila moved to Traralgon where they lived for two and a half years. Eila's brother Bert lived there and their first two children were born there. **John Patrick** was born on 31 October 1941 and **Peter Francis** was born on 27 February 1943.



**Bert with John & Peter 1943**

Colin and Eila moved from Traralgon to Ararat in September 1943. Ararat was a "railway town" on the main line between Melbourne and Adelaide which had spur lines to Hamilton, Avoca and Maryborough.

Colin bought their first house at 60 Rundell Street. It was two streets from High St, the Catholic Church and the primary school of St Mary's, and convent school run by the Brigidine Sisters. The neighbours were mostly railway employees living in houses that were owned by the Victorian Railways and rented to them.

The land<sup>3</sup> was rather large measuring 125 by 248 feet with an area of 1 Rood and 9.6 perches or 31,000 square feet or 1153.3 square metres.

Knowing that we had lived there since 1943, I was surprised that the title did not show Colin as owner until 10 November 1948. He bought the property from Rowland William Hughes who was a farmer who died in July 1948.

Colin was buying the house on a terms arrangement although there was no immediate transfer of ownership or noting of his interest on the title. The consideration noted in the transfer, dated 29 September 1948 was *"406 pounds 5 shillings paid to the deceased during his lifetime and the further sum of 43 pounds 15 shillings paid to me as executor"* a total of 450 pounds. The contract was over 5 years or 1825 days so Colin was paying 5 Shillings a day.

Because of the size of the land there was ample room for vegetable gardens, a large number of chooks and it also had plenty of fruit trees including apple, apricot and plum trees. We used to climb these trees and pick and eat the fruit. Eila also bottled it to have for dessert and made jam from it. There was a large date palm tree in the front of the house and the next door block of land between us and our neighbour, Tessa Murphy, was vacant and this gave us additional space in which to play.

The house had been built about 1929 and it was of weatherboard construction with three bedrooms, a lounge and a dining room. It had an external bathroom, laundry and toilet building. It had a verandah across the front. In those days we did not have a refrigerator but we had a "coolgardie safe" outside. Later this was replaced with an Ice Chest,

Colin made a number of improvements. The first was the addition of a new bathroom with a new bath and a chip heater. I think this was to make it easier to have baths as the house had no other water heater. Until that time, I remember being bathed in the kitchen sink! I recall this vividly as one night I was in the sink when the Hinchey girls called in to take John and I to the Circus.

Colin and Eila had three children in Ararat:

- **Mary Cecelia** was born on 7 January 1945
- **Bernard Anthony** was born on 28 August 1946
- **David Vincent** was born on 27 November 1948

---

<sup>3</sup> Crown Allotment 5 Section 67, Township of Ararat, Parish of Ararat, Volume 5384 Folio 785

The second improvement was the removal of the verandah across the front and building a new bedroom and new front porch. All the children used to sleep in one room and when Colin became an Engine Driver on 13 January 1949 his fireman and his wife came and boarded with us.

Between Bernard's and David's arrival Mary spent about eighteen months with Eila's younger sister Connie Whelan and her husband Bill who was working on the Yalla-y-Poorra station at Tatyoon about 40 km. south of Ararat. Connie and Bill married in February 1944. By this time Eila had John and Peter and Mary was born in January 1945. It was a mutually convenient arrangement as Connie had been anxious to have children of her own and it assisted Eila who by early 1946 was expecting Bernard. On visits to Rundell Street Mary would arrive in the horse and sulky finely dressed by Connie. She recalls when leaving for Tatyoon not wanting to wave goodbye to Mum and Dad.

In later years some of the Harford children, in particular Mary and Bernard, spent school holidays with the Whelan's (now with two children – Gary and Aileen) on their Soldier Settlement farm on the Terrinallum Estate at Pura Pura.

Ararat was a great place for young children and we had enormous freedom to roam. Rabbiting and mushrooming were activities with a number of school friends together with our dogs and rabbit traps. We had a number of favourite places including pine plantations and old quarries part filled with water. There were also relatives to visit including "Popeye" (who died in 1951) and Grandma Freeman and Aunty Rita and Uncle Lawrie. Uncle Jack was also there and we used to occasionally watch him play football for St Mary's.



