

ALEXANDRA
KIA-ORA



KIA-ORA

GUEST
HOUSE



**HERITAGE
BUILDING
SERIES**

ALEXANDRA KIA-ORA GUEST HOUSE

CONTRIBUTORS

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INTRODUCTION

Name: Kia-Ora Guest House
Opened: 1946
Owners: Sylvesta and Beryl Howard
Location: Cnr Station Rd & Vickery St
Sold: 1955 to local Bob Price

The Kia-Ora Guest House was a privately run guest house located on the corner of Station Street and The Terrace (Vickery Street) in Alexandra. It was established by Sylvesta and Beryl Howard in 1946.



Kia-Ora Guest House circa 1950

Courtesy Joan Mullins 2017

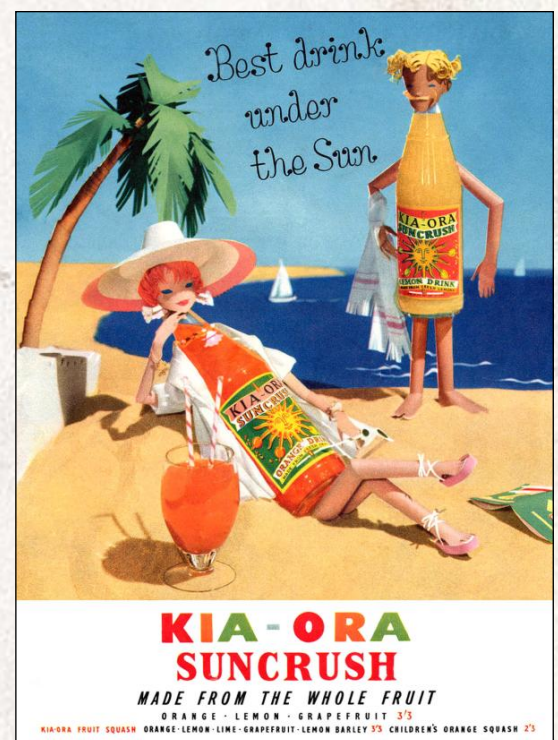
Originally built in 1915 for Mrs Lipscombe by local builder E Vining, the structure was designed from the ground up as a private hospital. Soon after completion it became the St Margaret's Private Hospital, operated by Mrs Searle and her daughter, who were both qualified nurses. It operated as a hospital until 1946 when Reginald Ernest Payne purchased the property and leased it to Sylvesta and Beryl Howard.

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INTRODUCTION

Sylvesta and Beryl moved with their two children Joan and Richard from Rhodes near Alexandra into the property in 1946, and established the Kia-Ora Guest House. At the time there were at least three other guest houses operating in Alexandra, including Summerlands and the Waverly Guest House, then run by local businessman Dick Edwards.

Sylvesta had previously worked for a Prahran cordial manufacturer called 'O.T. Limited', who sold a brand of cordial called 'Kia-Ora Cordial'. The first Kia-Ora branded lemon squash was sold in 1903 in Sydney. After the brand was purchased by the Dixon family, a business was established by Roland Dixon in Prahran, Melbourne. Orange and lemon flavoured Kia-Ora Cordial was launched in Great Britain in 1917. After achieving solid growth, the company expanded their flavour range and even included 'no-added-sugar' products. The brand remained popular during WWII and by 1953 they were advertising in full colour posters. The brand's popularity eventually declined, was taken over by Coca-Cola and the product eventually ended manufacture.



Sylvesta and Beryl adopted the property name 'Kia-Ora' after the brand of cordial and because of its lovely meaning. The name Kia-Ora was a New Zealand word meaning basically 'Greetings and Good Health'. This name was painted in white on the red roof of the Guest House and the name can also be seen painted on the two chimneys facing Station Street in one of the photographs included later in this factsheet.

At the time of the Howard family moving into the property in 1946, the inside walls of the property were plastered, and had been painted with Calcimine paint (a coating made from dried calcium carbonate). However it is worth noting that during renovations to the property in 1935 - when still a private hospital - the walls were lined with santeel, a fabric that could be easily cleaned. Other works carried out in 1935 included the internal roofs being plastered and a new bathroom for patients. A large verandah with three skylights was also added at this time. The verandah ran from the back of the property on the south side, to the front of the property near Station Street. It included fly wire mesh to

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INTRODUCTION

protect patients against insects, which was still intact in 1946 when Sylvesta and Beryl leased the property.

Sylvesta and Beryl used the small room that was previously used as the operating theatre as their bedroom. Their children Joan and Richard shared the former small operating theatre recovery room as their bedroom, which included two single beds and a Singer Sewing Machine. It was just large enough to fit two single beds. Guests visiting the guesthouse stayed in rooms formerly used as patient wards.

One of Joan's lasting memories of the property and verandah was how even though the verandah allowed for the movement of air in the summer months, the property was still extremely hot to live in.



