EILDON HOLIDAY LODGE &



LAKEVIEW MOTEL



LAKEVIEW MOTEL HOLIDAY LODGE

CONTRIBUTORS

Peter Binnion State Library Victoria Rose Stereographs

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INTRODUCTION

Name: Eildon Holiday Lodge

and Lakeview Motel

Location: Eildon Road **Established:** Circa 1960

Closed: Circa late 1960s

An accommodation business established in the prefabricated buildings previously used by UTAH Constructions during the construction of Eildon's Dam Wall by Paul and Keya Binnion.



The Eildon Holiday Lodge was established circa 1960 by Paul and Keva Binnion in buildings previously constructed by Utah Construction Company during the building of the Big Eildon Dam Wall. Prior to this time, the land was owned by the Coller family, however this was compulsory acquired by the Government for the construction of the Eildon Dam Wall and Eildon township circa 1951.

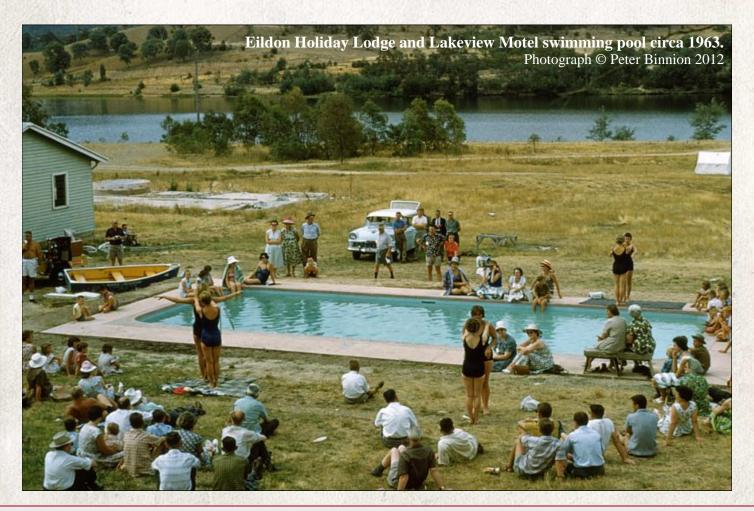
Utah built single men's accommodation at the location soon after construction of the dam begun. In the leadup to the establishment of the Eildon Holiday Lodge, the State River and Water Supply Commission advertised in *The Argus* newspaper (Saturday 23 July 1955) for tenders to operate the 'temporary' caravan park and fishermen's lodges. This was the start of the process that ultimately led to the Eildon Holiday Park.



INTRODUCTION

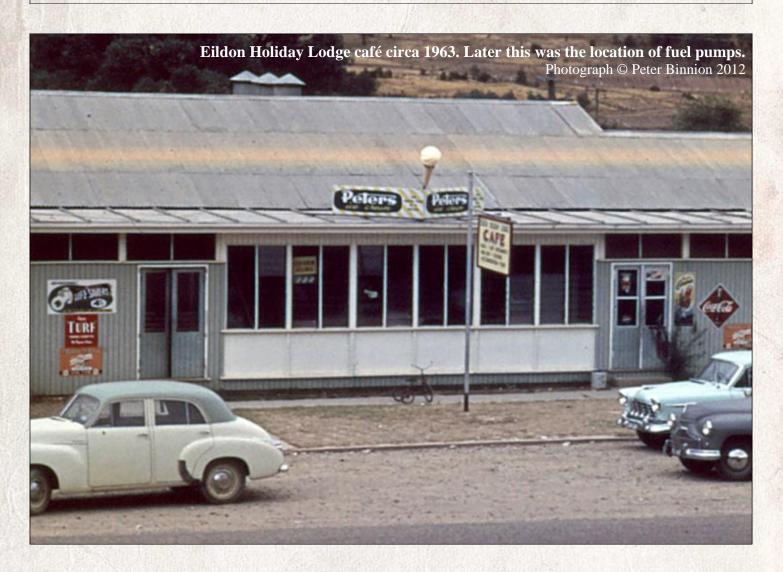
The Eildon Holiday Lodge ran for a number of years before four additional single bedroom units were built at the back of the Lodge's main house. These units were then operated as the Lakeview Motel by owners Paul and Keva. The units targeted higher paying clientele who wanted more luxury during their stay. Access to the new units was via stairs that ran down the embankment from behind the Lodge's owners house at the western end of the complex.

The earliest photo we have of the Lodge was taken by photographer George Rose (Rose Stereographs) circa 1960 after the Eildon Dam Wall was opened. This suggests that the Holiday Lodge business moved into the prefabricated buildings shortly after the UTAH Construction Company vacated them. However, we know that the Alexandra Presbyterian Fellowship of Australia (PFA) held a camp there circa 1959. Local Dotti McColl-Jackson attended the camp and remembers the buildings being empty upon arrival, suggesting that the camp was held prior to the Eildon Holiday Lodge being established. Therefore it is possible that the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission





INTRODUCTION



Victoria hired out the use of individual or group buildings to paying groups and customers.

Around 1963, a series of photographs of the lodge were taken by Paul Binnion, father of contributor Peter Binnion. These amazing images show the property from different angles as well as showing the swimming pool during and after construction. A café to the east of the Lodge is evident in photos and other images show inside the dining area and Bamboo room with what was then a new coffee machine. Further photographs show signage for the Lakeview Motel - indicating the four units that made up the Lakeview Motel were built and being let to the public by this time.

