

**This folder contains  
Section 2 Part A**

**Family Stories**

Litchfield family  
Latham Girls  
Robin Dobson Memories  
Bob Bulley Family  
Gai Fowler Memories  
Claire Webber Memories  
Bill Shelly  
Travis Allen Display  
Liz Lloyd James Artwork

**Back to Bonny's Community Photo Collection**

**Each part is in a separate folder.**

**These are currently being rotated monthly in Bonny Hills between the Surf Club and the three cafes.**

Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4	Section 5	Section 6
<b>Pioneers</b>	<b>Family Stories</b>	<b>Community Groups and Businesses</b>	<b>Recreation: Culture and Sport</b>	<b>The Changing Face of Bonny Hills</b>	<b>Back to Bonny's Celebrations 2018</b>
<u>Part A</u> Suters and Descendants Prout Family Early Land Subdivisions Newton/Dobson Family	<u>Part A</u> Litchfield family Latham Girls Robin Dobson Memories Bob Bulley Family Gai Fowler Memories Claire Webber Memories Bill Shelly Travis Allen Display Liz Lloyd James Artwork	<u>Part A</u> Conference Centre Old Post Office Gardiner Family Fire Brigade Tennis Club	<u>Part A</u> Little Beach Theatre Skate Park Physical Culture Club	<u>Part A</u> Birpai/Thomas Dick John Oxley Paradise Article Bartletts Beach Bob Bates Photos	<p>This section is currently being compiled.</p> <p>It will contain photos from the Back to Bonny's Day 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 2018</p> 
<u>Part B</u> Bartlett Family	<u>Part B</u> Carney/Sharkey Family McCudden Family Bennett Family Yonon Family	<u>Part B</u> Bicentennial in BH Top Shop Landcare Garden Centre CWA Community Hall Plaza Tavern	<u>Part B</u> WBH Surf LS Club Mal De Mer CH Junior Boardriders MNC Girls Surfriders	<u>Part B</u> Rainbow Beach John Phillip Subdivision Classic Waves Bob Bates Photos	

If you have photos or stories you would like to add to this collection please contact  
Kathy Regan on kathyregan@bigpond.com or 0457930557

Can you help identify these people?  
Please let us know.

These pictures have been hanging in the top  
caravan park, now "Reflections".



## The Bonny View Shop

### Established by the Litchfield Family

The Litchfield family, Frank, Margaret and Valentine, came to Bonny Hills in about 1953 when Frank took a job as compositor at the Hastings Shire Gazette in Wauchope.

At first they rented Jack Parker's house, then moved to the house east of "Boronia", later McCredies. Here they started a small shop in the garage under the house which opened at weekends only.

Margaret and Frank cleared a lot of the scrub and rubbish around the headland and down to the beach with hand mowers and brush hooks. Council did not bother too much in those days.

Margaret obtained employment at the office of Hornsby Sawmills in Wauchope so they bought a combi van and ran a small bus service to take the local kids to High School in Wauchope.

Seeing the potential in Bonny Hills, Frank and Margaret built the Bonny View Shop with living quarters behind it.

During Christmas holidays the Litchfield family hosted Rock and Roll dances in their living room for holidaymakers and locals. They were a lovely family and very community minded.

After about 20 years of service to the Bonny Hills community, they sold out and retired to the Atherton Tablelands in North Queensland.



Frank Litchfield working as a compositor at the Hastings Shire Gazette in Wauchope



Frank, Margaret and Valentine Litchfield

# *The Latham Girls – two generations*



*Alice Latham (nee Wade) on right  
and friend Eva McQuaid (nee Dykes)  
Rainbow Beach 1920s*



*Marcia (L) and Elaine (R) Latham  
Rainbow Beach 1950s*

**Dobson Family Memories**  
Photos and text supplied by Rob Dobson

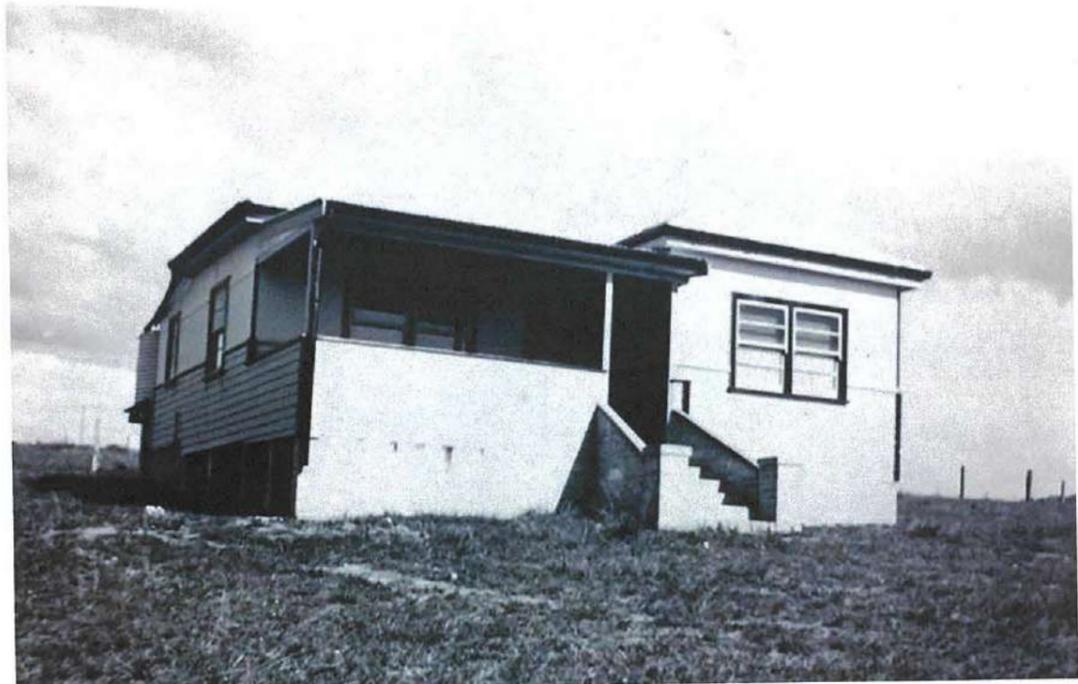


1. This is my Dad's Milk and Ice truck with me as the little boy, circa 1947-8. He used to service Laurieton, North Haven and Dunbogan throughout the year and would service Bonny Hills in the holiday periods. My dad (Med Dobson) is in the driver's seat.

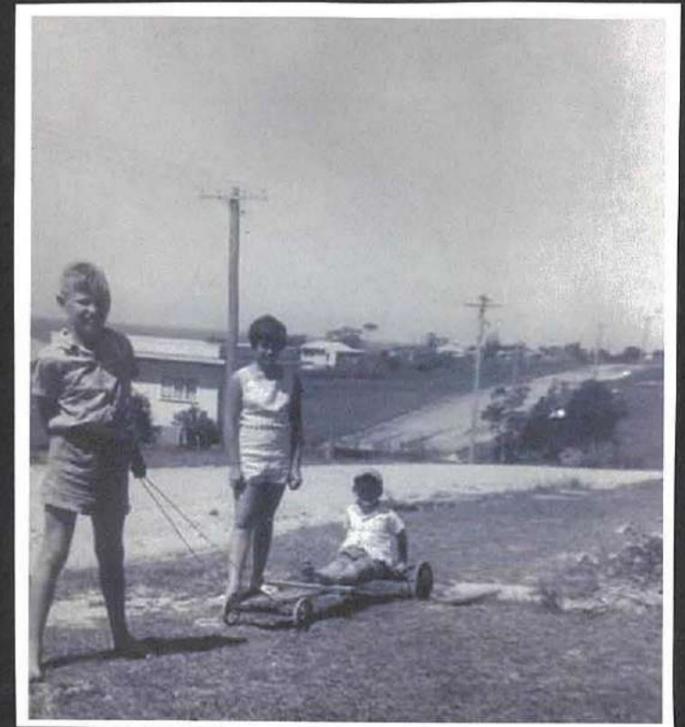
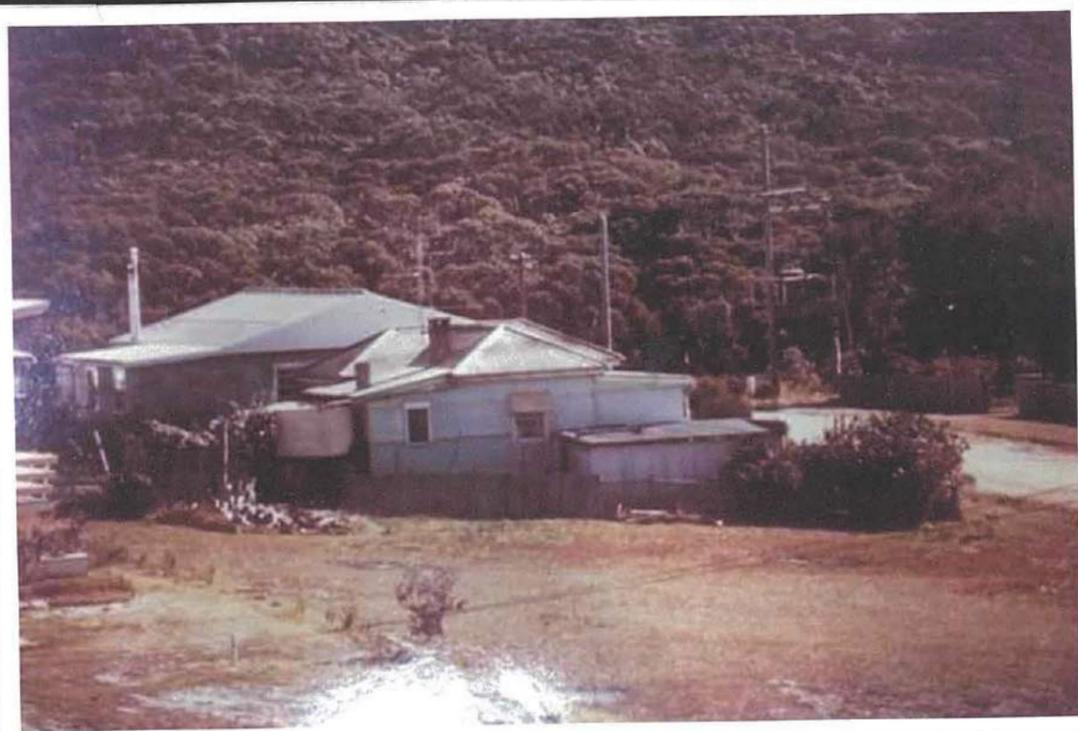
2. This is my brother David Dobson on the left and me (Robin Dobson) on the right at Bonny Hills circa 1948-9. I believe that the photo was taken at the top of concrete steps to Little Beach (Bartletts).