The first guests to the Kia-Ora Guest house were a group of twelve people (left) who arrived for a Christmas dinner in 1946. Another photograph shown later in this factsheet shows people arriving at the Guest House with their 'Pioneer Tours' coach in the background. It was common for 'Pioneer Tours' coaches to deliver patrons to the Guest House for meals and overnight stays.

The guest house supplied outdoor settings and beach umbrellas for patrons to enjoy in the warmer months. They were set up in the large grassed area between the verandah and

Vickery Street. The grassed area also had a flagpole (near the fence along Station Street), though flags were rarely, if ever, flown on it.



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INTRODUCTION

During its time of operation, it was common for weddings to be catered for at the Guest House with ceremonies often held in the gardens or on the verandah. Guest Houses were very popular during that period and were generally affordable and family friendly places. As can be seen in photographs shown later in this factsheet, a number of large pine trees surrounded the Kia-Ora Guest House, though these were removed when the property was later sold to Mr & Mrs Bob Price in 1955. Local Artworkz contributor John Norbury remembers the trees being cut down around that time. The Prices continued the property as a Guest House into the 1970s, when it was sold and used as a private residence.

Joan, Sylvesta and Beryl's daughter finished her schooling in 1956, along with local Artworkz Contributor Ross Coller who was in the same year. This was during the final year of the Alexandra Higher Elementary School in Webster Street which they both remembered. This was just prior to the Alexandra High School commencing operation in Hall Street, on the western side of Alexandra. After completing her schooling, her first job was working as a stenographer for George D Leckie Solicitors in Grant Street Alexandra.

Joan told us during an interview in mid 2017 how the family had been aware of the history of the property and that it had previously been run as a hospital. Interestingly though, she told us that the family only ever knew of the old hospital as being the 'Alexandra Bush Nursing Hospital', not the 'St Margaret's Private Hospital'.

During our research, we could not find records confirming the Bush Nursing Hospital title. However it is evident that this naming was widely adopted, as other elder statesmen have also described the hospital as being called the Alexandra Bush Nursing Hospital. Even in an article in the Herald Sun on 29 November 2011, the old hospital was incorrectly referred to as the Alexandra Bush Nursing Hospital. The article also incorrectly spelt Sylvesta's name as Sylvester.

In 1968, Sylvesta was made a Life Governor of the Alexandra Hospital. Later Sylvesta's daughter in-law Jenny was a nurses aide at the same hospital. At that time the hospital was a teaching hospital and many nurses aides were trained there at that time.

TIMELINE

BASIC TIMELINE OF EVENTS

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

- November 1913** An application was lodged with Council by Mrs Lee & Lipscombe for RENEWAL of their licence to conduct a private hospital (for maternity cases).
- September 1914** The property known as Mrs Lipscombe's Private Hospital was taken over by qualified nurses Mrs Searle and her daughter Miss Searle. It became known as the St Margaret's Private hospital.
- 27 March 1915** A new private hospital was built on the corner of the Terrace (later Vickery Street) and Station Street by Mrs Lipscombe. It was announced in the Alexandra & Yea Standard on 1 April 1915.
- c1926** Sister Kittelty took over the St Margaret's Private Hospital.
- 24 January 1930** It was announced in the Alexandra & Yea Standard that Sister J Kittelty had disposed of the St Margaret's Private Hospital after four years to Sister Noyes. (Alexandra & Yea Standard, Friday 24 January 1930).
- November 1935** It was reported in the Alexandra Standard how 'Recently extensive renovations and additions were carried out at St Margaret's Private Hospital'. It was stated how the hospital was located opposite the railway station. Works were approved by the Public Health Department and included all internal walls being lined with white santeel (a fabric that could be cleaned). The ceilings were covered with plaster-sheets. A new sterilizing room was added and a 12 foot verandah with three skylights was added and included fly wire to protect against insects. A new bathroom for patients was also provided.
- November 1945** The property was listed for sale and subsequently purchased by Alexandra local Reginald (Reg) Ernest Payne.

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TIMELINE

- 1946** Joan Mullin's parents moved into Alexandra from Rhodes and leased the property from Reg Payne. Her parents slept in the old operating theatre, while children Joan and Richard slept in the recovery room adjacent to the operating theatre. The main hospital building was removed by this time.
- 1955** The property was sold to Mr & Mrs Bob Price by owner Reginald Ernest Payne. The pine trees that surrounded the property were removed around this time. Local John Norbury remembers them being cut down and feels it was likely Bob Price who had them removed.
- 1968** Sylvesta was made a Life Governor of the Alexandra Hospital.
- 1969** An Aircraft Mechanic and an Aircraft Engineer gave their residential address as 'Kia-Ora Guest House, Alexandra'. They were both likely working for Proctors Rural Services Limited, a rural air service which was incorporated on 27 August 1857 and was very active locally at that time.
- 29 November 2011** An article in the Herald Sun talking about the Kia-Ora Guest House incorrectly stated that the old hospital was known as the Alexandra Bush Nursing Hospital. The article also incorrectly spelt Sylvesta's name as Sylvester.
- 7 June 2017** Artworkz commenced work on this factsheet.
- 10 June 2017** Artworkz interviewed Joan Mullins (nee) Howard.