During their tenure, Paul and Keva added fuel pumps (located outside the front of the Café) and were also responsible for establishing what may have been the townships first



INTRODUCTION



Miniature Golf Course. The course was primarily for clients, however it is likely that paying members of the general public were also afforded access. The course was located along the main road where it was highly visible to the public and as can be seen later in this factsheet, it was constructed by a contractor - ensuring it was built to a high quality. The photos show Keva Binnion helping out the workers by spreading soil with a rake between the concrete course.

During the time the business was operational, the Binnion family were responsible for employing a large number of locals and keeping many local businesses busy - such as local eateries, ferry tours on Lake Eildon and the local newsagency and grocery store. At the height of the business, it could have been better described as one of the District's first Holiday and Entertainment Complexes. While most staff have since moved out or passed on, one employee still lives at Eildon to this day.

The buildings utilised by the Holiday Lodge were prefabricated structures imported from England by 'Victorian Railways', who operated a prefabricated building importing business at that time. Over two thousand prefabricated houses were imported from



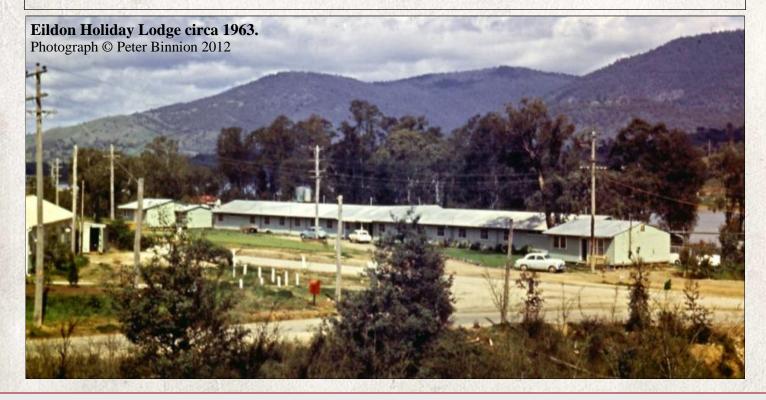
INTRODUCTION

England in total, with Victorian Railways purchasing around half of these. A large number were then allocated to the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission and the State Electricity Commission of Victoria. All housing erected at Eildon during the construction phase of the Dam Wall were from Victorian Railways.

Circa 1971 the main building was sold to the Peters family who were establishing the Thornton Caravan Park at that time. The main structure was divided into six units and transported to the new Thornton Caravan Park. They all survive today and are being lived in by long-term residents. In a stroke of irony, one of the tenants is the daughter of Dick and Joyce Peters - who first established the Caravan Park. Each unit has two bedrooms as well as a lounge, kitchen and bathroom.

All colour photographs in this publication were taken by Eildon Holiday Lodge owner Paul Binnion. All these photographs are a part of the 'Peter Binnion Collection', which is slowly being digitised.

Any further information on the business, its owners, or any personal experiences of staying, swimming or playing Miniature Golf and/or dining at the Holiday Lodge would be greatly appreciated.



TIMELINE

BASIC TIMELINE OF EVENTS



TIMELINE

1951 - 1956

UTAH Construction Company constructed the Eildon Dam Wall and spillway (also known as the 'Big Eildon Project'). A number of buildings were established for support of this huge infrastructure project, including the ones later occupied by the Eildon Holiday Lodge. The buildings were imported by Victorian Railways who had them shipped from England, then transported to the site by rail and truck.

Circa 1959

The Alexandra Presbyterian Fellowship of Australia held a camp inside the empty building which later became the Holiday Lodge.

Circa 1960

The Eildon Holiday Lodge business was established by Paul and Keva Binnion.

Circa 1960

Photographer George Rose took a photograph of the Motel (shown in this factsheet).

Circa 1963

Four single bedroom units were constructed near the back of the Lodge residence and advertised as the Lakeview Motel. These were managed by the Binnion family and were aimed at a higher paying clientele.

Circa 1963

A Miniature Golf Course was constructed at the Eildon Holiday Lodge and Lakeview Motel by owners Paul and Keva Binnion.

Circa 1963

A series of photographs were taken of the property and the swimming pool construction and people enjoying it by Eildon Holiday Lodge owner Paul Binnion.

Circa 1964

The business name changed to include 'Lakeview Motel'.

Circa 1971

The main building was sold to the Peters family who were establishing the Thornton Caravan Park at that time. The main structure was divided into six units and transported to the new Thornton Caravan Park. They all survive today and



TIMELINE

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2012

Peter Binnion contributed a series of photographs showing the Lodge and Motel, the construction of a pool at the premises, the Miniature Golf Course being built and people enjoying themselves at the pool and Surf Lifesaving training being conducted at the pool.

9 August 2013

Artworkz published eSplash63 with an article showcasing photographs from Peter Binnion.

3 December 2015

Artworkz commenced work on this factsheet.

8 December 2015

Artworkz published this factsheet in eSPlasy140.

1 January 2015

Information was forthcoming from a volunteer at the Alexandra Visitor Information Centre about the six units at the Thornton Caravan Park, that once made up the main 'Eildon Holiday Lodge' building before being sold, divided and transported to Thornton.

