

13 November 2019

Sybille Ims Presentation to Riverside Opening

My parents, Gerda and Walter Lischke, bought the property in 1958 including the land at 4 First Street as at the time it was all on one title. Our home was completed late 1960 when the family consisting of my parents, my sister Jutta, my brothers, Werner, Peter and myself moved in.

At first the address was Lot 18, we had 18 on the house and on the letterbox. When all the houses were numbered, we became 10. So the upper section of the 8 was removed, leaving a large 1 and small 0.

At first, we only had tank water until Warrandyte was connected to its own water supply where water was pumped from the Yarra to a storage tank located at the top of Webb Street. We did not get a septic system for a few years and until then we had a little 'building' a little down the house block. I recall that just after the hole was dug for the septic tank going out one night I fell into the hole.

When we moved to Warrandyte, West End Road was a dirt road. In approximately 1962, West End Road was made. When it was graded and smoothed ready for sealing, my friend from Second Street and I wiped our shoes thoroughly on her dirty road, before walking on my new clean road. First Street was a watery ditch in winter and spring and a great blackberry picking location in Summer until early '70s.

In the early 1960s the Bellinger family delivered milk by horse and cart, Mr Street delivered bread driving a little van and the postman Bill McCulloch rode a horse. At Christmas the postman often stopped to have a little Christmas cheer with Mr Lewis at No. 4 West End Road and the remaining houses on the route had to wait for the mail. Mum was pleased that our house was before Mr Lewis's on the mail delivery route.

My father created a beautiful garden and planted a row of nectarine trees on the house block (Units 1,2 and 3) and grew vegetables and plum trees on the back block (Units 4 and 5). In 1979, as First Street was now a recognisable road/track, Dad divided the property into separate housing blocks.

Over time we children grew up and moved out. Dad passed away in 1980 and for many years it was just Mum living in the house trying to maintain Dad's garden with help from my brothers. In later years it became too much for her, just with Werner's help as Peter had passed away. Unfortunately after a fall in 2014 Mum had to go into care and the house was rented to pay for her care. Mum passed away in September 2015.

Brian and I had hoped the property could one day be used by the Housing Cooperative and I would like to thank my sister Jutta and my brother Werner in supporting us through the process.

I am pleased the development was so successful and I wish all the residents a very happy time at Number 10 West End Road.