**1945 Mary, Peter & John at Ararat**





**1946 Mary**



**1946 Mary, Peter, John & Bernard as a Baby**

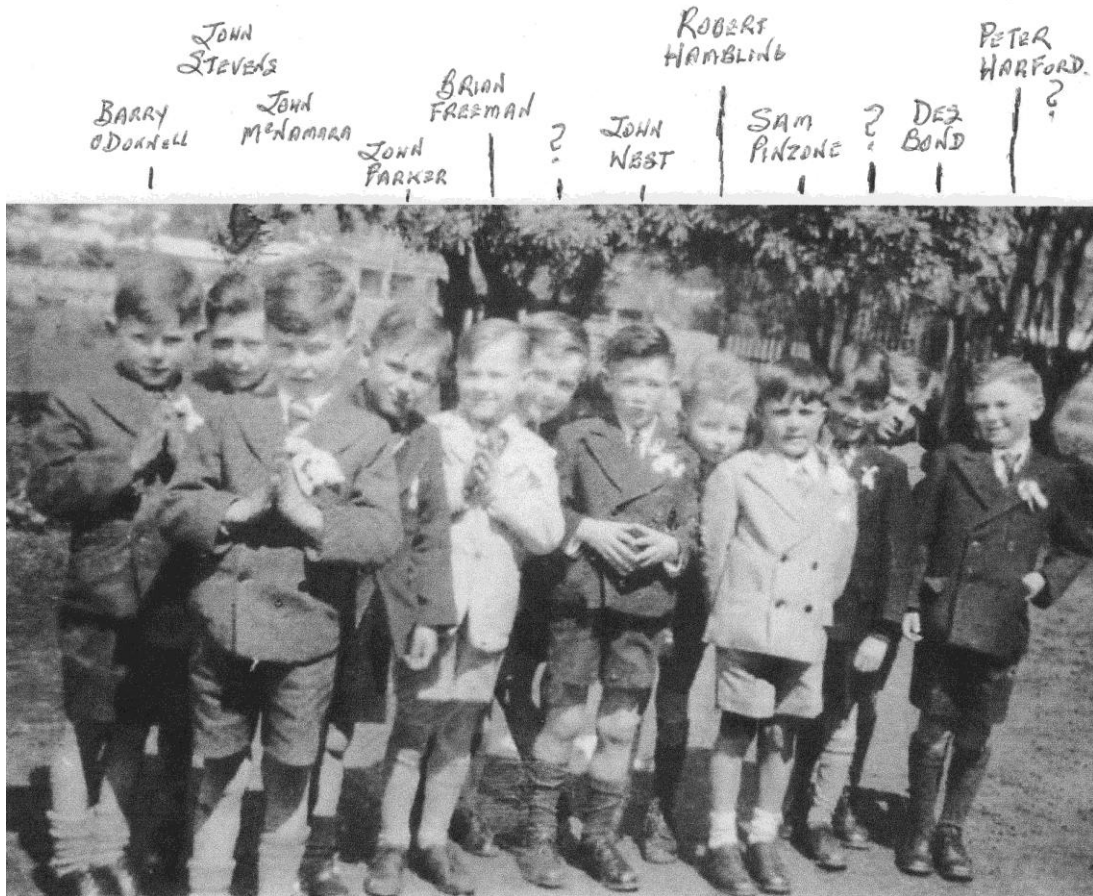


**1946 Eila with Bernard**



**1949 Peter, Mary Bernard, David in Pram**





Peter First Communion 30 October 1949



1951 Bernard, Mary, Peter, John



1951 Deb Ball John McNamara, Lois Wallis,  
Ann Brady & Peter



**1949 Harford Family Ararat**



**60 Rundell St 2008 without Fruit Trees & Date Palm**

In 1952 with advent of Diesel fewer Engine Drivers were required and Colin decided to move to Melbourne and drive electric trains. He was required to pass examinations to obtain an Electric Train Driver's Certificate which was issued to him on 23 September 1952.

Eila moved to Melbourne in early 1952 taking the children, except for John, who stayed in Ararat with Colin until Second Term of school Colin came later in the year when he had his certificate. The family stayed with Colin's sister Joyce and her husband John Overend at 95 Rosanna Road Rosanna until Colin bought a house at Macleod in September 1952.