GALLERY

A COLLECTION OF IMAGES

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Best drink
under
the Sun.

**KIA-ORA
SUNCRUSH**
MADE FROM THE WHOLE FRUIT
ORANGE · LEMON · GRAPEFRUIT 3/3

KIA-ORA FRUIT SQUASH ORANGE · LEMON · LIME · GRAPEFRUIT · LEMON BARLEY 3/3 CHILDREN'S ORANGE SQUASH 2/3

1950s British Kia-Ora Cordial advertisement

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY

PEDRO THE PUPPET SAYS

freshen up with Kia-ora

FRUIT JUICE CORDIALS

WEST INDIES LIME
LIME
RASPBERRY
LEMON
ORANGE

Kia-ora
50-50
FRUIT JUICE
CORDIAL

KIA-ORA TOPPING
makes every sweet a treat

Kiddes — and grown ups — love the extra flavour that Kia-ora Topping gives to biscuits, sweets. It's wonderful in milk, too. Choose from Strawberry, Caramel, Chocolate, Passionfruit and Pineapple.

HEY KIDS!

Ask your grocer how to make Pedro, the Kia-ora Glove Puppet. It's easy to do. Get your free Instruction Sheet today! Have fun with Pedro.

1950s British Kia-Ora Cordial advertisement

Courtesy National Library Australia

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY

8 delicious
KIA-ORA
thirst quenchers

"More, Mummy - I love 50-50"
Really good for children... not
of healthiest varieties!

"Kia-Ora ORANGE is a real refresher"
This is absolutely every day with me
and it's a 50-50 drink sensation!

"Man, Kia-Ora LEMONS fresh squeezed flavour"
Australia's best citrus-based beverage, packed
with only natural and pure ingredients.

"Gee - it's great! Kia-Ora FRUIT CUP"
Kids especially go for its delicious
"fruit salad" flavor.

"Good taste demands Kia-Ora LIME"
Made from the finest West Indian
limes, this is the life of the occasion.

"L.B.W. is a real health drink"
Great for your health and for
quenching your thirst.

"My special Kia-Ora PASSIONFRUIT"
Make sure you have a bottle to hand
for every occasion.

"Oh boy! Kia-Ora PINEAPPLE"
Good for your health and for
quenching your thirst.

KIA-ORA means Good Health

Freshen up with Kia-Ora Fruit Juices... Every bottle makes 26 delicious drinks, simply by adding (and water)! Place an order with your grocer or confectioner today.

1955 Women's Weekly Kia-Ora Cordial advertisement

Courtesy National Library Australia

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY

KIA ORA
GUEST HOUSE - ALEXANDRA

PHONE 160.

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TARIFF SCALE

Per Week	-	-	£4 4s.
Per Day	-	-	14s.
Per Day Week Ends	-	-	13s.
Meals (Casual)	-	-	3s 6d.
Evening Meal and Bed & Breakfast	-	-	11s 6d.
Bed and Breakfast	-	-	8s.
Afternoon Teas	-	-	1s.

This Tariff Scale Does Not Apply at
XMAS or EASTER.

Breakfast 8 a.m. Dinner 12.30 p.m. Tea 6 p.m.
All meals are ready to serve at the sound of a gong.
Mr. and Mrs. S. HOWARD, Proprietors.

Kia-Ora Guest House Tariff Scale

Photograph courtesy Joan Mullins 2017

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



The first group to visit the Kia-Ora Guest House, in this case for Christmas Dinner in 1946

Photograph courtesy Joan Mullins 2017

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



The top image shows a Pioneer Coach dropping off guests at Kia-Ora Guesthouse in Alexandra. Pioneer operated locally at that time as did McKenzie coaches. Old photos show similar buses at places such as Eildon, Marysville and Rubicon Power Station.

Pioneer advertised trips regularly. One such advertisement published in *The Argus* on 15 February 1946 advertised a seven day package which included:

**'Melbourne - Euroa - Ovens Valley -
Melbourne - Black's Spur - Narbethong -
The Acheron Valley - Eildon Weir -
Alexandra - Yea - Melbourne'**

Photograph courtesy Joan Mullins 2017

Transcontinental Bus Trip

Name: Pioneer Tours
Location: Melbourne
Established: 1905 as A.A. Withers Bus Company, Melbourne
Serviced: Australia wide
Known for: Transcontinental bus trip from Melbourne to Darwin



Pioneer Tours bus at Kia-Ora Guest House at Alexandra
Courtesy Joan Mullins 2017



Pioneer Tours was an early bus line operating in Melbourne. In 1927 one of the Pioneer coaches became the first Australian bus to complete a transcontinental trip from Melbourne to Darwin, in Australia's north. In 1957 the company became the first coach touring company to run weekly transcontinental trips across Australia.