GALLERY

RELATED IMAGERY



GALLERY



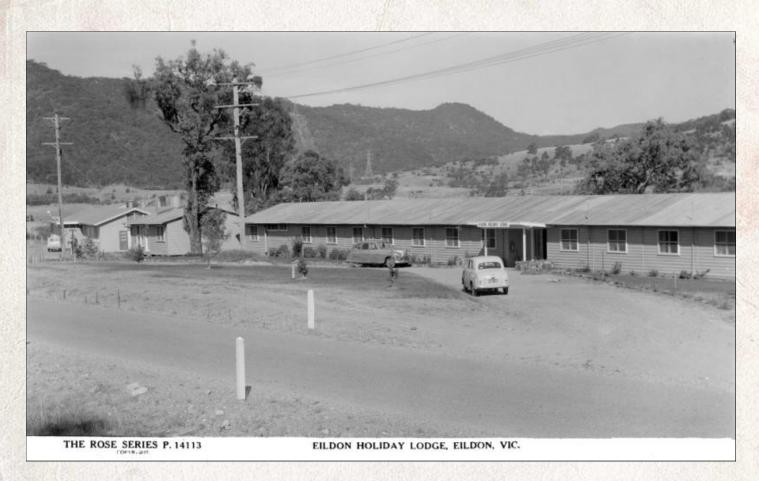


The building that became the Eildon Holiday Lodge, in a view of Eildon taken by Thelma Dickens 25 April 1958.

Photograph © Robyn Sawyer 2016.



GALLERY





Eildon Motel Holiday Lodge circa 1960.

Courtesy State Library Victoria 2015. Photographer George Rose.



GALLERY



Eildon Caravan Park with the Lodge in the far background (centre) behind trees circa 1960.

Courtesy State Library Victoria 2015.



GALLERY



Eildon Caravan Park looking east towards the dam wall with the Holiday Lodge behind the camera circa 1960. The Masonite Factory is visible at the back of the photograph.

Courtesy State Library Victoria 2015.



GALLERY



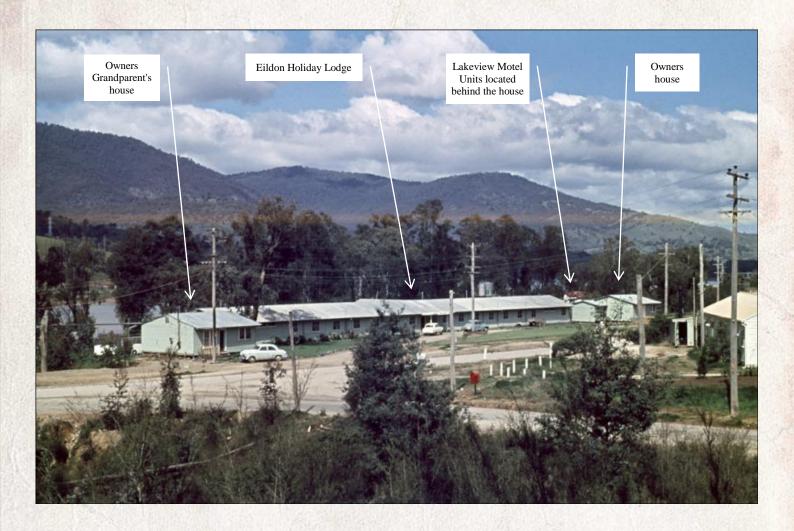
Eildon Holiday Lodge circa 1963.

On the far right is a small house where the Binnion family lived. Paul and Keva Binnion were the lodge proprietors at this time and lived in the house with their four children. On the left is a smaller house where their grandparents (George and Dolly) lived.

The high structure seen at the back of the main building is the old hot water service. A wooden vertical ladder was used to climb the wooden stand and turn the hot water off when the lodge was not in use or turn it back on when visitors were booked.



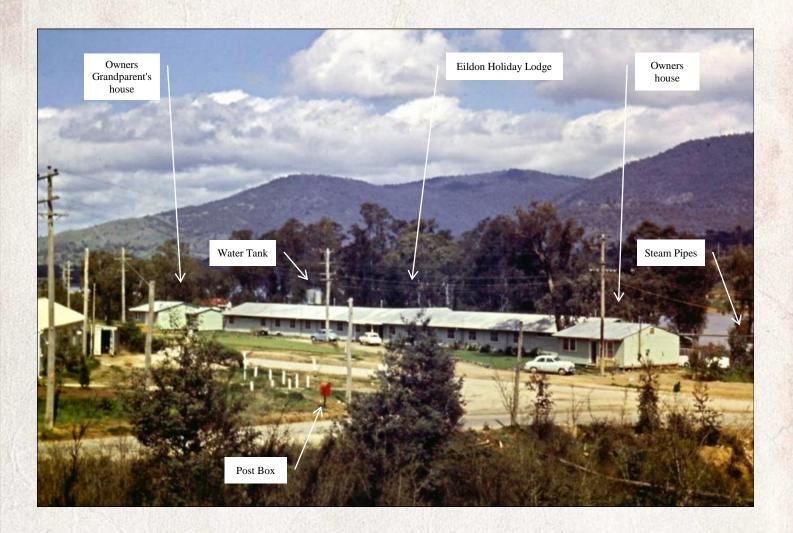
GALLERY



Eildon Holiday Lodge circa 1963.