Colin had sold the house at Ararat on the same kind of time payment arrangement as he had bought it. The sale transfer is dated 22 July 1957 implying that a five year terms contract would have been dated 22 July 1952. Colin sold the property for 1830 Pounds which was paid to him by Lewis John Woods over the period of the contract. This represented 1825 days (5 years) at a Pound a day plus 5 Pounds. However, Lewis Woods on sold it a William O'Loughlin and by the end of the five years William O'Loughlin (who had died) had made payments of 1187 Pounds 1 shilling and 1 penny and his Executrix, Veronica O'Loughlin, paid 642 Pounds 18 shillings and 11 pence, making a total of 1830 pounds paid to Lewis Woods.

Colin would have received these payments progressively and probably monthly at about 30 Pounds per month. By the time the sale transfer for Ararat was signed Colin had bought a house at Oakleigh and the family had moved there from Macleod.

The house at Macleod was at 29 Torbay St Macleod. This location probably suited his work on the Heidelberg Eltham train lines. He used to finish at either place and to get home from his last train he bought a motor bike. Macleod was still very newly settled with open creeks that we were used to from Ararat. We were a short walk to the train station and there were no homes between our house and the station. The path to the station was unmade and very muddy after rain.

Colin bought the house from Jeffrey Saward who had owned the land since June 1948. He was a carpenter and probably built the house. The land<sup>4</sup> measured 50 by 132 feet with an area of 6,600 square feet or 613.2 square metres. The consideration was 2,850 Pounds and the land was located 800 feet from the corner of Strathallan Road

The property was mortgaged because at that stage Colin was selling Ararat on terms and he also was paying an additional 1000 Pounds over and above what he was to receive from the Ararat sale. The mortgage was to the Public Service Cooperative Housing Society. The documents are not available to determine the amount that Colin borrowed.

The house was a weatherboard and had three bedrooms. David shared a room with Mary until Therese was born on 16 November 1954. He then joined the other three boys in their very large bedroom at the rear of the house.

---

<sup>4</sup> Title details: Vol. 7153 Fol. 482. Parent Title Vol. 5855 Fol. 938. Lot 4 on Plan of Subdivision No. 10747 part of Crown Portion 9 Parish of Keelbundora, County of Bourke.





**1952 Colin in New Uniform (Age 36)**



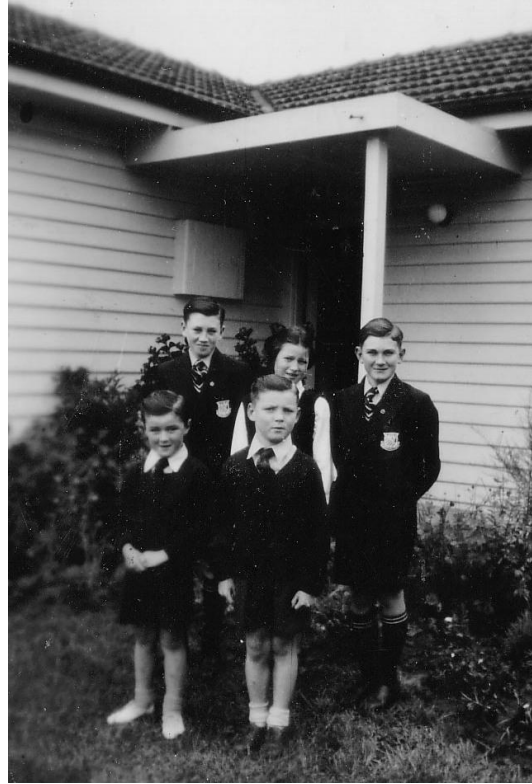
**1953 John, Patrick Richards, Peter & David feeding Scottie our Fox Terrier**



**1952 Five Harfords**



**1954 David Mary & Bernard**



**1954 at Macleod**

On the first day after our arrival at Macleod Colin took John and I on our bikes to Loyola, the Jesuit Seminary at Watsonia a few miles up the road. The front door bell was opened by a scholastic, Peter Quin. We had a good talk with him and when Colin told him we were going to go to St Thomas' Christian Brothers at Clifton Hill, he suggested the Jesuit school of St Patrick's East Melbourne. We went to St Thomas' in 1953 but changed to St Pat's in 1954. I was very glad because we had 98 boys in the 1953 class and about 30 in 1954 at St Pat's.