Pioneer Tours commenced operations at Melbourne in 1905 as the A.A. Withers Bus Company, operated tours around the quickly expanding city of Melbourne. The company was successful and slowly expanded. The company was renamed Pioneer Tours in 1923 and in 1945 it was bought by Reg Ansett who renamed the company Ansett Pioneer and in 1980 the company was renamed Pioneer. Then in 1992 Australian Coachlines Pty Ltd bought Pioneer and Greyhound and the company was renamed Greyhound Pioneer Australia in 1993. It was renamed McCaffertys Greyhound in 2000 and Greyhound Australia in 2004. Today Greyhound Australia employs over 600 people, services most of Australia and carries more than five million passengers annually.

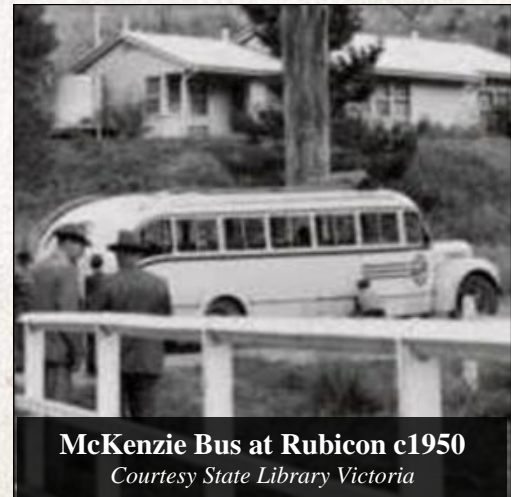
The Chalet, Marysville c1950
Courtesy Kelly Petersen 2017



McKenzie bus at Marysville c1950
Courtesy Emma Turner 2012



[Click for a chart of Pioneer owners through time](#)



McKenzie Bus at Rubicon c1950
Courtesy State Library Victoria

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



The Kia-Ora Guest House circa 1950

Photograph courtesy Joan Mullins 2017



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



The Kia-Ora Guest House circa 1950. The name Kia-Ora was written on the red roof in white paint.

Photograph courtesy Joan Mullins 2017

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



The Kia-Ora owners Sylvesta and Beryl Howard seen inside the enclosed verandah running along the southern side of the building circa 1950. One of the three skylights built into the verandah when built in 1935 can be seen on the top left.

Photograph courtesy Joan Mullins 2017

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Joan and Richard Howard with Kia-Ora employee Betty Jones (Yvonne's husbands sister)

Photograph courtesy Joan Mullins 2017

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Joan Howard outside the verandah at the Kia-Ora Guest House circa 1949-1950

Photograph courtesy Joan Mullins 2017

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Joan Howard in Fancy Dress outside the kitchen door at the Kia-Ora Guest House circa 1949-1950

Photograph courtesy Joan Mullins 2017



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Beryl Howard with her two children Joan and Richard outside the Kia-Ora Guest House circa 1950

Photograph courtesy Joan Mullins 2017



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



The Kia-Ora Guest House Laundry and garden circa 1950. The laundry included a mangle, copper and milk separator for the fresh milk from the cow they owned and milked daily.

A mulberry tree can be seen on the right which provided lovely shade in the warmer months and mulberries in season.

Pathways to the ladies and men's toilets are visible on the bottom right of the image. The pathway to the ladies toilet breaks off to the right and the pathway to the men's toilet is at the end of the straight path.

Photograph courtesy Joan Mullins 2017

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Guests at the Kia-Ora Guest House under one of the supplied beach umbrellas circa 1950. The flagpole can be seen on the back right in front of the fence that runs along Station Street.

Photograph courtesy Joan Mullins 2017

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Kia-Ora Guest House circa 1950. Station Street is at the back and Vickery Street (previously The Terrace) is on the right.

The large cypress pine trees were removed in 1955 when the property was sold to Mr & Mrs Bob Price by owner Reginald Ernest Payne.

Photograph courtesy Joan Mullins 2017

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



The old hospital building located on the corner of Vickery and Station Streets

Photograph © Copyright Yvonne Jones 2013.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



The old hospital building located on the corner of Vickery and Station Streets

Photograph © Copyright Yvonne Jones 2013.

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Photograph © Copyright Yvonne Jones 2013.

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Photograph © Copyright Yvonne Jones 2013.

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Photograph © Copyright Yvonne Jones 2013.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



The old hospital building located on the corner of Vickery and Station Streets

Photograph © Copyright Yvonne Jones 2013.