The road from North Haven to Bonny Hill was nothing but a sand track which started where the North Haven Surf Club car park is now and proceeded just behind the sand hills. As the track came to the start of Bonny Hills the track went over the hills, which in those days were quite steep and very slippery in the wet. The road proceeded down the hill to where the Surf Club is now, fairly close to where the concrete footpath is now.

# The Bulley Family



Bob Bulley's house. First permanent house in Elizabeth Street.  
Built by Tom Bartlett and Sons 1951

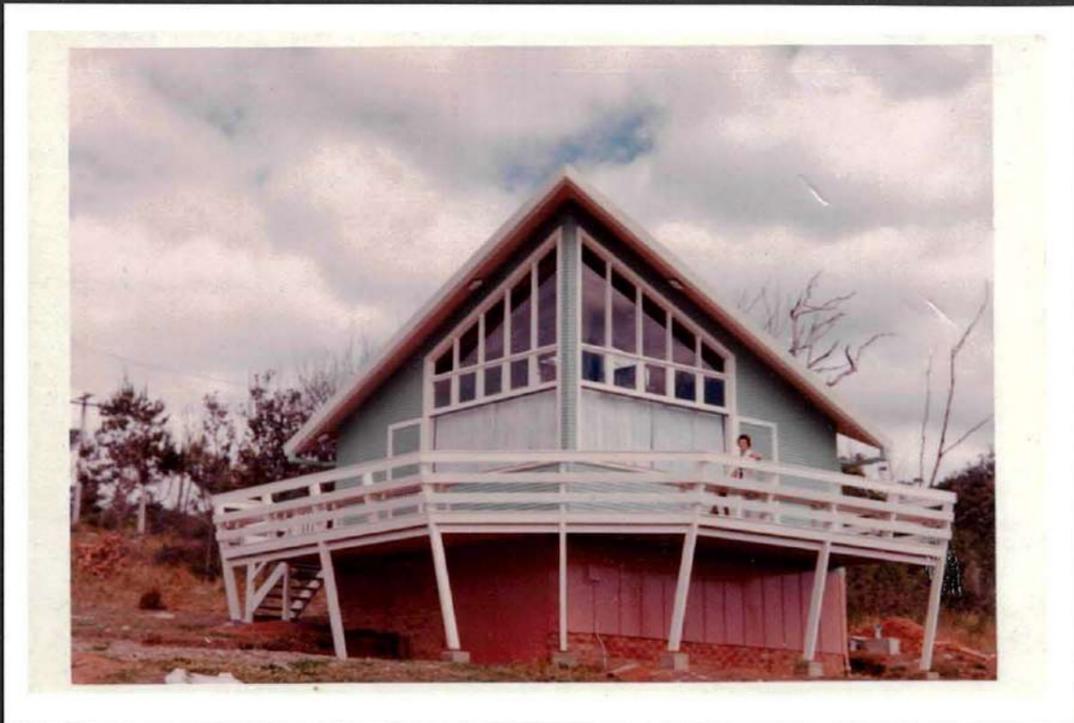


Bill Bulley holding billy cart



Mr and Mrs Bulley - Robert and Doris  
with Bill and Keith (Stretch)

**Memories** from **Gai Fowler (nee Brunsdon)**  
Photos and text provided by **Tami Ray (Gai's daughter)**



"The Opera House" **Billy & Oliveen Statham's** brand new house on Graham Street. Designed by **Keith Prince** and built by **Max Thompson. Muff Brunsdon** on the veranda. 1961



**Allan and Muff Brunsdon** built their house at **8 Panorama Drive in 1950**. This was their holiday beach house as they lived in Wauchope and owned the Wauchope Gazette. Although renovated and modified, it still stands today.



**Manning Foster** getting ready to go spear fishing in front of the old boat shed at **Bartlett's Beach about 1955**. Manning, now 81, says there used to be a track at the corner of Jordan and Honeysuckle that went down to the beach. Photo courtesy of Gai Fowler (née Brunsdon)



Vinegar creek about 1955. **Dennis Brunsdon, Monica Roods (née Isaac), and Gai Fowler (née Brunsdon)**



Vinegar creek 1955. **Manning Foster and Janice Walpole with dog Tippy**

## Memories of Childhood Holidays in the 1940s



### Clare Webber (nee Martin)

Recently Clare recalled the times she visited Bonny Hills in about the mid 1940s.

Clare and her sister Ruth travelled by train from Sydney when she was about 8 and 9 to have holidays with her uncle Harold Martin and his family.

She remembers being collected from the railway station at Kew by the Suters family and travelling along a bush track to get to Bonny Hills. At the time Clare's dad, Alex Martin, was working with Harold and lived in Bonny Hills for 12 months.

Clare recalls the Martin's had a house on one side of the creek and a property where they grew vegetables on the other side. A sign on the old bridge said "Martin's Corner".

One of many happy memories was of the times concerts were held on the back of an old truck and everyone around joined in the fun.

## Memories from Roger Masters visits to grandparents in 12 Seaview Street

The house at 12 Seaview St, Bonny Hills holds many happy memories for me. It was owned by my grandparents, Gordon A Fisher and E Mary Fisher.

He was headmaster of TAS 1940-60. My mother is June Fisher, their daughter. We first visited Bonny Hills in **1959** that I recall but I don't have any photos of that time. My family lived in Taree, where my Dad (Elliott Masters) was a GP from 1952 to 1961 when we left to go to England. My grandparents, known to me as Ma & Pa, also came to England at that time and Pa taught at Shrewsbury for a short while as he headed for retirement. We returned in 1965.

The photos of the front of the house, including dirt road, were taken in **1969** and include our 'new' car. There were no houses on each side. It was a lovely house and garden. (The brick veneer and number of additions and enclosures came after 1972, the year my grandfather died of a stroke.) There were virtually no other houses. The McCuddens lived opposite. Beyond them you could see the water tower.

I recall the daily walks with my grandfather down to the rocks to fish, on an old track from the end of Seaview St that lead beside an old timber post & wire fence. Often I would walk through a side gate into the western next door block they owned, then down to the post office to collect the mail from the pigeon holes.

In **1969-72** I would surf the beach, but I believe the sands have now moved and it's a lot smaller. The house had a large living room and after a day of swimming, fishing, reading etc we would watch the ABC news at 7 and then something like Ronny Barker etc. Near the front door was a long cedar bookcase, full of interesting books that I would fill my time in on those visits.

My grandfather planted some Norfolk pines in the eastern next door block that they owned; they are gone but the Norfolk pines you see down near the PO and the beach, he also planted.

Roger Masters 2019





Roger Masters (left) and Richard Masters (right)  
with Ma (Mary Fisher)

The photos of the birthday cake celebration include me, my brother and Ma & Pa in separate shots. The birthday was my brother's and dates it to **Sept 1965**. It shows the concrete patio which was outside of what was a sunroom. You stepped off that into the garden.

Roger Masters (left) and Richard Masters (right)  
with Pa (Gordon Fisher)





The photos of the back yard show me (Roger) with a fish, my brother Richard, my sister Jane and our dog Sandy. Taken in 1966 these show the view towards the sea with few houses and the dirt roads in the background.





*Memorable times  
at Bonny Hills  
from Bill Shelly*

*" Everyone's idea of Paradise is different  
I would not have swapped the years  
I spent at Klumpp's Corner for the Taj Mahal"*



*Photo taken at Top Shop by Brian Antram.  
The lobster ended up on the dining table of  
Mick Sullivan and Jack Gibson*



*The smiles say it all  
Nana Klumpp and Rick Graham*

*In Bill's own words*

*"I was lucky to be the son of a good fisherman who taught me to hand line before I started school. But my greatest luck was the people I fished with, dead set fish magnets. They took to hand lines like you wouldn't believe and were second to none."*



