



Mullet and Burns family members 1896  
Stonnington History Collection MP7753

## **Emo Road Malvern East walk    February 2019**

### **Start on the northeast corner of Emo Road and Manning Road**

Emo Road first appears in 1885 with the subdivision of the Emo Estate. Emo Road was originally known as Grace Street when it was first surveyed in 1888, then Beech Street from 1891, Fern Street from 1893, and finally Emo Road from 1919. Manning Road was created with the subdivision of the Emo Estate in 1885.

Before the 1880s this whole area was largely undeveloped. Only a few large houses fronting the main roads were scattered throughout the area bounded by Burke Road, Waverley Road and Darling Road, which was formerly known as Rutherford's Road. Much of the development resulted from the opening of the railway line that ran from South Yarra through to Caulfield and on to Gippsland in 1879. This increased train activity stimulated land subdivisions and the development of both commercial and residential areas.

In 1888, local builder, John Douglas Wright owned at least seven allotments in the newly created Manning Road. He lived in a weatherboard house, one of the row of brick and weatherboard houses he built on the north side of the road. In 1889 John built the brick house, 99 Manning Road, for Mary Price. Around 1897, John and Harriett Nicol purchased the property and named the house 'Lindisfarne'. The family lived there until 1911. In 1919 the house was sold to Benjamin Long, the founder of the Malvern City Band.

The land on which St Mary's Catholic Church, Manning Road, was originally part of the Emo Estate. When it opened, the Church was part of the parish of St Stephen's Oakleigh. In 1917, disaster struck when the original church was destroyed by fire. Shortly after World War 1, fund-raising commenced and plans were drawn up to build the present Gothic style Church. It was built as a Memorial Church dedicated to Australians who fell in the Great War. Archbishop Daniel Mannix blessed and laid the foundation stone for the new church in 1920. St Mary's School opened in 1918. The school was enlarged in 1930.

### **Cross to the west corner, walk south along Emo Road and stop at 71 Emo Road**

Tennyson Street, to the west of Emo Road, was initially created as part of the subdivision of the Tennyson Estate in 1885. Weatherboard houses were built on the east (high) side of the street but the west side remained undeveloped until 1890.

In the early days, there was only one house between Emo Road and Darling Road. This original house, 'Emo', was built around 1856 as a one-room weatherboard house with a frontage to Waverley Road. In 1856 the council rate records show George Clutten as the owner of the house and James Massey as the occupier.

The 1871 records show that a brick house, with 4 rooms and offices, had been built on 88 acres of land between Burke and Darling Roads. By 1887 this house had an additional 7 rooms. When the Emo Estate was subdivided in 1885, The Avenue, The Grange, Ash Grove and Oak Grove were created. The present lane running from Waverley Road, at the rear of the houses in The Avenue, follows the entrance drive to the old house 'Emo'. By 1926 'Emo' had been demolished and the remaining land sold and subdivided.

### **Walk south along Emo Road and stop at 37 Emo Road**

Waverley Road (formerly known as Scotchman's Creek Road), Burke Road (formerly Charleville Road) and Dandenong Road were all surveyed in 1854. The opening of the tram route along Waverley Road to Darling Road in 1913, resulted in land in many of the surrounding streets becoming available for subdivision. Many of the old shops in Waverley Road, between Emo Road and Burke Road, were erected between 1916 and the mid-1920s. Over the years local shops and businesses have included grocers, a music and stationery store, a tailor, fruiterers, hairdressers, an estate agent, butchers, confectioners, fancy goods store, and a hay and corn merchant.

### **Walk south along Emo Road, cross Waverley Road and stop.**

In 1858 John Payne purchased 22 acres fronting Waverley Road between Burke Road and Darling Road. In 1870 Lewis Macintosh purchased part of the land and built a weatherboard house in Dandenong Road which he occupied until the 1880s. The land in Emo Road, south of Waverley Road was part of the Repton Estate subdivision. The final auction of this estate took place in December 1915. The East Malvern Repton Estate plan shows building allotments in Waverley Road, Ardie Road, Repton Road and Emo Road.

Land in this area remained largely undeveloped until 1888 when housing lots at the south ends of Emo and Repton Roads were sold as part of the Caulfield Junction Estate. The first portion of the Repton Estate, north of Moama Road and east of Emo Road, was made available for sale in 1906. Throughout the 1910s and 1920s, the remaining land to the east of Emo Road was sold.

### **Walk south along Emo Road, cross Ardie Road and stop**

The Caulfield Junction Estate, including land in Emo Road and Repton Road, was auctioned in April 1888. The estate, with 48 business and building allotments, was advertised as having 'splendid frontages to Dandenong Road.'

Emo Road was extended to Waverley Road in 1906. Ardie Road had been created in 1890 with extensions in 1906-1918. The Repton Estate extended south from Waverley Road with allotments fronting Waverley Road and both sides of Ardie Road, the east side of Emo Road and both sides of Repton Road, to the right-of-way in 1915.