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



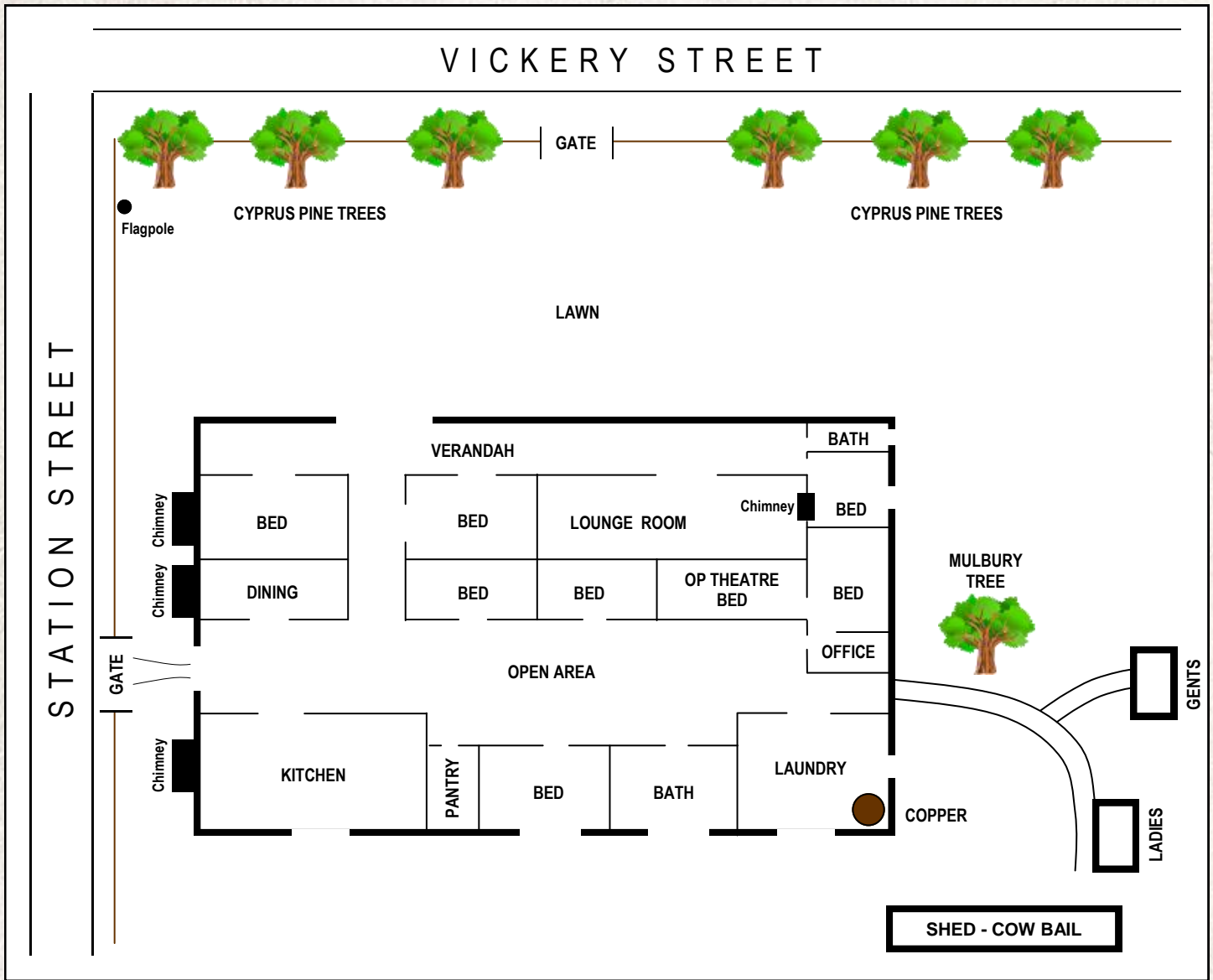
The old hospital building located on the corner of Vickery and Station Streets

Photograph © Copyright Yvonne Jones 2013.



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



The old hospital building located on the corner of Vickery and Station Streets

Photograph © Copyright Yvonne Jones 2013.

NEWSPAPERS

RELATED NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

NEWSPAPERS

Opening of the Alexandra Private Hospital

On Saturday last the new building, erected by the enterprise of Mrs Lipscombe, on the Terrace, as a private hospital for Alexandra, was formally opened by Cr. Lade J.P., President of the shire. This will meet a want much felt and needed by the community. In a large and scattered district like this there are many who scarcely care to go to a public institution, and who live too far away to obtain the medical skill and care they may require. Besides, even in the town itself people have not always the accommodation and conveniences, necessary in sickness, in their own home. It is also recognized that in many cases more depends upon the nursing than upon the doctor. For midwifery cases such an establishment has long been required and it will no doubt prove the means of preserving many a life that otherwise might have been sacrificed. We heartily congratulate Mrs. Lipscombe on her enterprise in erecting the building and hope she will be well repaid for her outlay.