In 1952 we had gone to the primary school of St John's Heidelberg and Mary, Bernard & David continued on there. We travelled by train to school from Macleod even when very young, not something that would be done today! Sometimes we walked home from Heidelberg following the creek through Rosanna Golf Links or walking along the train line. Eila would have been horrified had she known. I was nine years old and Mary and Bernard were younger.

**Therese Margaret** was born at East Melbourne on 16 November 1954. Colin bought Eila her first ever refrigerator and washing machine for the house and they were there when she came home with Therese.

John and I went to Loyola most weekends watching the students play cricket and football. We also went on long hikes to the Plenty River and back. We were taught to swim in the river by Peter Quin. In later years Fr. Peter Quin was the Prefect of Studies and also Rector of Xavier College at a time when Peter's sons Simon and Philip were attending the school.

We moved to Oakleigh in May 1955 and Colin sold the house at Macleod. The sale transfer to James and Joyce Arnott is dated 3 December 1955. This was also the date of the discharge of the mortgage. It should be noted that at this time Colin was still the owner of the house at Ararat. The consideration for the sale of Macleod was 2,900 Pounds marginally above the purchase price in 1952.

At Oakleigh, the house was at 48A Davey Ave across the road from where trains were stabled. After being at Macleod when trains terminated at Eltham or Heidelberg requiring a trip on a motor cycle late at night in all weather, being close to the church and the start and finish of his job were Colin's top priorities. Eila was not consulted about the purchase and was very disappointed with the house.



**1956 Therese**



**1956 Eila at 48A Davey Ave.**

The house was one of a pair. The land<sup>5</sup> was narrow but deep measuring 25 feet 5 inches by 180 feet. The area was 4575 square feet, or 425 square metres. The purchase transfer was dated 29 June 1955 and the property was mortgaged to the previous owner Mrs. Ruth Yeats. The consideration was 3,200 Pounds and it was held in joint names which was a first! The mortgage was discharged on 4 November 1963. The house was quite inadequate for the family with four boys still in the same room. Colin then built on a flat for his mother, Blanche, with an adjoining bedroom used by Bernard and David. Blanche stayed until Patricia and Michael Koczur built their house at Templestowe and she moved to be with Patricia. This was about early 1963/4.

<sup>5</sup> Vol. 8118 Fol. 260. Parent title Vol. 7029 Fol. 792

Lot 2 of Plan of Subdivision No. 35255, Part of Crown portion 2 Parish of Mulgrave, County of Bourke.



From my viewpoint living at Oakleigh was quite good. John and I continued to travel to St Pat's. Mary went locally the Sacred Heart College and Bernard and David went to school at the Salesian College at Chadstone. Later John and I joined the YCW and played football with them. I continue to have friends from there.

Our neighbours were the Vallences and after her husband died Mrs Vallence operated an SP betting business which alternated between our place and her own. The difficulty for me was that in the 1960's I was working in the Headquarter's of the PMG's Department Telecommunications Division and this provided me with massive conflict.



**1955 Aunty Thelma (Freeman) at Oakleigh  
Therese & John (rear) Peter, Mary, David, Bernard**



**1957 David, Mary, Therese, Bernard, Peter**

After Therese was born Eila had developed Rheumatoid Arthritis. At Oakleigh she walked down the street to Mass almost daily. In the early 1960's, Eila worked as Nursing Aide at a Private Hospital on Dandenong Road. She enjoyed the work and the people there. I had bought a new Volkswagen car in 1961 and had to be home from work to pick her up at 6pm. She did not enjoy my driving and continually held on to the "panic handle" on the dashboard.

In 1965, Colin sold the house at Oakleigh and we moved to 6 Baker Parade Ashburton. The sale transfer was dated 21 November 1965. The consideration was 4,750 pounds. Colin & Eila held a mortgage on the property which was discharged on 7 July 1970.

The Ashburton property was well positioned with the station close and it was a nice neighbourhood. It was located a few doors away from Dad's cousin Cletus Eichler. I also had a few friends from school who lived close by and I knew the area well. The house was weatherboard and it immediately required a new bathroom which Colin attended to. He also extended a bedroom that was occupied by Bernard and David.