GALLERY



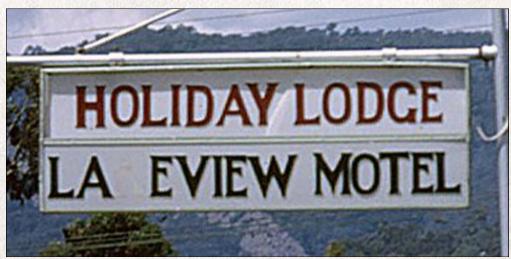
Eildon Holiday Lodge circa 1963.



GALLERY



Eildon Holiday Lodge and Lakeview Motel circa 1963.





GALLERY



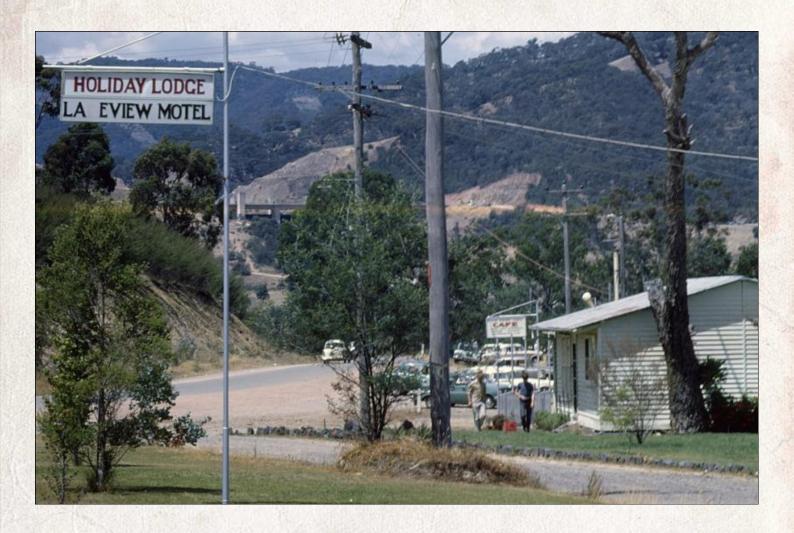
Eildon Holiday Lodge and Lakeview Motel circa 1963. The Café is visible on the left (east) of the Motel.

The little three wheel Messerschmitt car was owned by a lovely older chap who used to travel to Eildon around twice a year. His name is not currently known.





GALLERY



Eildon Holiday Lodge and the newer Lakeview Motel Holiday circa 1963. The Café is visible in the background. The Lakeview Motel was built around 1962 and comprised of four separate one bedroom units. They were built at the rear of the proprietors house and access was down the embankment via a small set of stairs. The Lakeview Motel were operated by the Binnion family and were aimed at a higher paying clientele. The motel rooms had feature walls created by Keva Binnion with a wattle branch dipped in paint and then slapped on the wall to create an artistic effect.



GALLERY



The Café located just east of the Eildon Holiday Lodge and Lakeview Motel circa 1963.

The Café was a part of the complex that was eventually made up of the Lodge,

Motel, Café and Fuel outlet. The fuel outlet was located in front of the Café

after the above photograph was taken.



GALLERY



Eildon Holiday Lodge circa 1963. Photograph © Peter Binnion 2012



GALLERY



Eildon Holiday Lodge circa 1963.



GALLERY



Eildon Holiday Lodge bar area circa 1963. The coffee machine in this image was new and located in the Bamboo Room - which as the name suggests - had walls lined with bamboo.



GALLERY



Eildon Holiday Lodge dinning room circa 1963.



GALLERY



Eildon Holiday Lodge dinning room circa 1963.



GALLERY



Eildon Holiday Lodge dinning room circa 1963.



GALLERY



An unknown delegation being hosted at the Eildon Holiday Lodge circa 1963.



GALLERY



The construction of the Eildon Holiday Lodge swimming pool circa 1963. The three children on the right are the proprietor children Peter, Ruth and Russell Binnion.



GALLERY



The construction of the Eildon Holiday Lodge swimming pool circa 1963. The construction workers were all Italians and likely from Melbourne.



GALLERY



Eildon Lakeview Motel Holiday Lodge swimming pool construction circa 1963.



GALLERY



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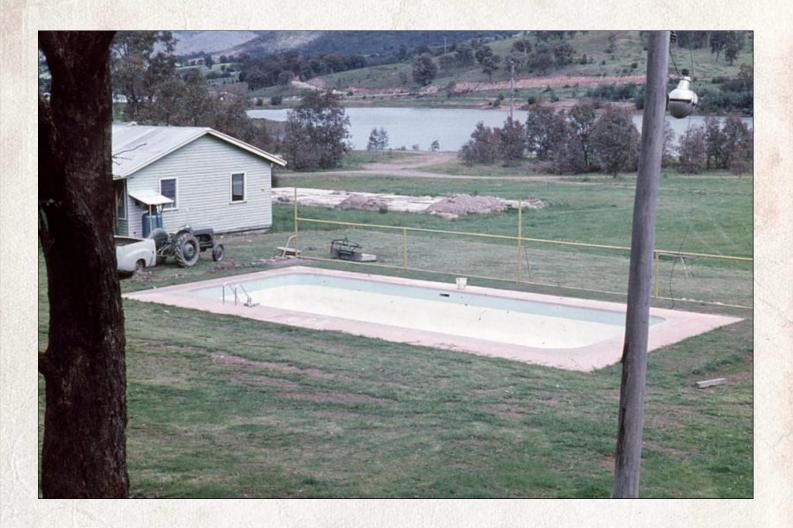
GALLERY



Eildon Holiday Lodge swimming pool construction circa 1963. A young John and Peter Binnion are visible on the left.