*Bill and Rick Graham  
Taken on boat ramp by German  
fishing inspector Hermy.*



*Bill and Arthur Jones*



*Bill, Allan Laws, Toni Steel*



*Mick Jeffery*

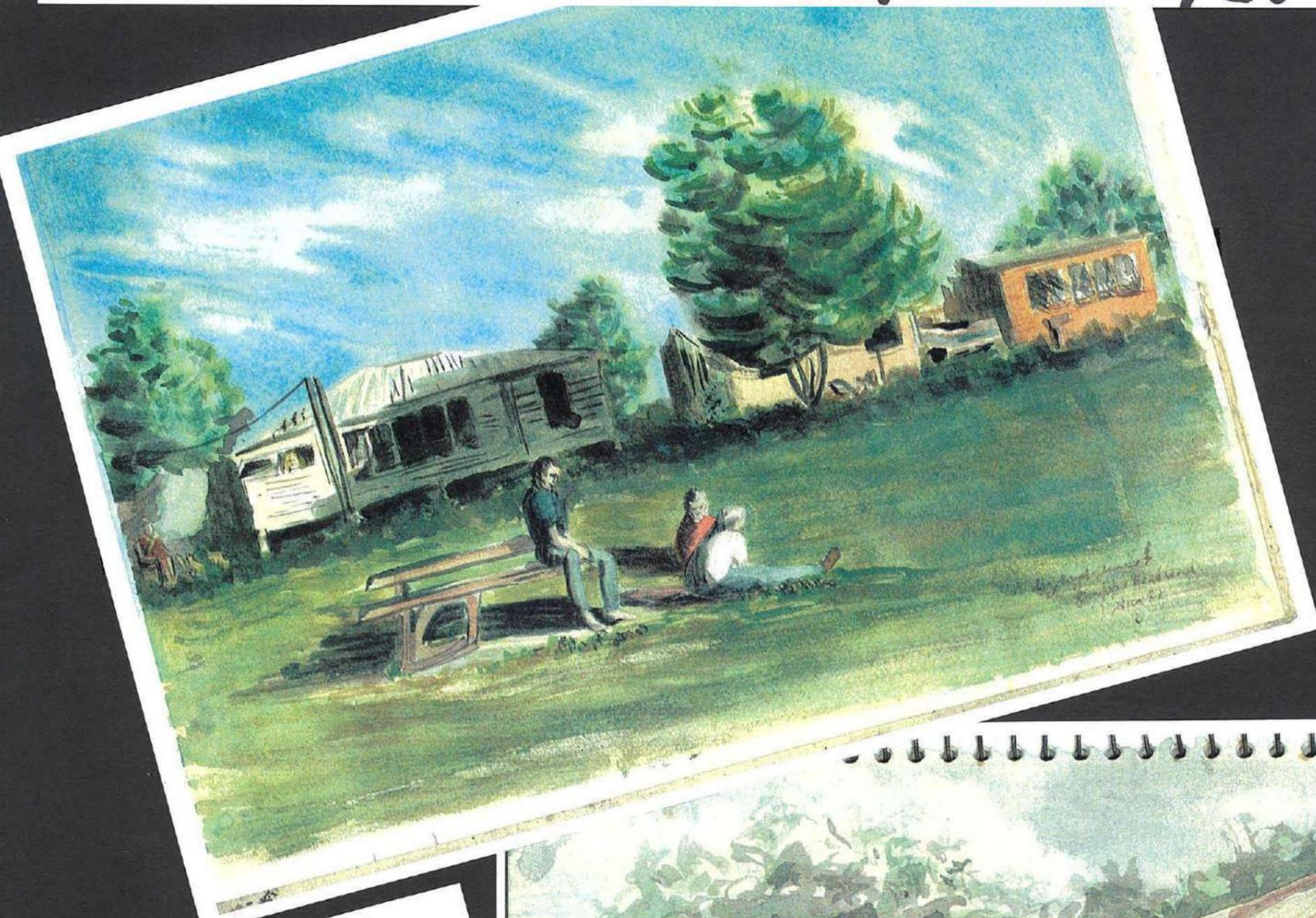


# Eliz LLOYD-JAMES

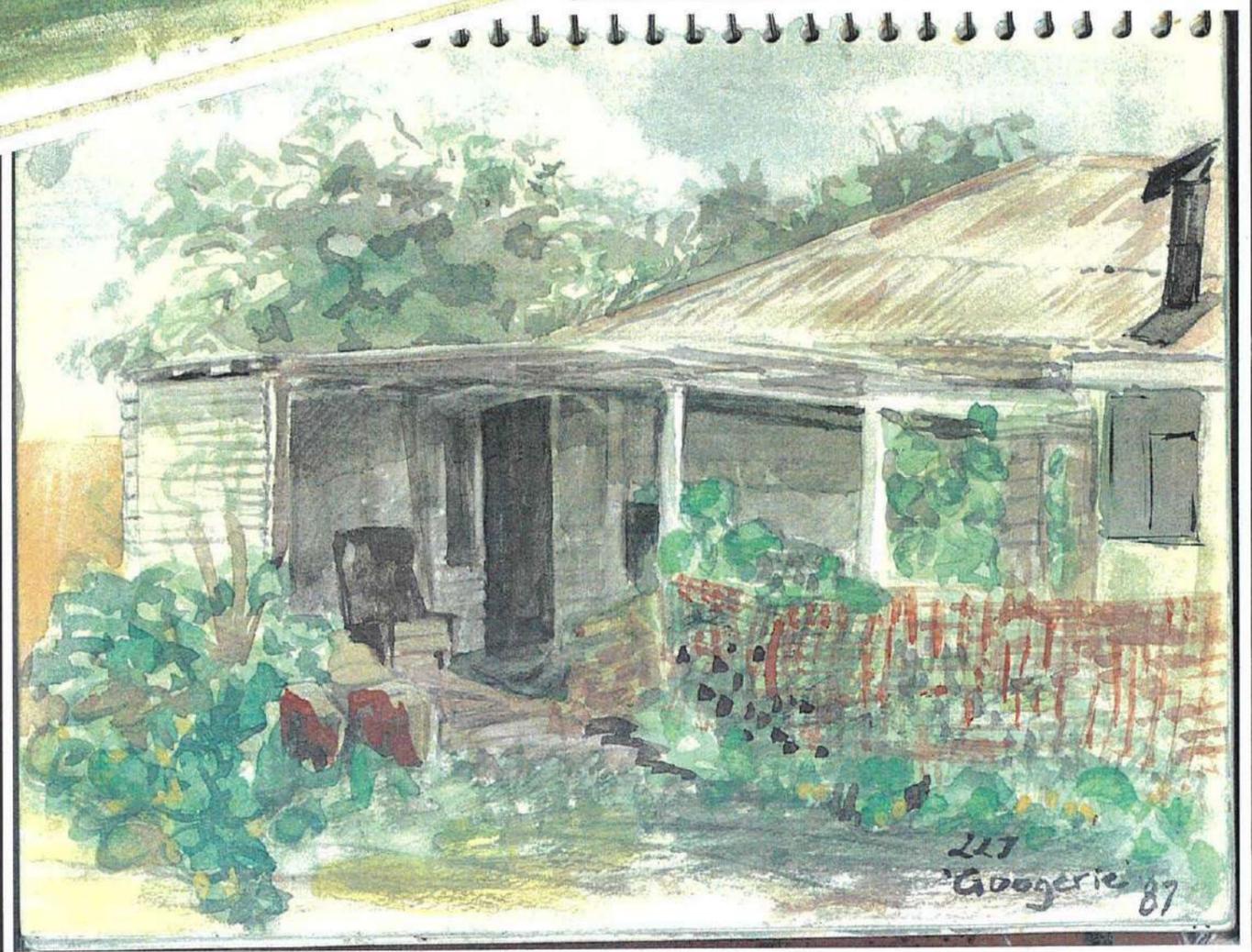
enjoyed painting while living  
on the headland. 1980's-1990's.

Her neighbours Nana Klumpp + family  
{ Rod Ros Suters, Rick Graham }  
{ Geoff Lea Jeffery, Bill Shelley }

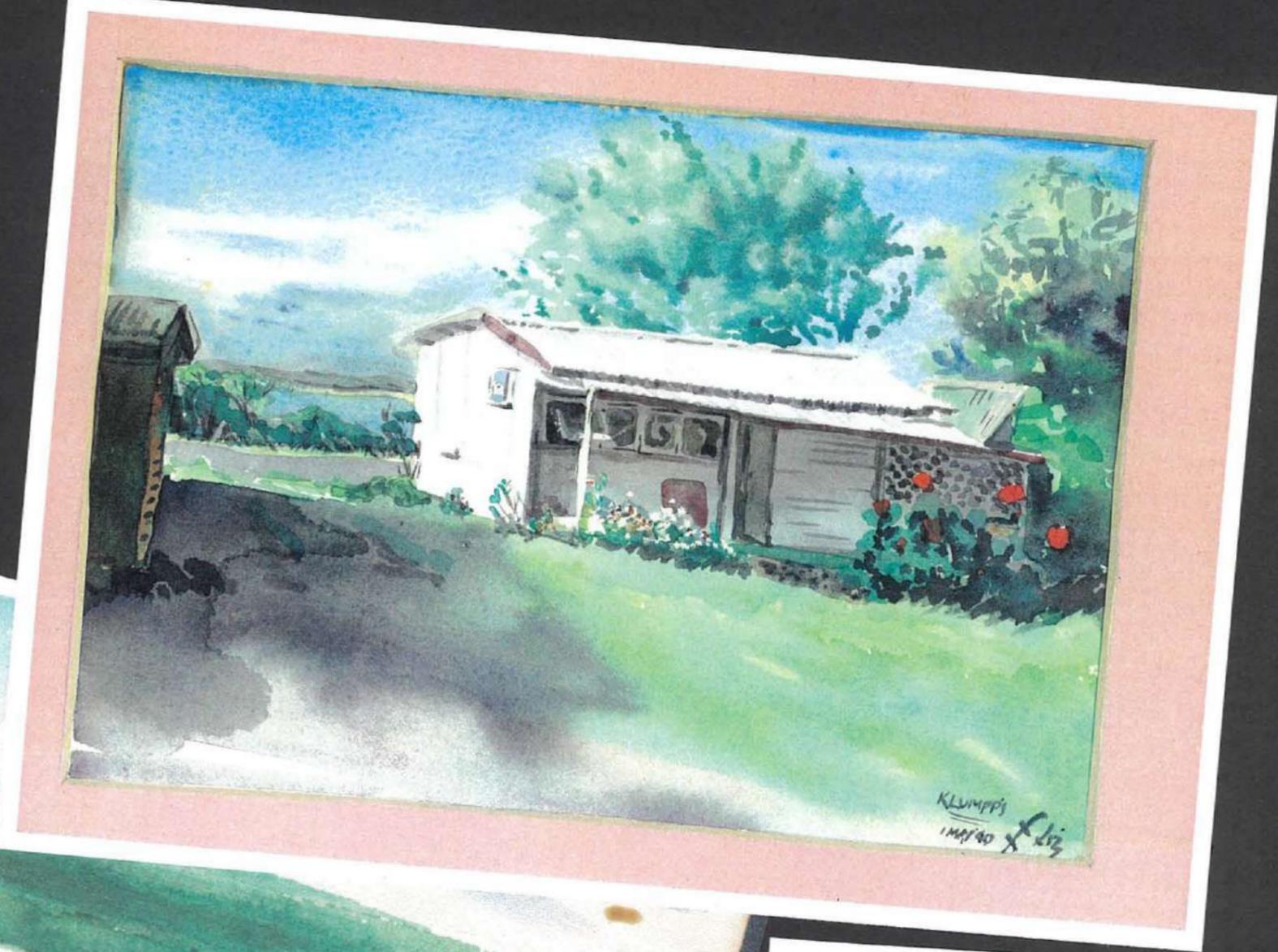
PRINTS; STORYBOOK "Mahala & the Sea Eagle"  
contact [BonnyHillsPottery@gmail.com](mailto:BonnyHillsPottery@gmail.com)