John had married **Lynette Alcott** at Holy Eucharist, Chadstone on 6 January 1965 and they had bought a house at Springvale. Mary was also away from nursing training at St Vincent's Hospital. This meant that Therese and I could each have our own bedrooms while Bernard and David continued to share. Their school at Chadstone was also reasonably close for Bernard and David.



**John & Lyn Wedding Photo January 1965**  
**Eila, Colin, Lyn, John, Bernard, David, Peter Mary and Therese**

After moving to Ashburton Eila started working at her brother Alf's haberdashery shop at Glenferrie a couple of days a week. It was quite accessible being on the same train line with only a short walk to and from each station. Eila enjoyed this work and the money she earned gave her some independence. She enjoyed spending it on Christmas and Birthday presents for her children and grandchildren who by 1966 were starting to arrive. While she would have provided presents without working, the income gave her more discretion and the scope to be more generous.

I had met Elizabeth Hamilton and we were engaged in December 1965 and married 12 months later. Immediately prior to our wedding Colin, expecting Mary to return home, decided to put an additional window into my room to allow more light. However, instead Mary went to Queensland nursing and there were sufficient rooms for everyone.

Bernard, David and Therese continued to live at Ashburton. Bernard left to spend a year at the University of Melbourne's Agricultural field station at Mt. Derrimut in 1967, but returned in 1968. Bernard married **Diane Riseley** at St Brigid's Mordialloc on 14 August 1970

Mary married **Uccio (Mario) Runco** in 1968 and lived close to Ashburton at Box Hill South before moving to Western Australia in 1977 with their three children. They started a restaurant with another couple at Claremont.

David left having been conscripted to the Army for 2 years and serving from April 1969 to April 1971. Following his service in the Army David married **Maree Curry** in 1972. After they were married David and Maree lived at Baker Parade with Colin and Eila for ten months in 1972 and early 1973.

Therese married **Peter Hauser** at St. Michael's Ashburton on 8 May 1976 and moved into Baker Parade at the time Colin and Eila left for Rye.

Eila loved having her family around her. Family gatherings at 6 Baker Parade, particularly the Sunday roast and Christmas, with the traditional roast and trimmings as well as her home made plum pudding custard and sauce. They were attended by a growing number as grandchildren were added to our number. Eila loved the experience of her family around her.

During his time at Ashburton Colin wanted to renew his back fence. At the rear there was an old laneway and Colin wanted to move the fence back to the midpoint of where the lane was but his neighbour refused to give up the area he had encroached on. Not to be out done Colin researched the origins of the original subdivision and identified the current day owner of the laneway. He purchased all the roads and lanes of the subdivision for ten dollars and transferred the title to himself. He then presented the title to his neighbour still only requesting the midpoint for the location of the new fence. The neighbour could not refuse!

Colin retired at the age of sixty in 1976. He had a retirement function which we all attended.



**Colin & Eila Retirement 1976**

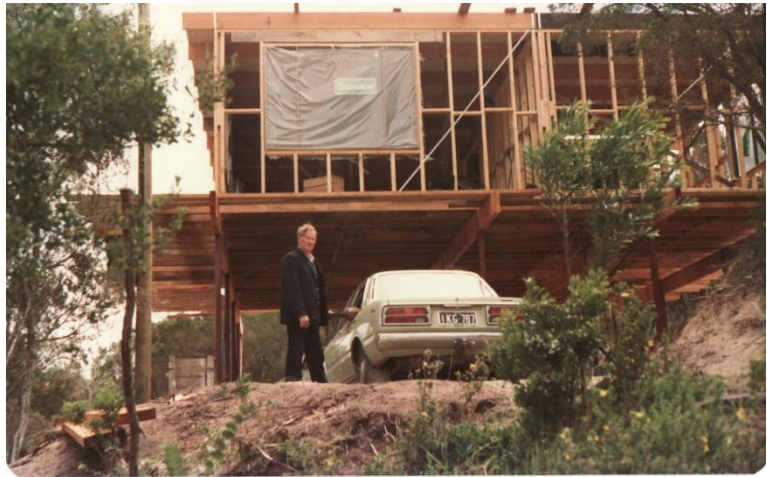


Colin & Eila bought a house at Centre Drive Rye on the Mornington Peninsula in 1976. Colin paid \$22,300 and the purchase transfer was dated 14 April 1976.