GALLERY



Eildon Holiday Lodge swimming pool construction circa 1963. In the background it appears as though one of the buildings has been removed. In the far background you can see the road around the south side of the upper pondage area.



GALLERY



Eildon Lakeview Motel Holiday Lodge swimming pool construction circa 1963.



GALLERY



Eildon Holiday Lodge swimming pool circa 1963. The pool was used for Surf-Lifesaving clubs to train members. They would do this during their visits to the lodge. One of their boats is visible on the left.



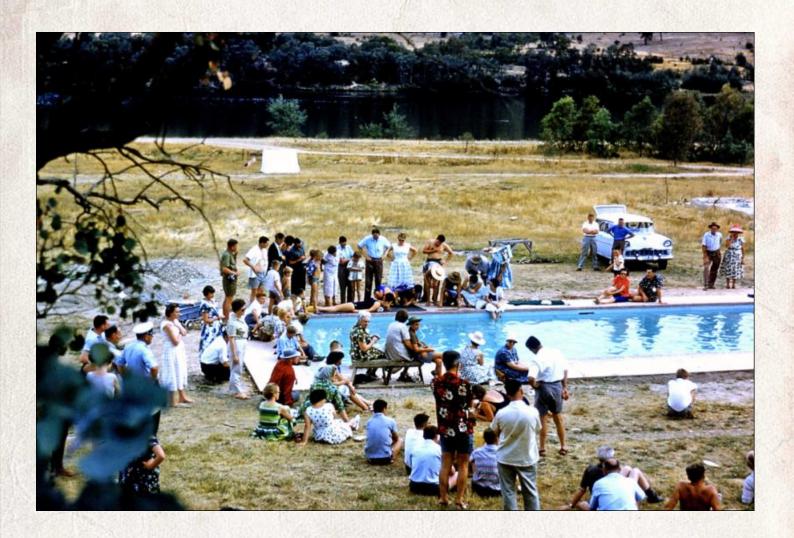
GALLERY



Eildon Holiday Lodge swimming pool circa 1963. A Surf-Lifesaving club are training their members using one of their boats.



GALLERY



Eildon Holiday Lodge swimming pool circa 1963. A Surf-Lifesaving club are training their members how to perform CPR on the far side of the pool.



GALLERY



Eildon Holiday Lodge swimming pool circa 1963. The lady swimming across the pool is proprietor Keva Binnion who worked at the lodge with her husband (Paul). Their four children (Peter, John, Russell and Ruth) also lived at the lodge with their Grandparents.



GALLERY



Eildon Holiday Lodge swimming pool circa 1963. A young girl is being taught to swim with the use of a stick and rope. Peter Binnion is located for right near a fire hydrant. At the back right is a hot water service on a stand and steam pipes can be seen moving across the top of the image.



GALLERY



Eildon Holiday Lodge swimming pool circa 1963. The tractor is a Fergusson and the trailer was made by Paul Binnion from an old FJ Ute. Directly behind the tractor is a hot water tank on a stand at the back of the main lodge building.



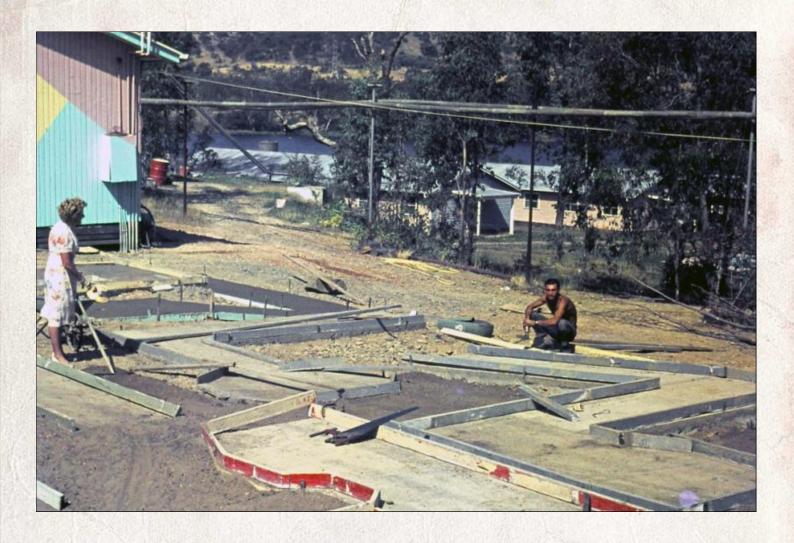
GALLERY



Construction of the Miniature Golf Course at the Eildon Holiday Lodge and Lakeview Motel. To our knowledge, this is the first Mimi Golf Course ever established in Eildon and was located near the main road where it would have been highly visible. Keva Binnion is seen here helping workers.