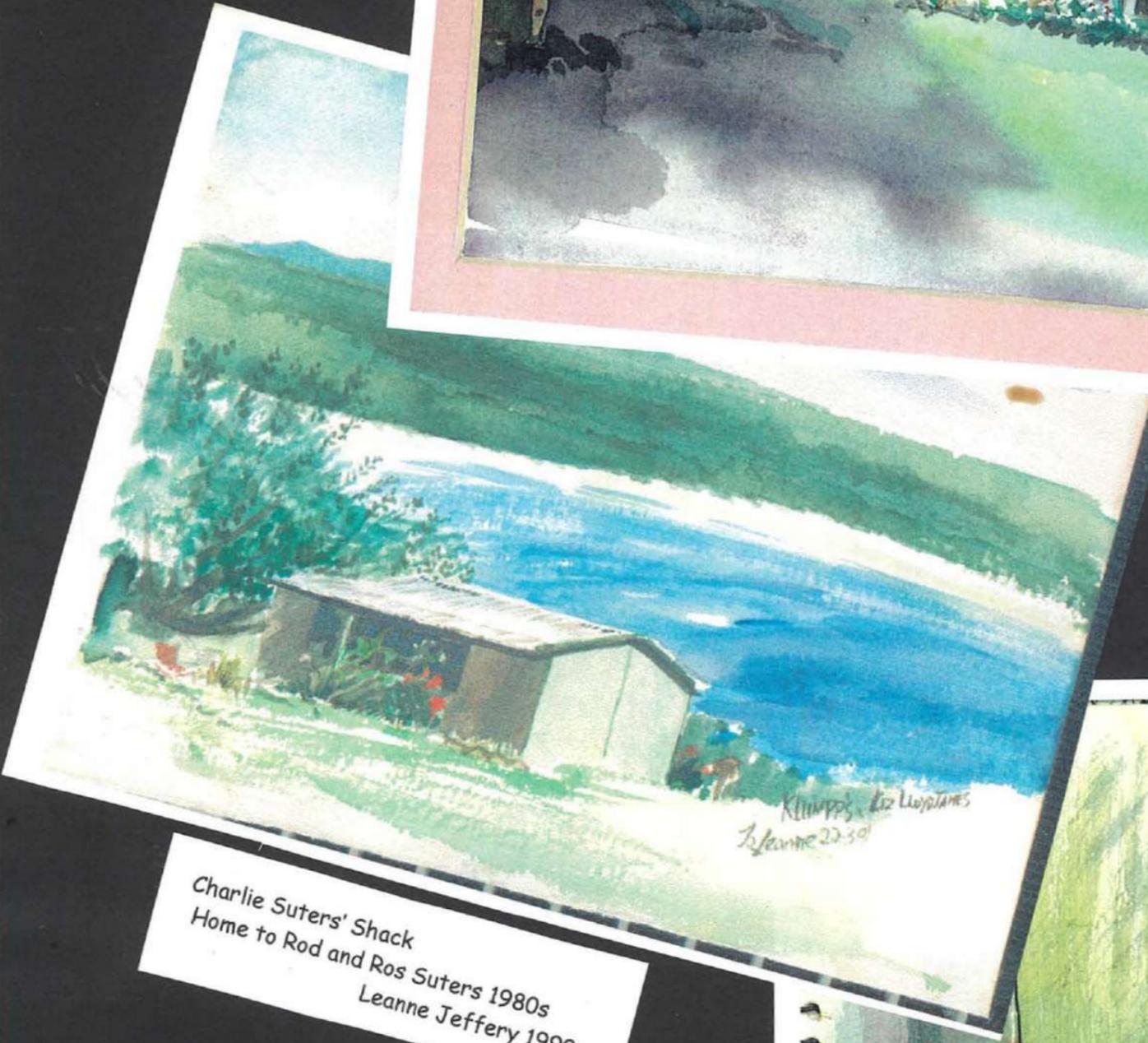
Bill Shelly and dogs beside house  
Nana at her piano in house  
Vari Suters, Gerard Lamaro, Lauren Hare



Googery and pumpkin vine at Nana Klumpp's family home



Dougie Suters' Shack  
Home to Eliz Lloyd-James and family 1980s



Charlie Suters' Shack  
Home to Rod and Ros Suters 1980s  
Leanne Jeffery 1990s



Nana Klumpp



Klumpp Dubbys - called this by Nana (each family had a unit) and chook house

**This folder contains  
Section 2 Part B**

**Family Stories**

Carney/Sharkey Family  
McCudden Family  
Bennett Family  
Yonon Family

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## Jan Carney remembers the historic well at Bartlett's Beach

I remember surfing at Bartletts Beach, known to me as "Little Beach" when a very young girl. We would enjoy the surf and then go to the shower under the reservoir to rinse off the salt water. The water was crystal clear and ran non stop from the overflow of the well through a hole in the roof of the shower. The water came from a natural spring which runs through the reserve near the amenities.

Unfortunately, progress and development of Bonny Hills spoilt this wonderful reservoir as in the early seventies new residents to Bonny Hills were required to install septic tanks. The septic tanks were pumped out by a truck and disposed of. Due to the expense of having to pump out the tanks, many tanks were left to overflow with the effluent finding its way to the reservoir

Hastings Council as it was known then decided it was a health issue and ordered the reservoir to be emptied of its water.

My father Alex Sharkey worked for the Hastings Council in the mid seventies and was asked to "blow up" the reservoir.

He was quite upset about having to demolish it because he had also enjoyed holidays each year with his family the Suters, but as an employee of the Council proceeded to carry out their wishes.

He placed explosives at the base of the wall and set it off. The concrete in the walls was made from sand and grit from Bartletts Beach and was very hard and strong - it didn't succumb to the explosives much to his delight. However a small hole was made in the bottom which served to drain the water and that is how it stands today.

The well acts as one of the best environmental friends the old weathered cliff face could have. The natural spring plus water from the above residential area still spills into the reservoir. It then overflows onto the rock platform at the base of the well - NO EROSION.

Take note of the erosion caused by the drainage installed some 100 metres to the southeast of the well. Pipes were installed under the road and open out onto the reserve. In a downpour the local children ride their boogie boards down the reserve. The water channels its way across the reserve and gushes down the cliff face causing massive erosion.

I would love to see the well preserved for it is a very important part of Bonny Hills heritage and the history of its early settlement.

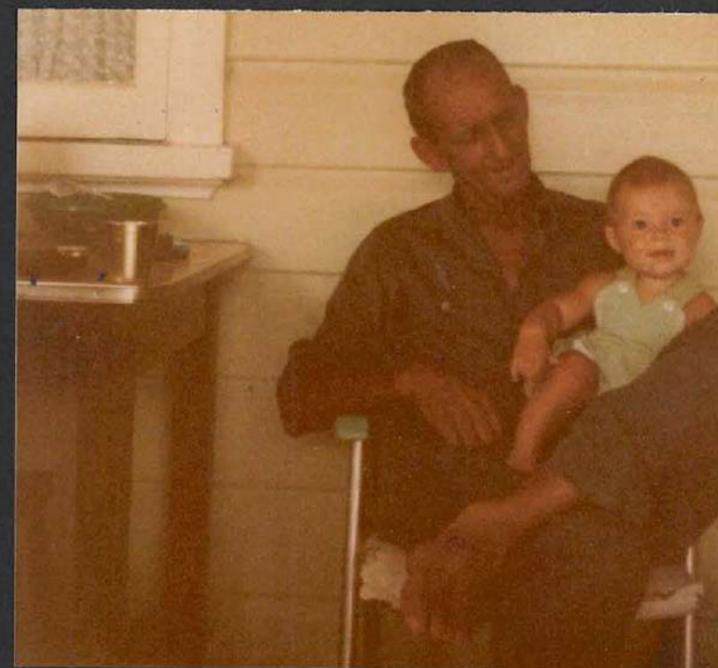
Wouldn't it be wonderful if life was still simple enough for the old shower and reservoir to return?

I have been a resident of Bonny Hills since 1973 and have photographs of the well as a keepsake but would much rather have the "real thing".

Let us think back to all the things that have been knocked down in other villages for progress and look ahead to preserve our well.

