

*Brown Hill Our  
Golden District  
Eureka Goldfields Town That Grew  
to a  
Suburb of Ballarat.*

**ROADS & TOLL  
GATES**



# ROADS AND TOLL GATES

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## ROADS and TOLL GATES

As it would be realised, the government of New South Wales were very busy building bridges and roads in New South Wales. With the added burden of long delays in communication from Melbourne to Sydney, it was a very difficult task to administer the Port Phillip Colony.

The Public Roads Act of 1833 provided for the making of roads, but the Governor had the power to declare what and which road would be made, and also whether it would be maintained at the public expense. The roads in the Port Phillip Colony started off with just trails often used and then named by the original settler that it was a road or highway, with the responsibility going back to local enterprise for forming and maintaining these roads, not New South Wales.

In 1840 the Parish Roads Act came into being to establish Trusts to maintain local roads. The landowner could then charge 6d per acre per annum on landowners using the road within a 3-mile radius and also collect tolls from those using the road. In 1842 another Act established District Councils and by 1847 the Government appointed a Commission "to consider the question of roads and bridges of the Colony of Port Phillip". Local roads then came under the District Council and the main arterial roads came under the Colony.

In November 1851, the now newly formed Colony of Victoria, formed a task force to look into the problem of roads and bridges. The report of this Committee came back by 1852.

"The Committee recommended the establishment of a Central Roads Board with exclusive powers over main roads and the establishment of District Road Boards to undertake works on local roads. A further recommendation was to the effect that main roads should be financed by the Government, which should also subsidise local roads on a pound to pound basis with the Local settlers. In both cases, roads once constructed should be maintained by the collection of tolls."

By 1853 a Central Roads Board existed and sixty years later the Country Roads Board came into being. (The CRB, as they were commonly called.)

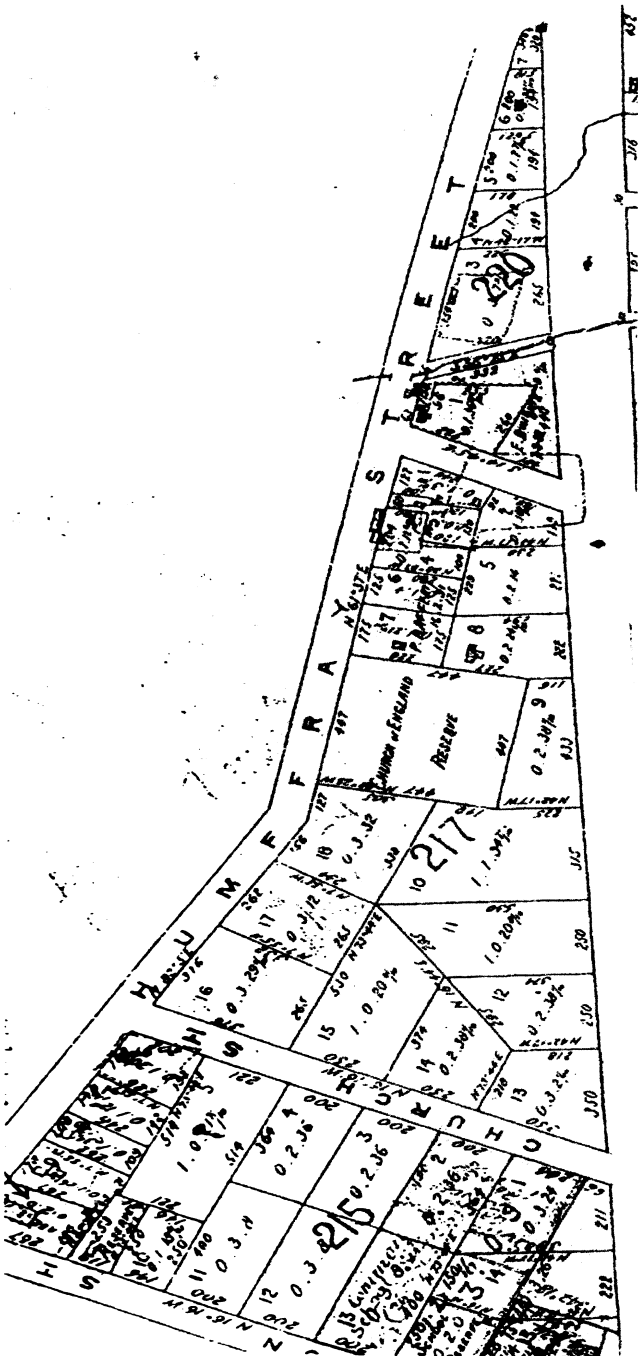
Toll Gates surrounded the Ballarat District. There was a tollgate at Meaghers Hotel in Victoria Street, one at Fellmongers, and also one in Brown Hill. This tollgate at Brown Hill was situated at 328 Humffray Street North, and was afterwards mentioned as the site where Dwight's the boot maker was. All tolls ceased on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 1875. Mr. Jas Coghlan leased the tollgates in Victoria and Humffray Street for 12 months for the price of 3,600 pounds. (\$7,200). The tollgate in Humffray Street was established just over the Warrenheip Creek, which would have been a natural place to slow down the traffic crossing the creek.

The Mount Clear Toll Gate was the first in the District (then in the Buninyong District for roads), which started in October 1858. Then in February 1865 the Bungaree District Board stated that the Melbourne Road and South road would be proclaimed main roads in the Government Gazette January 27. The East Borough Council in February 1865, announced that they had held a meeting with the Bungaree Roads Board, regarding the proposed tolls on Melbourne and Brown Hill roads, with the

Engineer reporting that he had prepared specifications for toll-house and gates in Victoria Street and Humffray Street. At the following meeting it was confirmed that an agreement had been made in regards to erecting tollgates on the Melbourne Road (Victoria Street), South Melbourne Road and Brown Hill.