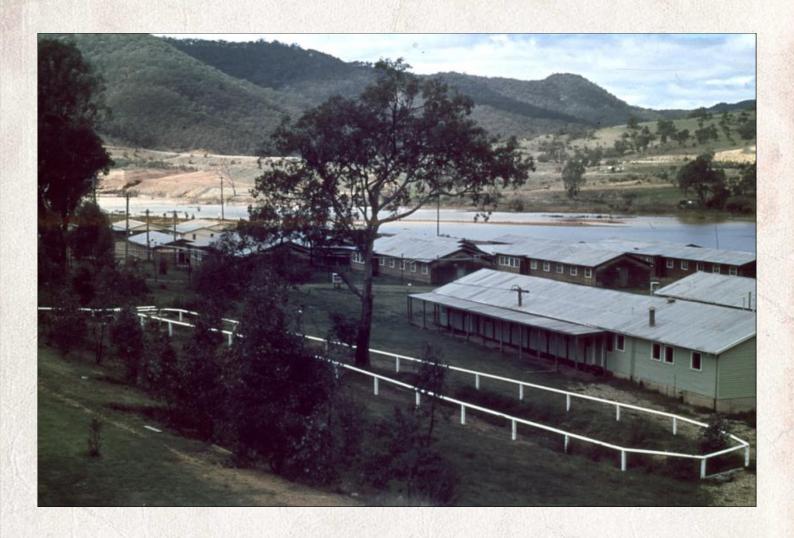
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GALLERY



Beside the Eildon Holiday Lodge circa 1963. The white fence is around a creek. The hall above it was used as a scout hall and the first Eildon Scout Master was Paul Binnion. His wife Keva later had the Girl Guides from the same building. The buildings behind were the single men's accommodation units during the construction of the dam wall. These were later used by school groups who were visiting Eildon.

Accommodating school groups from Melbourne in these buildings was a regular event.

NEWSPAPERS

RELATED NEWSPAPER ARTICLES



NEWSPAPERS

STATE RIVERS AND WATER SUPPLY COMMISSION LEASE OF

EILDON TEMPORARY CARAVAN PARK

Applications are invited and will be received up to 23rd August, 1955 by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, at its Head Office, 190 Exhibition, street, Melbourne, for the leasing for the coming season of the temporary caravan park and furnished cabins.

Electricity, water supply, se vered conveniences, and ablution blocks available on area

The successful applicant will be required to lodge a deposit of £100 as security for the buildings, furniture, and equipment to be under his control and may, if desired, occupy one cabin for his own accommodation.

Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from the Commission's Chief Estates Officer in Melbourne, or from the Estates Section at Elidon Construction Office.

The Argus Saturday 23 July 1955 Courtesy National Library Australia

Tenders for buildings of the Eildon temporary caravan park

The Argus Saturday 23 July 1955 National Library Australia



NEWSPAPERS



By TREVOR ADCOCK

OU can spend a very pleasant weekend fishing at Eildon.

From Melbourne the route lies along the Maroondah Highway to Taggerty. Here another road branches to the right and passes through Thornton to Eildon. The total distance is 88 miles.

If you don't own a car, there is a convenient bus service which leaves Flinders st, at 6 p.m. on Friday and arrives at Elidon at 10 p.m. The return service leaves Elidon at 2 p.m. on Sun-day. The fare is 23/- each way.

day. The fare is 23/- each way.

For those who belong to Angling Clubs, splendid camping facilities are provided in six flats. Each is a complete unit comprising two bedrooms, kitchen and dining-room, and can accommodate 6-8 persons.

Beds. mattresses, pillows, crockery, cutlery, &c., are provided at the reasonable charge of 10-a day.

Next to the flats is a caravan park with a swimming pool for kiddies.

Less than a quarter of a mile away there is a modern shopping centre where all kinds of foodstuffs, groceries and even fishing tackle can be purchased.

At the boat harbor on the weir, motor boats may be hired for trolling. The charges are 20 for the first hour and 10 - for each succeeding hour.

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From the weir two channels lead into the pondage dam which, in turn, feeds water into the Goulburn River through a set of lock gates. The left-hand channel flows from the power-house turbines and the right-hand one from the spillway in the dam.

Both channels hold fish and provide good spinning water. Fish caught are Brown and Rainbow frout and Redfin Perch. There also are a few Murray cod and Macquarie Perch.

Good fish are taken trolling from boats on the lake, or spinning from the shore in places such as the Jerusalem Creek arm.

There are some large trout in the white water below the lock gates on the Goulburn, but they are very shy and well educated to spinners and wobblers!

One is caught occasionally, which seems to

are very shy and well educated to spinners and wobblers!

One is caught occasionally, which seems to bear out an old Indian proverb to the effect that in every family there is one fool!

There is no doubt that, at present, spinning is yielding the best results. Suitable tackle would be:—

A trout spinning rod of split-cane or fibregiass, about 7ft. long.

Fixed-spool reel holding 150-200 yards of 5-7 lb, nylon line.

An assortment of spinners and wobblers, including devons, dare-devils, goblin spinners &c., in both silver and gold colors.

Small swivels, link swivels, barrel sinkers and plastic keels.

Landing net.

Creel.

Description of Eildon

The Argus Saturday 5 January 1957 National Library Australia

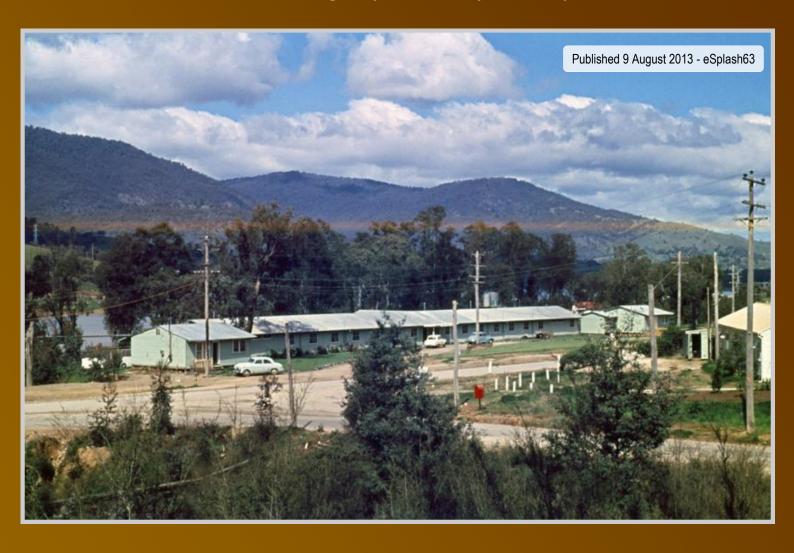
The Argus Saturday 5 January 1957 Courtesy National Library Australia