As the building was specially erected to be a hospital, it was designed to that end with every necessity and convenience required in such an institution. A deep verandah stretches along the south side, from which there are two doors. One may be called the main entrance. On the right is a small cosy sitting room, on the left is a bed room, behind these are two more rooms furnished in a like manner. The second door admits to a large airy dormitory with four beds. A similar verandah extends along the west side. Here is an entrance to a small operating theatre, well lighted, with all necessary conveniences and appliances. Adjoining this is a bed room so that patients can easily be conveyed from the operating table to a bed. On the north side is another deep verandah extending the whole length of the house, at the back of which are the kitchen, scullery, bath room, pantry etc., the staff quarters being quite separate from the hospital. One noticeable feature of the structure is the provision of deep verandahs on all sides so that patients can have both fresh air, shade and shelter in the day time. The site is an ideal one for such a purpose as there is a large open space in front stretching across the park, giving a good outlook, and being high, the air is fresh and the prospect pleasing, the distant ranges of hills closing in the foreground. It is also very convenient to the railway station, being only across the road from the station gates, but far enough away not to be troubled by the rumble and noise of the trains.

Mr E. Vining, the builder of the new premises, is to be complimented on the excellence of his work and for the expeditious manner in which he fulfilled his contract.

Mrs Searle and her daughter, both qualified nurses have rented the building and are fully competent to deal with all classes of cases. Already in the temporary premises, these ladies have had 45

patient, all of whom speak highly of their kindness, care and skill.

At three o'clock sharp Cr. Lade, who had taken his stand by the main entrance, said he had been invited by Mrs Searle to declare the building open as a private hospital. He desired to thank Mrs Searle for the honor of so doing, and was pleased to respond to the invitation. It was an institution that was much wanted. In the past people had to go away to a distance. Now they could be treated near home. Especially at the present juncture was it required. Large works were being undertaken at the Sugarloaf. There was always the possibility of accidents at such works. The public hospital might be fully occupied. It was highly desirable that there should be a private as well as a public hospital. There were also certain classes of cases that could not be treated in the public hospital for which this was available. He congratulated Mrs Searle and her daughter on having met such a long felt necessity. He had been informed that already 45 patients had come to them, which he thought was a proof that they had given every satisfaction. He also congratulated Mrs Lipscombe on her enterprise in putting up the building. Personally he had an idea that Alexandra was going to boom and go ahead. Big works were going on in the vicinity, not only was there this weir at which hundreds of men would be working, there were also the mills, and as the place became better known there would be troops of tourists. All this meant prosperity to the town. He thought Mrs Lipscombe deserved great credit and he hoped she would get good interest for her money. He wished more people had the same energy and enterprise. He thought the Alexandra business people took things too easily. He referred to the Saturday half holiday and the way in which it was militating against the interest of the town. Large sums of money were involved and the people needed to look after their own interest. There were big possibilities in front for Alexandra when the weir would be completed and they would be able to put all their flats under cultivation.

He then notified the large gathering that had assembled that tea would be handed round when everyone could give a silver coin and afterwards there would be a jumble fair, the proceeds from both would be donated to the Belgian and Red Cross Funds. He urged them to give generously for this purpose, on account of the claims of both these funds upon them. He then declared the hospital open.

After tea good business was done at the fair with the result that the sum of £9 12s 6d was obtained, and another £3 7s. by the disposal of a centre piece, painted by Nurse Myrtle, the winner being Mr. Whittfield.

Mrs and Miss Searle desire to express their appreciation of and indebtedness to those ladies and gentlemen who so generously assisted them, especially to Cr Lade (president of shire) for his attendance.

Alexandra & Yea Standard

Thursday 1 April 1915

Courtesy National Library Australia

Opening of the 'Alexandra Private Hospital'

Includes a full description of the property which was owned by Mrs Lipscombe and operated as a Hospital by Mrs Searle and her daughter.

Alexandra & Yea Standard

Thursday 1 April 1915

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

NEWSPAPERS

**PRIVATE HOSPITAL
ALEXANDRA.
SISTER NOYES, I**
State Registered; General, Mid-
wifery, Special Certificate,
Women's Hospital, Melb.,
Has taken over the above practice.

**Two Midwifery trained Sisters
in attendance.**
Phone **20.** Fees on application.

Alexandra & Yea Standard
Friday 23 September 1932
Courtesy National Library Australia

Still operating as a hospital in 1932 but run by Sister Noyes since 24 January 1930 when it was
announced in the Alexandra Standard

Alexandra & Yea Standard
Friday 23 September 1932

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

NEWSPAPERS

St. Margaret's Private Hospital.