Centre Drive was often buzzing with Colin and Eila's family. Eila would prepare a roast lunch for more than twenty in a tiny kitchen with a small adjoining lounge. It was a popular place over the holidays with many grandchildren arriving. Colin built a large multi-purpose bedroom at the back of the house to cater for the numbers.

Colin was known to look forward to New Years Eve at Rye. He would eventually take to watering the front garden of Centre Drive, turning the hose on revelers if they disrupted the calm of the neighbourhood.

Peter and Elizabeth had bought land at Blairgowrie a few kilometres away from Centre Drive some years earlier and were planning to build there. The holiday house was built in 1977 with considerable assistance from Colin who also gained the assistance of a neighbour, Tom O'Sullivan, a retired Plasterer (and Depression era Boxer) which meant we could do the plasterwork ourselves.



**Peter & Colin Building the Beach House**

Colin and Eila were interested in the Harford history and made many trips to Adelaide and other former Harford locations at Armagh, Whyte Yarcowie, Lancelot and Broken Hill. They collected details of Harford baptisms at a number of churches and death details at graveyards. They visited Samuel Harford's grave at Lancelot as well as relatives at Broken Hill such as Ted Corey and "Auntie Dolly" (Hanora Clare). We received letters from Colin "on the road" letting us know what he had found.

On one trip Colin organized to obtain the Angels from the Whyte Yarcowie Church. The church had been sold and was to be used as a house. Colin gave the Angels to the church in Hampton where he attended the Latin Mass.



**Angels from the Church at Whyte Yarcowie at Hampton.**

Mary and Uccio moving to Western Australia gave Colin and Eila a good reason to holiday there. They made a number of trips catching the Indian Pacific rail on several occasions putting the car on the train. They also drove at least once and also went once by plane. This trip tested Colin and he ended up in the cockpit with the pilot trying to calm him down. He never went by plane again.

In Perth they attended morning Mass and Eila spent the days with Mary and the children. Colin would go to the restaurant with Uccio who gave him the title of "Leading Hand". He did a bit of everything sweeping floors, shopping errands, food preparation, washing dishes and setting tables. He loved the work and talking to the staff and delivery people who came in. Eila loved dining in the restaurant, having a glass of wine and watching the people come and go. They made their last trip together in September 1991 for Marisa's wedding.

Trips to WA by car also allowed them to call at Ararat to see Rita and Lawrie and Jack until his death in 1986. They also saw Frank and May in Adelaide and also some of their children.

In 1980, Colin and Eila sold the Ashburton house to Therese and Peter. The transfer was dated 20 June 1980 and the price was shown as \$19,000. In the mid 1980's Eila developed Angina. Realizing their lack of access to good medical services, Colin moved into a flat at Mordialloc at the back of the St. Brigid's church. They kept the house at Rye and used it to get away to it every week during the off-season, but generally left Rye during summer holidays when the grandchildren would descend.





**1981 Colin & Eila's Grandchildren at Peter's Blairgowrie**



**1984 Some Harford Cousins at Colin & Eila's Rye**

**Back : Simon, Andrew, Stephen, Natalie, Jane    Front : Philip, Joanne, Helen, Amy**



Eila died at Mordialloc of a heart attack on 20 November 1992 just short of 80. She died while Colin was attending morning Mass. Eila's Requiem was at St Brigid's Mordialloc and she is buried at Cheltenham Cemetery.

Colin went to WA twice after Eila died and stayed at the Mordialloc unit but he also visited the house at Rye. After a number of falls Colin was placed in a nursing home in Clayton.

He spent a number of years in nursing homes before being placed in a home at Melton South close to Bernard, Diane and their children. He received regular visits from them all, but Diane was particularly attentive and was with Colin when he died.

Colin died on 20 April 2005 at the age of 89. His Requiem was also at St Brigid's and he is buried with Eila at Cheltenham Cemetery.



**L to R: David, Therese, Bernard, Peter, Mary, John**



**Peter, Elizabeth, Peter & Therese, David & Maree, John, Bernard, Front: Mary, Lyn, Diane**