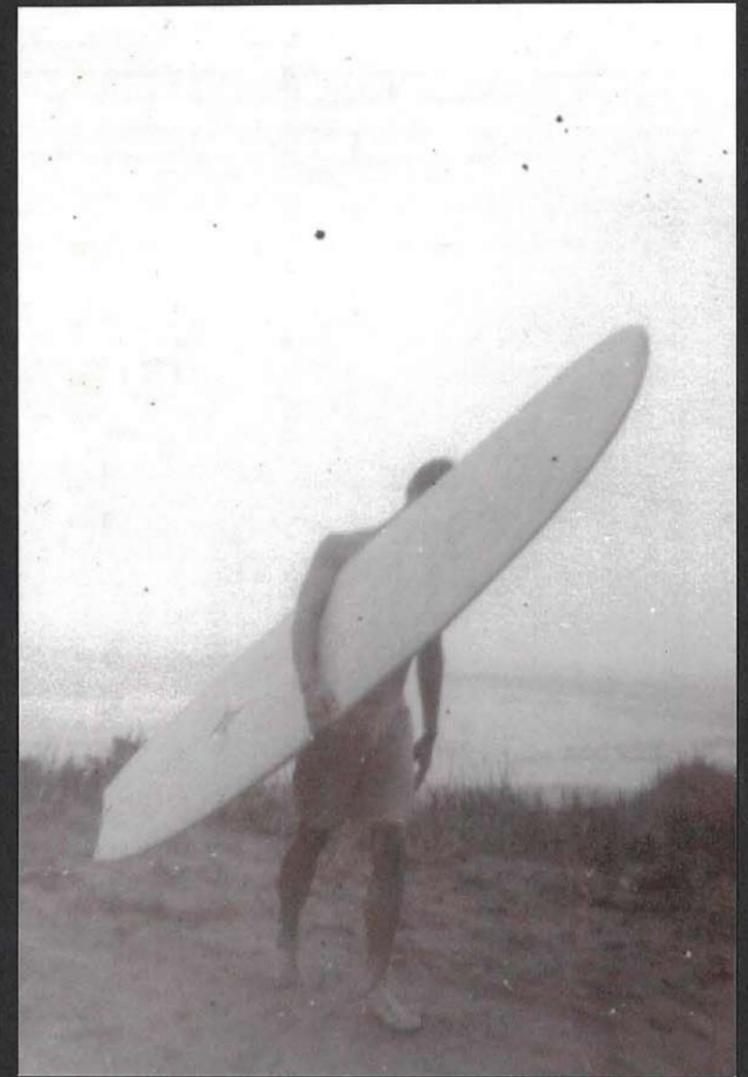
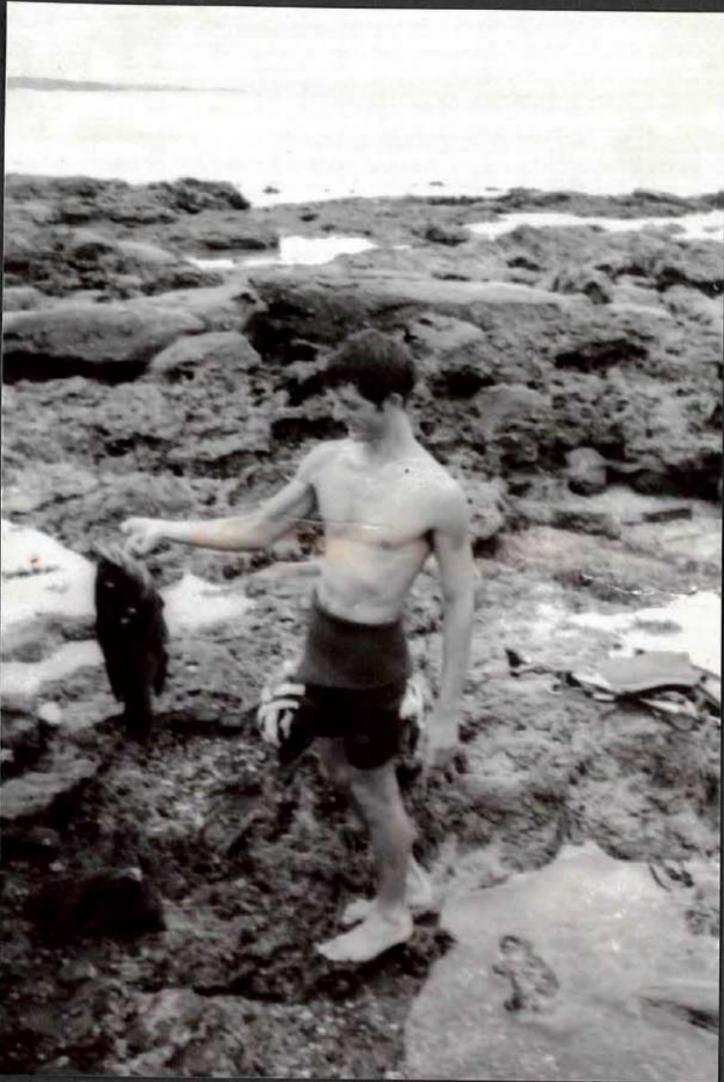
Jan Carney  
November 2006

## Carney - Sharkey



Alex Sharkey

1970's



Little Beach Headland – old amenities in background





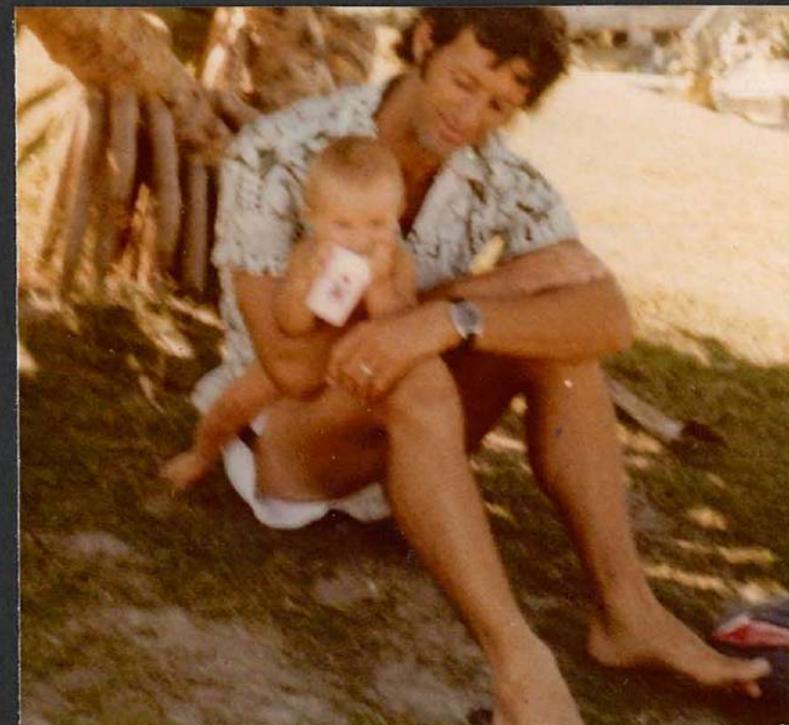
Sue Sharkey (Thompson)



Pete Ruming



Peter Robinson, Alan Laws, Rex Trotter, Roger Green Ray Fowler,  
Steven Reid, Rod Marchment, Ray Thompson  
Seated: Chris Hunt, Ron Carney, **Charlie Suters**, Peter Sonter, David Whittock





Angie Carney, Briony Henley, Gretlyn McIntosh  
Amy Ridland & Carrie Lane



Paddle Pop Lion – Angie Hogan (Carney)



**Bonny Hills Netball Team**  
Janet Hellyer, Phillipa Henley, Lorraine Starr, Cheryl Martin  
Bev McIntosh, Jan Carney & Liz Ridland



Drew Morely, Kurt Carney, Darren O'Rafferty,  
Tom McCudden, Jarrad Morely & Michael O'Rafferty



9 Seaview St.  
Picking Xmas  
Bells .. Grants  
Head ..

Noel  
Ernie

Rainbow Beach ~.



Looking from Seaview Street to  
Rainbow Beach ... Early Days !!



Christmas 1985 .....



Wayne  
Linda  
Ernie  
Ty

In 1956 Ernie, Linda  
Gary, Noel & Wayne  
McCudden moved to  
9 Seaview Street .....

(from the Farm, Bellangry  
.....)  
← Nicole, Judy, Tom McCudden  
& Ty - Seaview Street



Ty McCudden ... Seaview Street  
1987



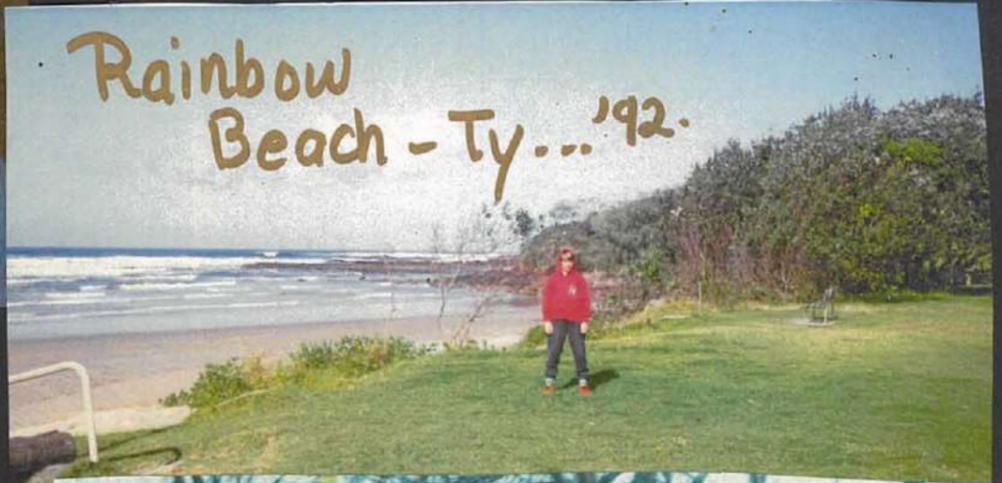
Fun at  
Rainbow  
Beach  
Connie &  
Ty

The Beginning of Our House

86 Panorama Drive 1989 ~  
Wayne, Connie & Ty McCudden



Birthday Fun.. Family....



Rainbow Beach - Ty... '92.



Lots of Trees  
Across the Road... '97  
Gone Now.....