Recently extensive renovations and additions were carried out at St. Margaret's private hospital, opposite the railway station. The plans in connection with the work were first submitted to the Public Health Department for approval, and now that the work has been completed, Mr. Mooney, an inspector from the Department, has made an inspection, and approved of same. The whole of the interior has received attention (as well as the exterior). The walls of the various wards have been covered with white santeel (a fabric that can be cleaned) and the ceilings with plaster-sheets. The operating theatre has received similar attention and a new sterilizing room has been added. A new 12 ft. verandah has been constructed, and it is protected with fly-wire. The verandah, which has three skylights, gives patients who are convalescent the equivalent of almost complete outdoor facilities, with the added comfort of protection against weather changes. The hedge which formerly blocked the view from the verandah has now been cut down, so as to provide a pleasant vista. A new bathroom for patients is also provided.

The hospital (which is conducted by Sister M. Weeks) has accommodation for 12 patients, and can provide for additional patients if necessary. The wards are all bright and suitably furnished; a couple of the single wards being very attractive indeed. A nursery has been provided, with appropriate accommodation for half-a-dozen babies.

Outside, new drainage facilities have been constructed.

A hot water service has been installed, connected with the bathrooms and laundry, and a new wash-house erected.

The contractor for the alterations and additions was Mr. R. Jane, and he has carried out the work in a very satisfactory manner for the owner of the building, Mrs. L. Triffet, of Cathkin. The painting, etc., was attended to by Mr. R. Sambrook, and Mr. L. Sly installed the hot water service, etc.

Alexandra & Yea Standard
Friday 8 November 1935

Courtesy National Library Australia

'Recently extensive renovations and additions were carried out at St Margaret's Private Hospital'

The works were approved by the Public Health Department and included all internal walls being lined with white santeel (a fabric that can be cleaned). The ceilings were covered with plaster-sheets. A new sterilizing room was added and a 12 foot verandah with three skylights was added and included fly wire to protect against insects. A new bathroom for patients was also provided.

The hospital was being run by Sister M Weeks

Alexandra & Yea Standard
Friday 8 November 1935

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

NEWSPAPERS

Kia Ora Guest House.

The Ideal Country Home

Opposite Railway Station, Alexandra

**Electric Light, Hot Water,
Fishing, Shooting**

**Tennis, Bowls, Croquet, Swimming,
Moderate Tariff.**

Opening Christmas Eve (December 24, 1946.)

**Accommodation available as from January 5. Christmas Bookings Full,
Phone 160. S. HOWARD, Proprietor.**

Alexandra & Yea Standard
Friday 22 November 1946
Courtesy National Library Australia

Kia Ora Guest House Open for business

Alexandra & Yea Standard
Friday 22 November 1946

NEWSPAPERS

'KIA-ORA'
Guest House

ALEXANDRA

For Sale By Public Auction

Friday, September 17th, 3p.m.

On the Property Vickery Street, (opp Railway Station)



Spacious well kept grounds. Well furnished house with accomodation for twelve guests. Private suite for owner. S.E.C. power, H.W. Service, Frigidaire. Full stock of linen, blankets, crockery and kitchen utensils. Owner retiring after 8 years of successful business. Further particulars and arrangements to inspect from—

Victorian Producers Co. op. Co. Ltd, Alexandra.
and GOLDSBROUGH MORT & Co. Ltd. (agents in conj.)

Telephone 52 or 172.

Alexandra Standard
Friday 3 September 1954
Courtesy National Library Australia

Business for sale

Alexandra Standard
Friday 3 September 1954

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

NEWSPAPERS

**EXTENSIVE
CLEARING SALE**

"KIA-ORA GUEST HOUSE

Friday, 29th October

At 1 p.m.

On behalf of Mr and Mrs S. Howard, who are retiring from business. 14 Single Beds; 7 Wardrobes; 6 Dressing Tables; 1 Cedar Chest of Drawers, 1 Chest Drawers; 1 small Cabinet; Cedar Cheffonier; Cedar Mirror & Stand, 1 Bathroom Mirror; Dining Table and Buffet; 12 Diningroom Chairs; 3 small Cedar Tables, 2 Kitchen Tables, 4 Diningroom Tables; 4 Kitchen Cabinets; Writing Desk; Lounge Room Carpet; 2 x 3-piece Moquette Lounge Suites; full size Table Tennis Set; large Meat Safe; 1 x 2-gal. Nickel Plated Copper Electric Urn, Electric Fan; Electric Light Globes & Fittings; Crockery, Cutlery, Kitchen Utensils, including Meat Covers, 2 large Meat Dishes, Silver Sugar Basins, Salt & Pepper Sets, Butter Dishes, Serviette Rings, 3 dozen jars Preserved Fruits, 5 doz. empty Fowler Jars; Shop Confectionery Cabinet; Garden Tools, Hose, Wheelbarrow; Elderdowns, Bedspreads, Towels, Table Cloths; Chairs, Linos, Mattresses, Pillows, Sheets, Blankets; Quantity Building Material; Curtains, Blinds; 2 Forms; 2 dozen Laying Hens—Australorp and White Leghorn; 1 Jersey Heifer, due one month to B.P. bull.