eSPLASH MEDIA ARTICLES

ARTICLES FROM THE ESPLASH EMAGAZINE

PETER BINNION COLLECTION

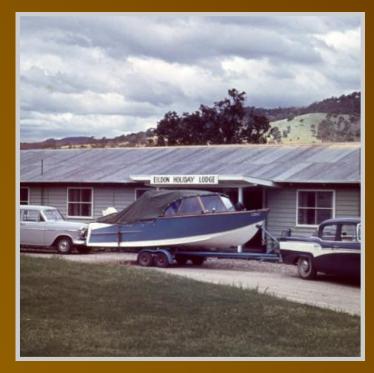
District imagery from yesteryear!



EILDON LAKEVIEW MOTEL HOLIDAY LODGE

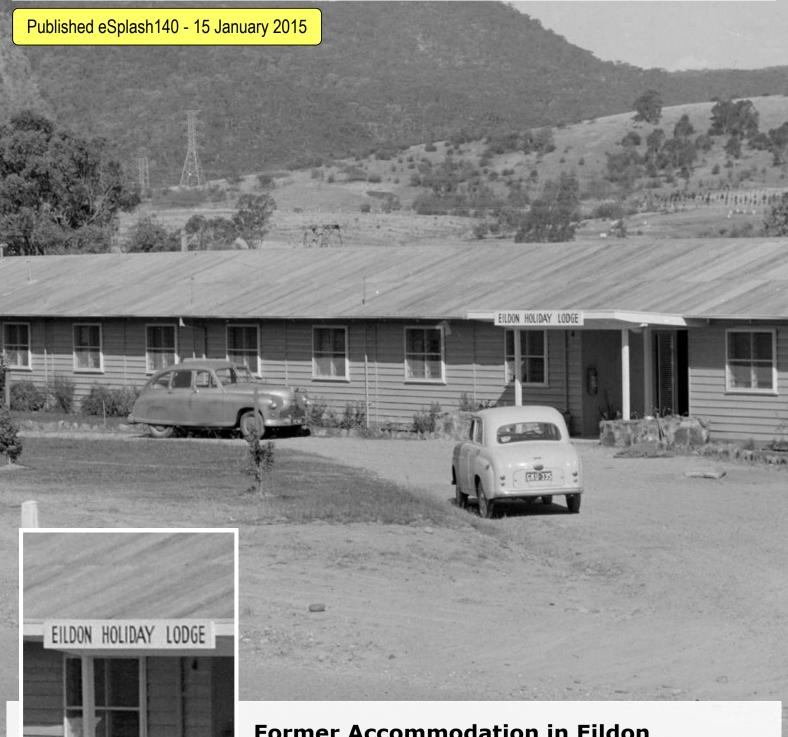
The main building of the Eildon Holiday Lodge is pictured here (circa 1963). The street shown on the top image heading to the right is East Crescent.

The lodge included a swimming pool, restaurant and cafe, and later Motel accommodation and was once popular with holiday makers and boating enthusiasts (right). All building has since been demolished.



EILDON HOLIDAY LODGE AND LAKEVIEW MOTEL

DECEMBER 2015



Former Accommodation in Eildon

The Eildon Holiday Lodge and the later Eildon Lakeview Motel were both owned and managed by Paul and Keva Binnion along Eildon Road, a few hundred metres west from the current day Eildon Caravan Park. The business ran from the late 1950s to the late 1960s.

- EILDON HOLIDAY LODGE & LAKEVIEW MOTEL -



The Eildon Holiday Lodge was established circa 1960 by Paul and Keva Binnion in buildings previously constructed by Utah Construction Company during the building of the Big Eildon Dam Wall. Prior to this time, the land was owned by the Coller family, however this was compulsorily acquired by the Government for the construction of the Eildon Dam Wall and Eildon township circa 1951. Utah built single men's accommodation at the location soon after construction of the dam begun.

The Eildon Holiday Lodge ran for a number of years before four additional single bedroom units were built at the back of the Lodge's main house. These units were then operated as the Lakeview Motel by owners Paul and Keva. The units targeted higher paying clientele who wanted more luxury during their stay. Access to the new units was via stairs that ran down the embankment from behind the Lodge's owner's house at the western end of the complex.