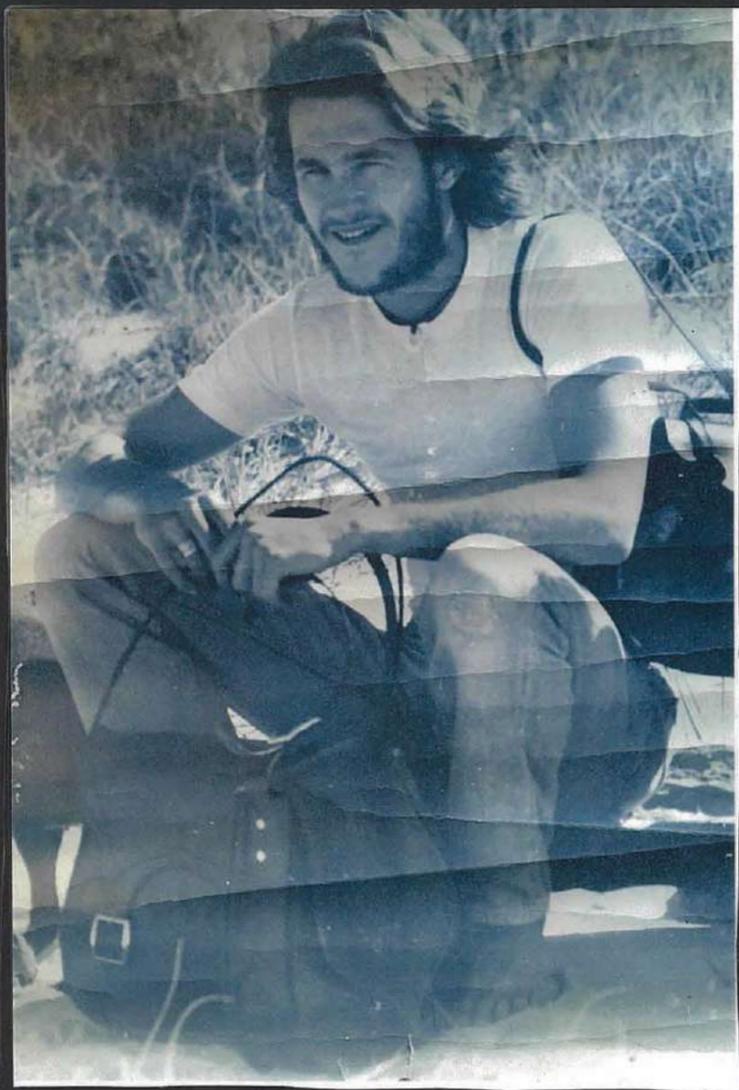
In the 'Bush' '91  
Panorama Drive



McCudden boys ..1998..  
Gary, Noel, Liam Ty & Wayne



3 of us  
Rainbow  
Beh



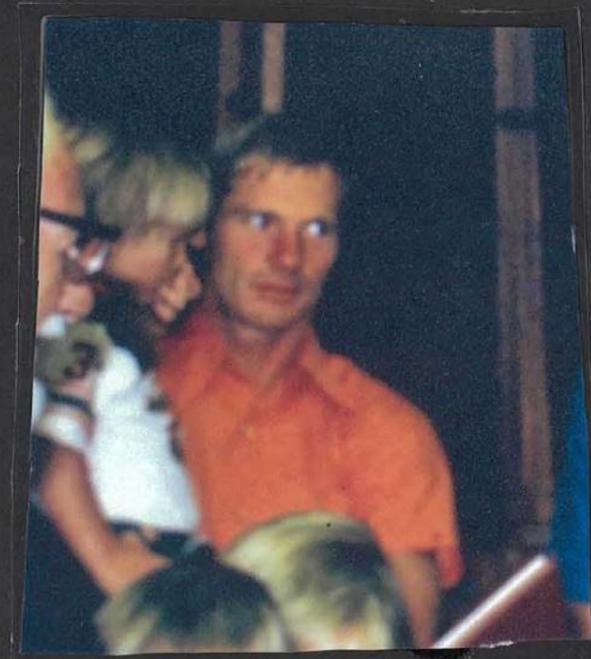
Ross  
Bennett  
Little Vinegar  
Leather Works  
Bonny Hills  
1971  
with Mike Weston  
& Keith Bulley



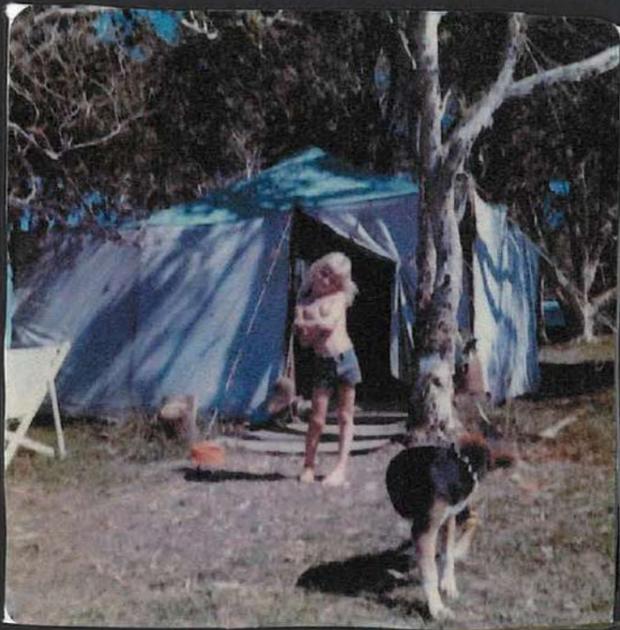
Ross Bennett  
Dave Widdock  
Terry Hicks  
Richard Brown  
Bonny Hills Surf Club.  
1972



Bonny Hills Surf Club  
Ross Bennett  
Richard Brown  
Terry Hicks



Mike Weston  
Dwayne  
Weston



Our 1st home in Bonny Hills overlooking Spoonneys in Bonny Hills C/Park 1973



Our 2nd home in Bonny Hills C/Park 1978  
View from Bus



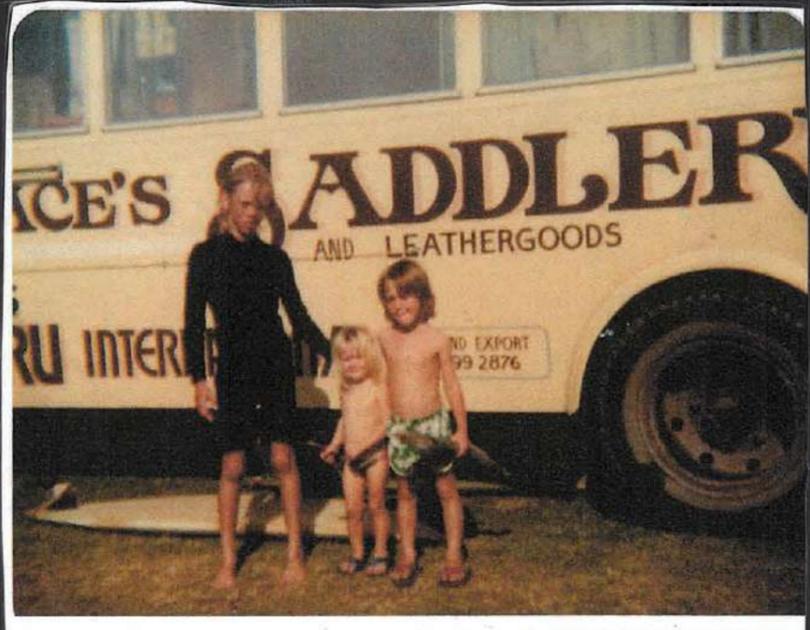
View from Balcony outside Bus



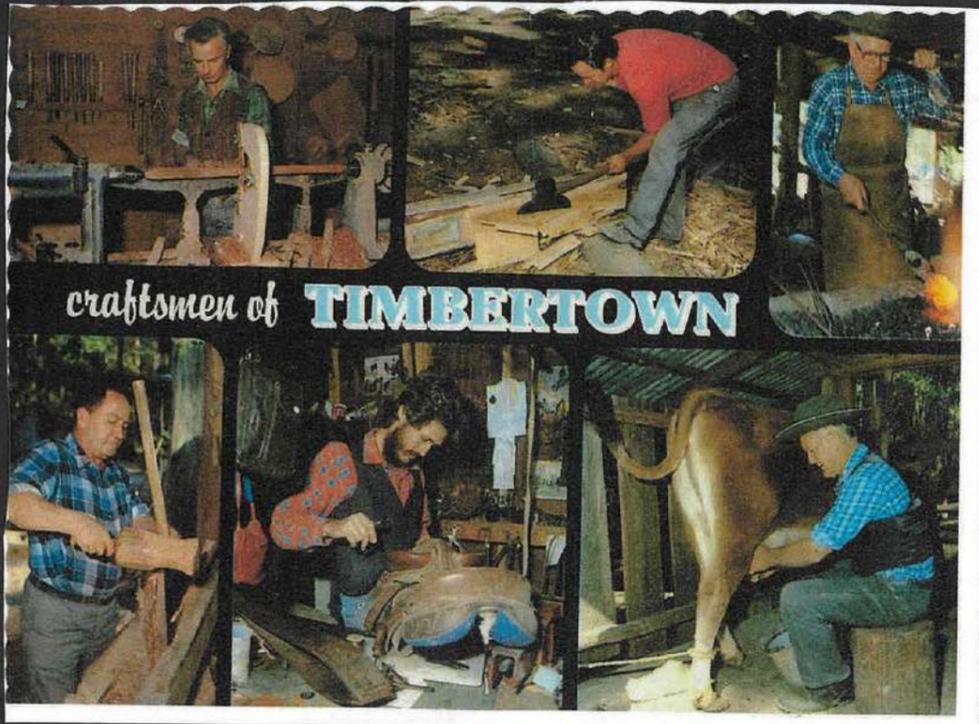
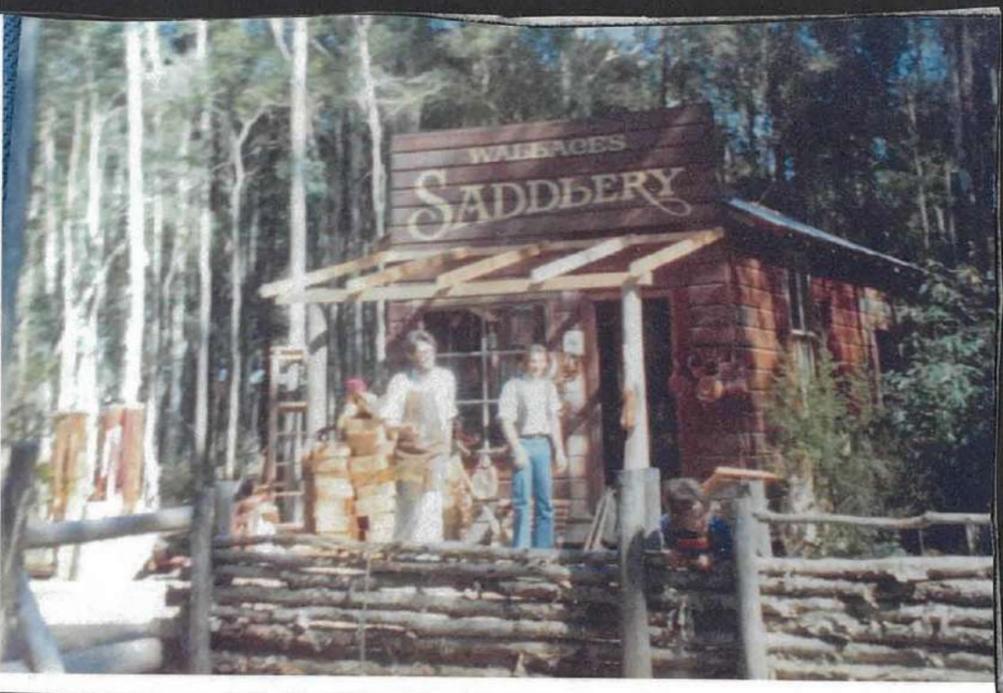
Steve checking out the surf from headland overlooking Rainbow Beach 1977