A/c. OTHER OWNERS :

Dining Suite, Walnut Veneer; 5ft. Table and 4 Chairs, with leather seats; Buffet; Green Laminex Tubular Steel Kitchen Table and 4 Chairs, with leather backs & seats filled with Dunlopillo rubber; 2 Cane Chairs; 1 Single Bed; Ironing Board; Large Birdcage; Fender; Kitchen Safe; small Table; Fire Screen; 2 Kitchen Cabinets; Kitchen Tables and Chairs; Kitchen Utensils; Scooter; Tins of Paint; Rocker Chair; 9' x 3' Hall Runner Carpet; Windows (complete in frames); Tools; Silovac Cleaner, 240 volt with attachments; Warmray Heater; Bacon Cutter; Electric Saw; 2 Ice Chests; Koolgardie; Clothes Wringer; two 32-volt Vacuum Cleaners; Chip Bath Heater; Sink and Wash Troughs; Silver Grill Electric Stove; Wardrobes (2); 12 W/L Fowls and 1 W/L Rooster; 25 Fowls; 1 Stock Saddle; 75-gal. McCormick-Deering Separator (hand operated); and Garden Tools; Crockery.

1 Jap Air Cooled Engine; 2 - 8'6" Flexible Ddrives, 1 Hand Piece, 2 - 8" Circular Blades, 1 Saw Bench, 2 - 8" Blades, 1 Gent's Bicycle.

Afternoon Tea available from the local Red Cross.
GOLDSBROUGH MORT & Co. Ltd.
and
VICTORIAN PRODUCERS CO-OP.
Co. Ltd. Agents in Conjunction
ALEXANDRA.

Alexandra Standard
Friday 22 October 1954
Courtesy National Library Australia

Clearing Sale as retiring

Alexandra Standard
Friday 22 October 1954

MEMORIES

MEMORIES OF JOAN MULLINS

JOAN'S CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

Growing up and being involved in a Guesthouse in Alexandra was an amazing experience that was full of memories. Some of my memories of my parents Sylvesta and Beryl, my younger brother Richard, the Kia-Ora guesthouse and Alexandra include:

- In the 1940s and 1950s, everyone had a copper to boil their clothes in, as part of the clothes washing cycle. Being proprietors of a guesthouse, the amount of bedding needing to be washed was very large. While many people may remember using the coppers for this purpose, what is less commonly known today is how it was usual for the copper to be lit, and while it was boiling, to head outside, kill a chicken and then return and dip it quickly in the boiling copper to loosen the feathers before plucking the bird.
- I remember when ice-cream was first able to be purchased and stored at home. It was very exciting to be able to bring home the ice-cream block, encased in cardboard and placed in the kerosene fridge which would keep it frozen. I also remember how excited we were when we got our first electric fridge, something that is taken for granted these days. Mum used to make jelly and the electric fridge was very handy for this. While living in Melbourne prior to moving to Alexandra, we only had an ice chest to keep food cool.
- Dad loved utes and we always owned one when I was growing up. When travelling, we would all cram into the ute for the trip. Dad's final car was a station wagon.
- As a child I used to walk to school of a morning no matter the weather. I would then walk home for lunch, walk back to school and then walk home again after school. On the way home I would pick up the bread from Bertalli's Bakery on the corner of Baker's Lane and Grant Street. I think that mum used to get the bread alternatively from Wynne's Bakery and the Bertalli's Bakery. The Bertalli family were from Benalla, where they still have a bakery today.



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

JOAN'S CHILDHOOD MEMORIES

- Before my younger brother Richard started school, I used to go on my own. So I would often call into Sandra Cumming's house on the way. It was such a treat when her father would give us a ride to school. Bliss!
- During my school days, teachers would stand in front of a fire in each classroom and us kids froze to death. I remember that Mrs Kwienski from the east side of the Downey Street hill was the lady that lit the fires each morning, as well as being involved in the cleaning. She was a Russian immigrant and I remember her well.
- Mum always had help for housework, laundry, kitchen etc. This was from local ladies as the guesthouse workload was pretty heavy. The ladies I remember the names of are Kitty Mullins (later my mother-in-law), Betty Jones and Mrs Haggis (whose daughter and I were good friends and remain so to this day - she has a grandson who still lives in Alexandra). Other workers were Carlene Birchall and her sister Wilma Birchall.
- For many years before that he used to take copies of the Sunday papers up to the hospital for the patients. He was a member of the RAOB Lodge (Royal Australian Order of Buffaloes) at Alexandra and this was a service they provided. The Buffaloes met in the Oddfellows hall in Bayley Street around the 1950s.

Courtesy Joan Mullins



KIA-ORA

Artworkz

Serving the Community

Update: 18-Aug-17