In 1917, Malvern Council purchased seven and a quarter acres of land for £2,300. In 1918, a "very attractive [gardener's] cottage and motor garage" were erected. The Park was laid out with a serpentine avenue of 12 year-old elm trees which had been moved from Paxton Street Malvern East. Shrubbery borders were planted and a cricket pitch was proposed. In 1923, seventeen horses and cows were impounded, having been found wandering in the park. In the 1930s one of the gardener's jobs was to take bunches of flowers from the garden to each of the Councillor's wives on a Saturday morning! In 1924, local builder and de-

veloper J McCleery presented the Council with two pairs of gates for the Wilmot Street and the Repton Road entrances to the park.

### **Walk south along Emo Road and stop outside the dairy building on the corner of Moama Road**

Dairyman Samuel Love purchased land on the northwest corner of Moama and Emo Roads in 1914 and built a 5 roomed weatherboard house. In 1923 the property included a dairy with stables. In 1937, the present moderne style dairy was erected with a washroom and stables. It continued to operate as a dairy until 1966. The building has since been converted into a house.

### **Walk south along Emo Road, crossing Moana Road and Kilmuir Road and then stop**

15 and 17 Emo Road were built around 1916. 3–13 Emo Road are a group of Victorian-style houses erected in 1889. The Pines (No 13) is a timber block-fronted house with an original slate roof. Note the iron frieze on the return verandah and the manufacturer's name at the base of the cast iron verandah posts. Kadina (No 7) and Kiama (No 11) are mirror images of each other, and No 9 features a decorative timber façade. Lolma (No 5) was originally identical to No 3. Elaine (No 3) is a block-fronted timber house that retains its original front door and surround, as well as its patterned tiled, slate roof.

### **Walk south in Emo Road and stop at 7 Emo Road**

No 3 Emo Road was the closest house to the corner of Dandenong Road from 1911 until at least 1926. There were three boys and one girl in the Mullet family who lived there. The eldest son, Leslie, died in France during World War I. The second son, Lyndhurst, qualified as a solicitor and had a private practice, Mullet & Langford. Vernon, the third son, a jackaroo and then a dairy farmer near Badger Creek close to Healesville was appointed the Director of the Sir Colin McKenzie Sanctuary, now known as Healesville Sanctuary. The Mullett's were neighbours of Tom and Emma Burns. Tom Burns was the proprietor of a saddlery in Dandenong Road, Caulfield. He successfully serviced the racing industry at Caulfield Racecourse.

### **Walk south and stop at 3 Emo Road.**

Chitty's timber yard was in Dandenong Road, just to the west of the corner of Emo Road. Charlie Chitty first established a timber yard in Caulfield. In 1923, Chitty's Timber Yard moved to 2 acres of land in Dandenong Road between Emo Road and Warley Road, Malvern East. The large complex included a timber mill, offices, storage sheds, stables and workers' cottages on two acres of land. It soon became a thriving business and a family affair, with Charlie's brother, George, and later Walter, an accountant, joining the company. Chitty's sold most types and species of timber and allied products for home building, including mouldings and good quality joinery. Substantial quantities of timber, imported and local, were dispatched all across Victoria. The company also branched out into timber milling in Gippsland and Marysville. In 1941 George retired leaving his family members to run the operation until it closed in 1989. The complex was demolished in 1995 to make way for the present townhouses along Dandenong Road.

### **Cross Emo Road to the east side and return along Emo Road, walking north. Stop at the flats, 26-28 Emo Road**

There are a number of Federation style houses in Emo Road, including 46-58 Emo Road, a row of timber, single fronted houses. Many of the block-fronted, freestanding houses were erected in 1914-1915 and many of the houses appear to have been built by the same builder. Details include wooden ornamentation and roughcast rendered gable details, often just slightly different.

### **Walk north and stop at 54 Emo Road**

By 1914-15 this land had been sold to Reedy Thomas, a bricklayer, who erected a four-roomed weatherboard house. Hubert Middleton, a signalman, purchased the property in 1936 and occupied the home until 1957.

### **Continue walking north along Emo Road, cross Waverley Road and continue north. Stop at 72 Emo Road**

In 1915-16 a brick house of 6 rooms (later numbered 72) was built for Mr Gleeson on land that was once part of 70 Emo Road. Barrister (Sir) Albert Edward Woodward occupied the house in the 1920s. Woodward was the son of Sir Eric Winslow Woodward, Governor of New South Wales (1957-1965).

### **Walk north and stop at 86 Emo Road**

In 1926 builder, George Midwood, submitted a plan to Malvern Council, for a three- bedroom brick and tile villa for lot 35 Emo Road, now 86 Emo Road. The same plan had previously been used for houses in Murrumbeena and Burke Road, Malvern East. According to the Malvern Council rate books, in 1914-15 Rob McCulloch, contractor, owned adjacent lots in Emo Road, each 60' x 156'. A brick house of 6 rooms was erected in 1915 on each block. These houses were later to be numbered 92 and 94 Emo Road.

### **Walk north and stop at 100 Emo Road**

In 1886 Mr Douglas, a contractor, owned a number of allotments in Emo Road in the newly created Emo Estate, including lot 41 where he built a brick house. This house was later numbered 100 Emo Road. 100 Emo Road is one of the earliest houses in the Emo Estate. By 1900 the house was named 'Ellsmere'. The following year a new owner James Black named the house 'Teersogue'.

### **Walk north and return to the starting point of the walk**