Shirley in annexe of Bus. 1978



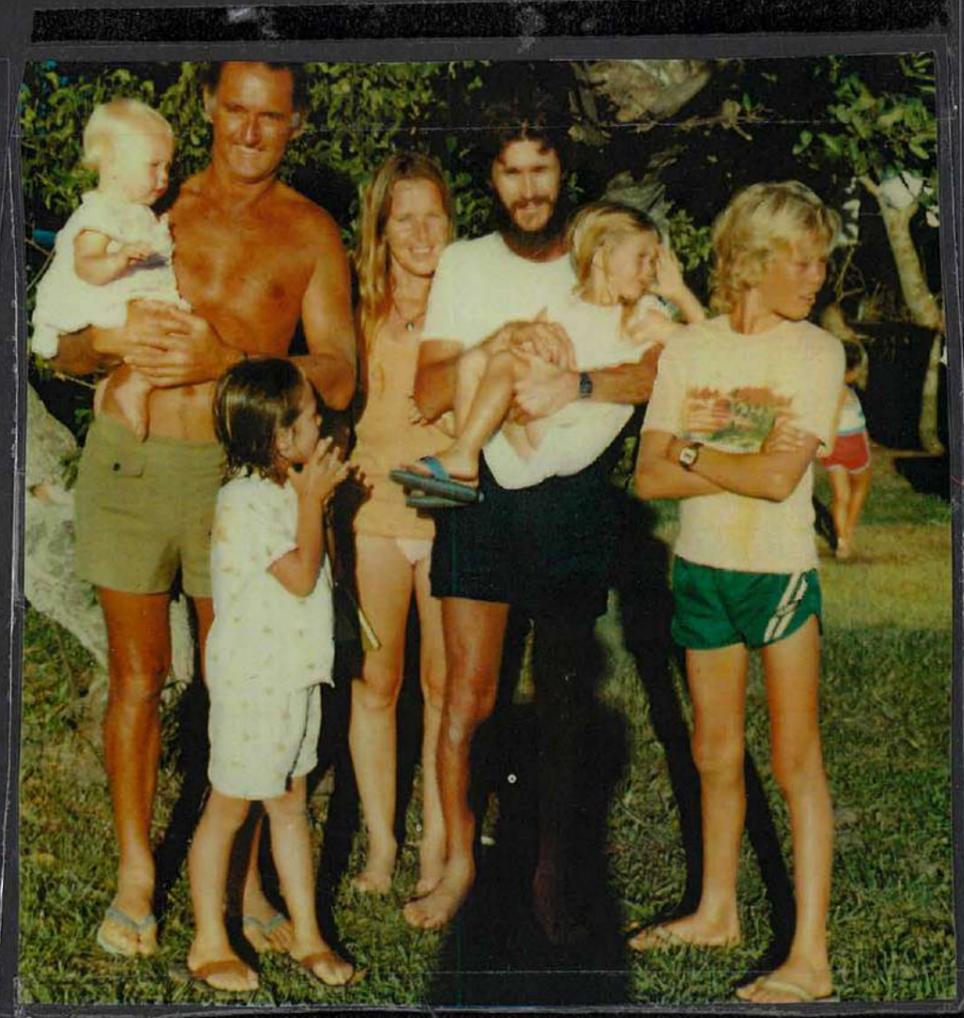
Our 3rd home Wallaces Saddlery Bus (Steve, Beau, Bonnie Bennett) 1980



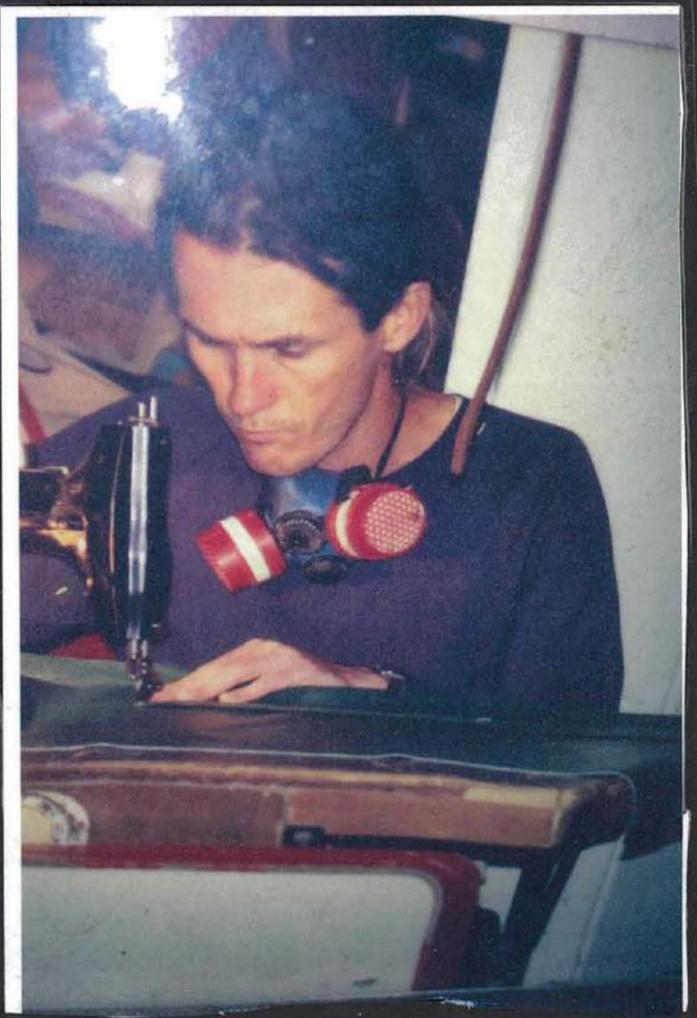
Ross Bennett, saddler at Timbertown Wauchope 1978 - 1988



Market Stall at Kendall Markets 1983  
Ross Bennett leather



Lenny with Ross shirl Steve Beau Bonnie  
at Benny Hills c/Park 1989,



Ross in his workshop 1988



The Kombi, the family car and  
accapella "studio" with girls



Our 4th home, Bonny Hills C/Park  
1980 (2 buses parked together)

Ross, Steve, Beau, Bonnie, Free  
Bennett 1983



Steve  
Bennett  
Shaun  
Weston  
outside bus  
1980



The Bus



"Enmore Theatre" Sydney 2002 Ghost Road Band and the Bennett girls

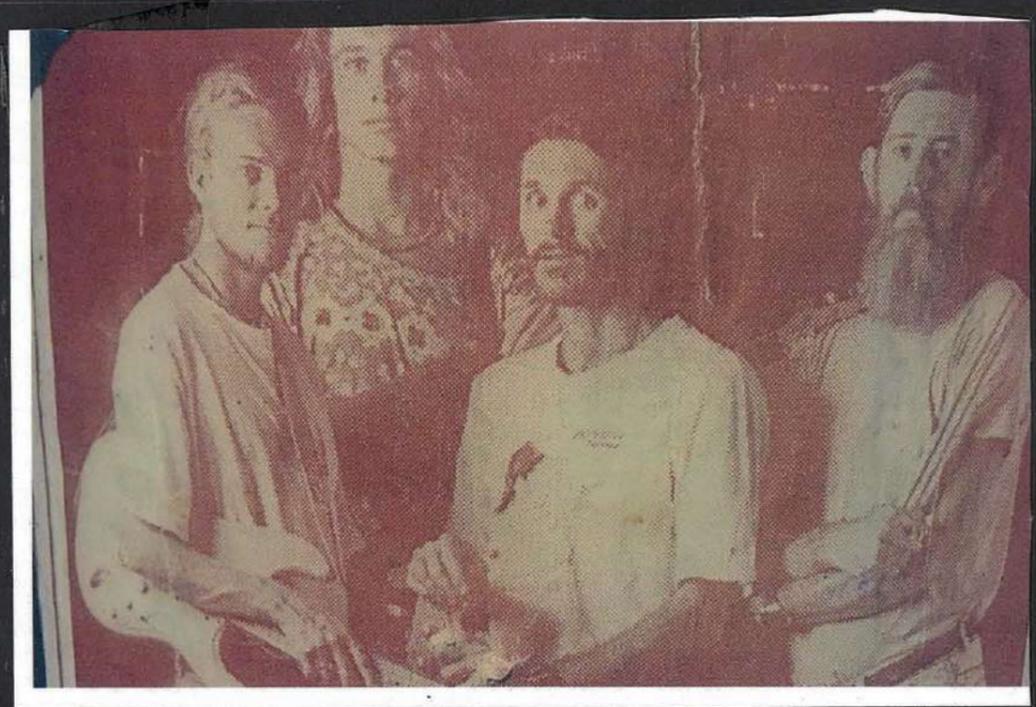


and the Bennett girls

2010 at 'Ghost Road' → home

Ginger, Tifanee, Cassie, Free and Bonnie Bennett girls, performing at 'Ghost Road' event 2001 at home.