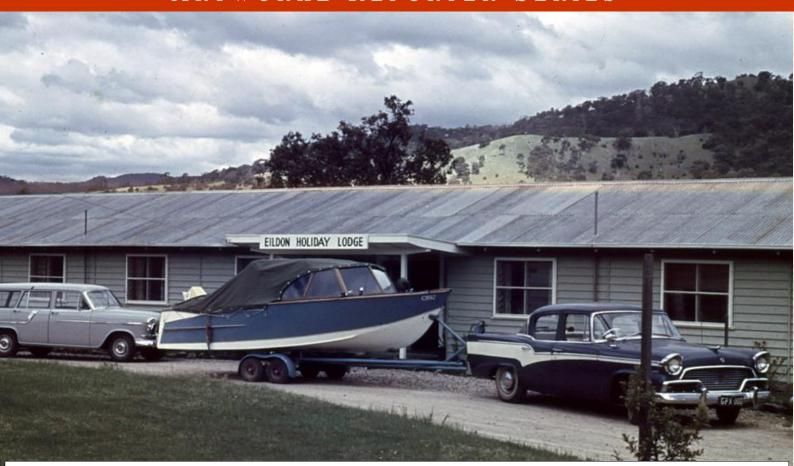
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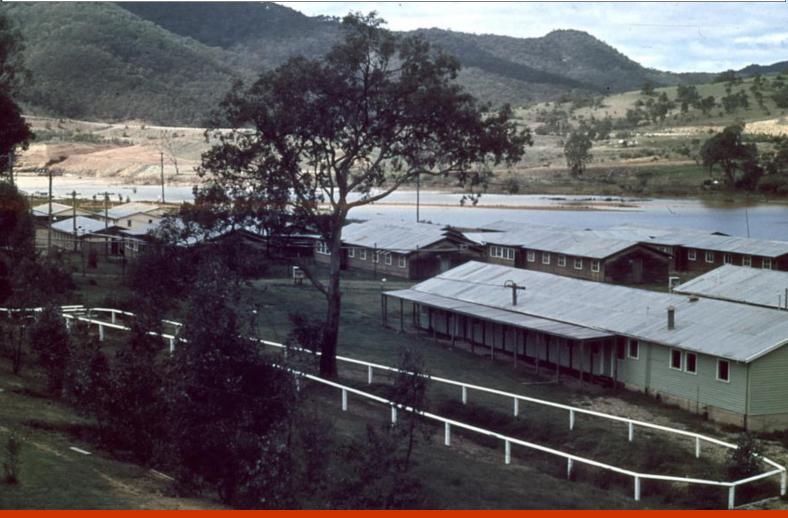


Courtesy Peter Binnion 2013.

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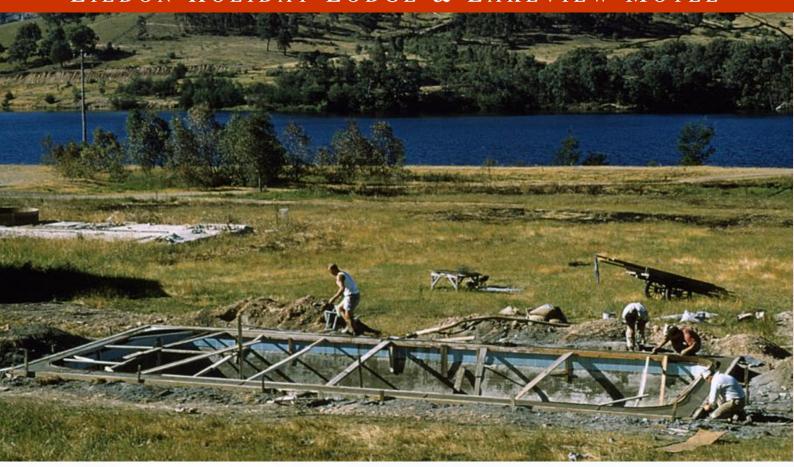


The Eildon Holiday Lodge circa 1963. The white fence (bottom) is around a creek. The hall above it was used as a scout hall and the first Eildon Scout Master was Paul Binnion. His wife Keva later ran the Girl Guides from the same building. Behind were the single men's accommodation units used during the construction of the dam wall. These were later used by school groups who were visiting Eildon.



(Top) Eildon Holiday Lodge. (Bottom) Buildings and creek. Courtesy Peter Binnion 2013.

- EILDON HOLIDAY LODGE & LAKEVIEW MOTEL -



Around 1963, a series of photographs of the lodge were taken by Paul Binnion, father of contributor Peter Binnion. These amazing images show the property from different angles as well as showing the swimming pool during and after construction. A café to the east of the Lodge is evident in photos and other images show inside the dining area and Bamboo room with what was then a new coffee machine. Further photographs show signage for the Lakeview Motel - indicating the four units that made up the Lakeview Motel were built and being let to the public by this time.

During their tenure, Paul and Keva added fuel pumps (located outside the front of the Café) and were also responsible for establishing what may have been the townships first Miniature Golf Course. The course was primarily for clients, however it is likely that paying members of the general public were also afforded access. The course was located along the main road where it was highly visible to the public and as can be seen later in this factsheet, it was constructed by a contractor - ensuring it was built to a high quality. The photos show Keva Binnion helping out the workers by spreading soil with a rake between the concrete course.

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(Top) Eildon Holiday Lodge Pool. (Bottom) Keva Binnion. Courtesy Peter Binnion 2013.

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that time. All housing erected in Eildon during the construction phase of the Dam Wall was imported.

All colour photographs in this article were taken by Eildon Holiday Lodge owner Paul Binnion. These make up a part of the 'Peter Binnion Collection'.

Any further information on the business, its owners, or any personal experiences of staying, swimming or playing Miniature Golf and/or dining at the Holiday Lodge would be greatly appreciated.



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Serving the Community