Ghost Road  
the Band  
1992 - 2018



Ross Bennett, Beau Bennett, Brody Yonon,  
Steve Bennett

'Ghost Road Band' first members  
Steve Bennett, Beau Bennett, Ross Bennett, Brian Dunn  
(Shirley's brother)



'Ghost Road'  
Steve Bennett, Beau Bennett, Ross Bennett  
Brody Yonon



Images by Tracey Keo

Musical talent runs in the family for the extended Bennett brood of Bonny Hills

# The secret of living in harmony



Peter Holmes

IT'S tempting to paint the Bennett clan as an Australian version of the von Trapps or the Partridge Family, yet there's nothing quite like them.

Meet mum Shirley, 56, dad Ross, 53, and their musical brood, Steve, Beau, Bonnie, Free, Cassie, Tifanee and Ginger, ranging in age from 15 to 36. They live in Bonny Hills, on NSW's mid-north coast.

Cassie, Bonnie, Free, Tifanee and Ginger make up the vocal group known as The Bennett Girls. Steve and Beau rock a little harder in the band Ghost Road.

To keep things in the family, Ghost Road's line-up has included one of the children's uncles, various of the girls' partners and father Ross.

The only family member unwilling to get up on stage is Mrs Bennett.

"I enjoy singing," she says, "and the family always sung a cappella in the car or on the bus, but I've been busy as a mother and babysitter."

Mr and Mrs Bennett have raised their musical children in an unorthodox manner.

Although the family now lives on acreage at Bonny Hills, the Bennetts spent many years travelling and living in old buses, eking an income by making and selling leather goods.

Ghost Road and The Bennett Girls have recorded CDs, but the demands of school limit the girls' ability to tour.

The blokes, who have built a music studio on the property, often perform two shows a weekend.

"When we were kids, Dad always had musical instruments lying around," says Steve Bennett, 36.

"Nothing was ever pushed on us but, because they were there, it was just natural we'd eventually pick them up.

"When Ghost Road started, Dad and our uncle were in the band. It was totally family-oriented. Now we've got Bonnie's boyfriend, Brody, and Free's boyfriend, Ben. They've been around so long they're classed as family anyway."

Most Fridays, Ghost Road go to gigs as far away as Sydney, Narooma and Nambour.

Despite the travelling, Steve says: "We want to see how far we can take this."

"It wasn't an expensive lifestyle, because we read kids on natural foods and didn't eat meat," Mrs Bennett says. "It's easy and cheap, don't have a lot of junk."

"We never ate fast food, Coca-Cola, cordial or alcohol. You can survive without a lot of money."

"When Beau was in his first year, he came home one day and said, 'Mum, are we hippies?'"

"I looked it up in the dictionary and it said a hippie is one who chooses not to go the ordinary way, so I guess we are."

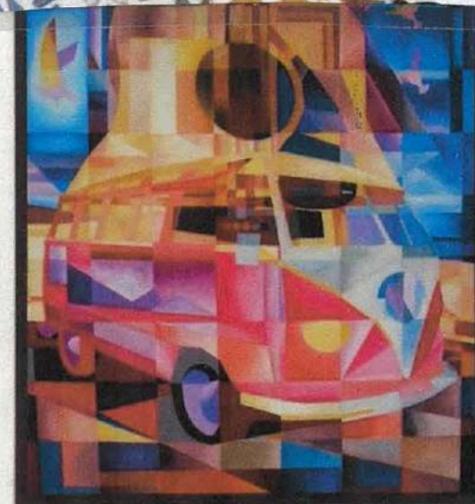
One of the Bennetts remains on the family's Bonny Hills property, where it was as a kitchen until last October.

"The girls want to start a clothing business," says Mrs Bennett, "so they're doing bus out as a workshop."

PRIVATE EYES

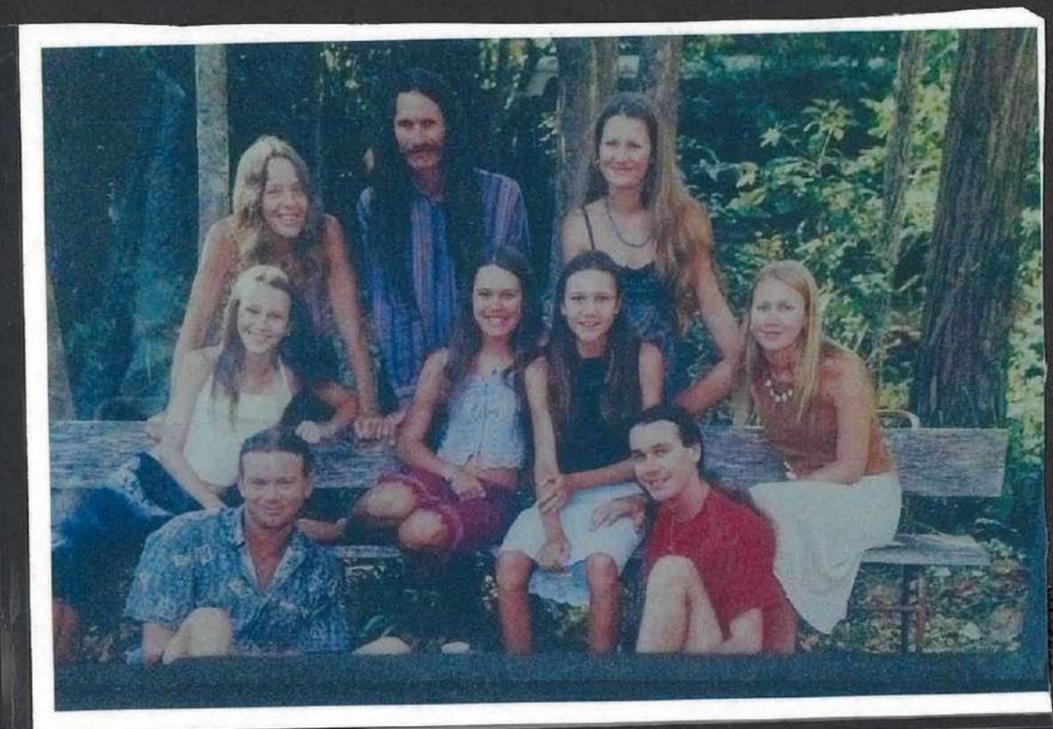
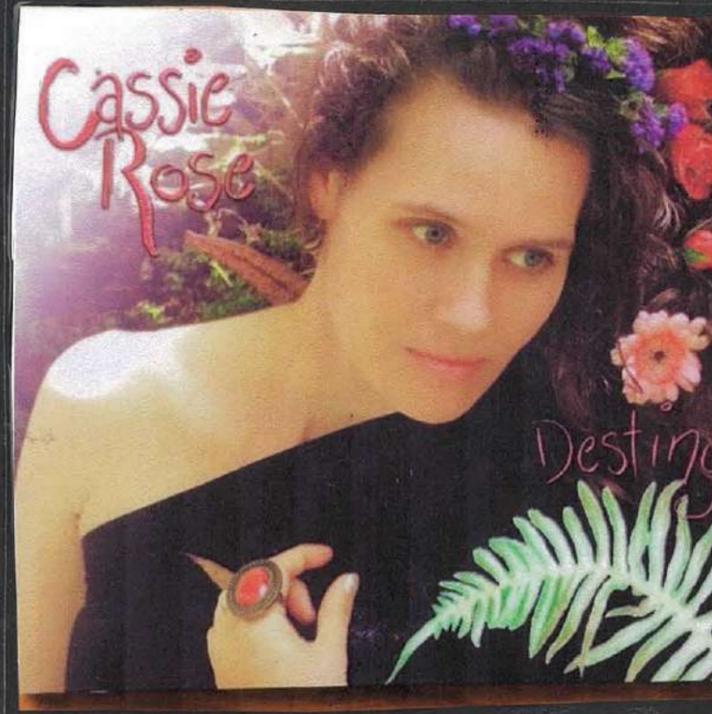


Ghost Road



Ghost Road Live

A journalist from Sydney Morning Herald requested an interview with the family in 2004. In 1994 they released their first Ghost Road album "Private Eyes" then followed by "Fake Disguise" then "Ghost Road Live" recorded at "The Basement" Sydney



The year 1995

Cassie Bennett recorded her first album "Destiny"

The year 1998

2014



Our Bennett Family home now, on 9 acres at "Village Reserve Estate" off from the "Ghost Road," formally known as "Houston Mitchell Drive"

The Bennett Clan, 2017

The

Yonon Family moved to Bonny Hills in 1973  
Maggie & George bought a 1/4 of an acre block in Kalpara Crescent for \$6,500

Spoonies  
1976



Rainbow Beach



10 Kalpara Crescent



Brody Yonon 1980's



Rebecca & Brody



Spoonies 1976

Sharky's  
Headland  
1977-78



Little Beach 1975



Backyard of no.  
10 Kalpara Crescent  
their family home.