Feb 1871 Map – Showing site of Toll Gate in Humffray Street North.

Bradbury Street has been surveyed and straightened (with the land claimed dotted outline shows previous site) and on the site between the corner of Bradbury Street and the Warrenheip Creek is the Toll Gate. This map shows building jutting out on road and the Toll Gate residence in the corner of the block.



Map reproduced with the permission of  
The Keeper of Public Records,  
Public Record Office Victoria, Australia.

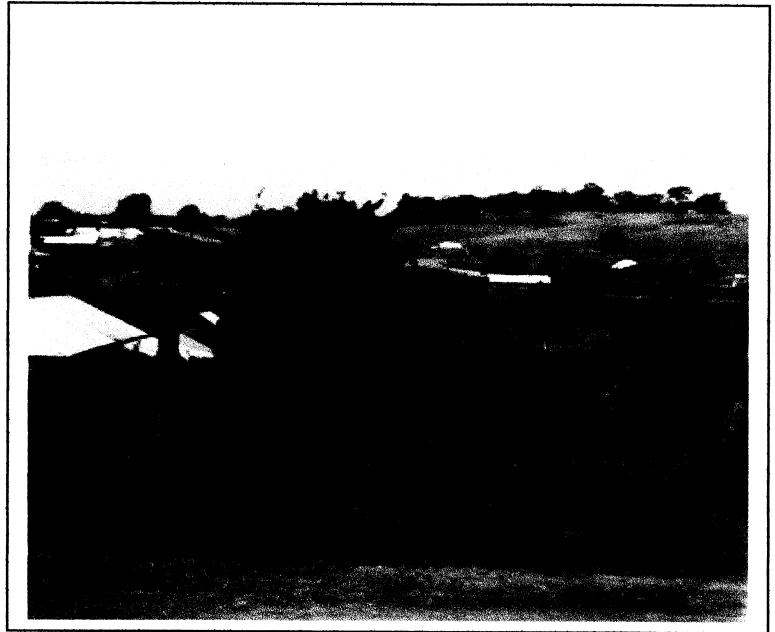


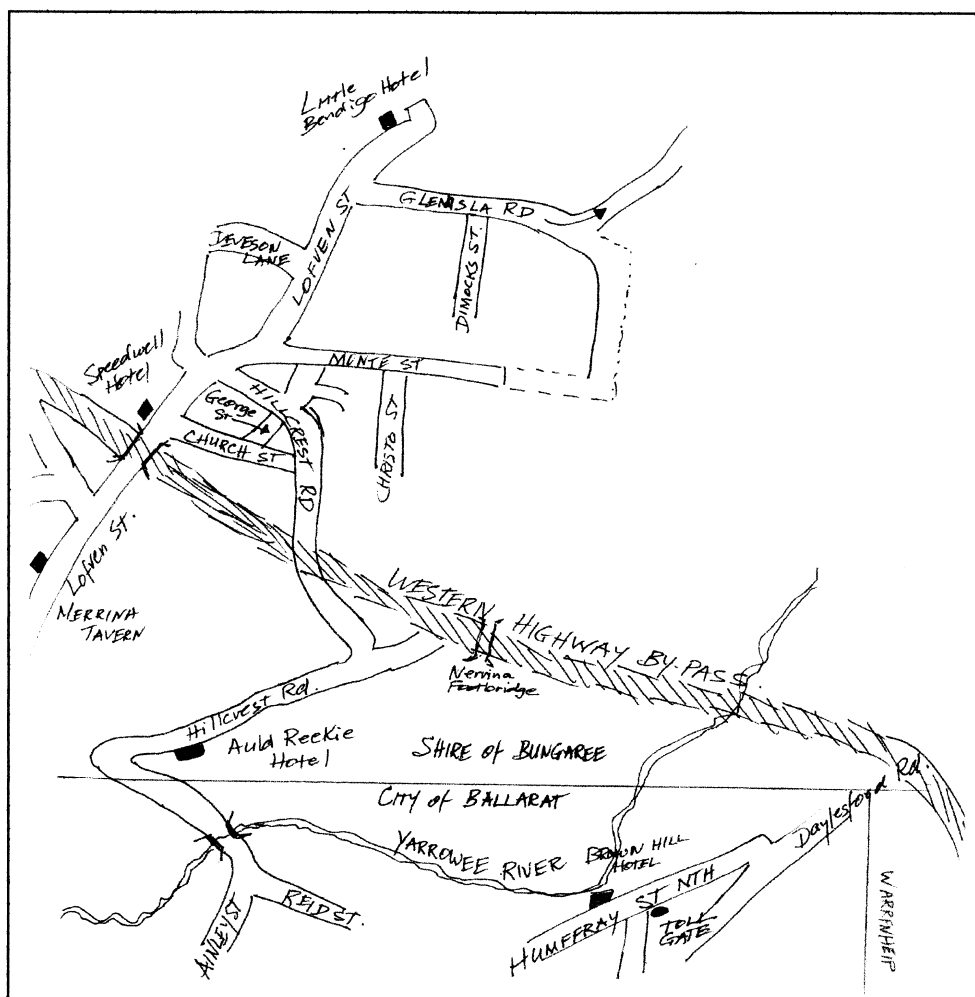
Photo kind permission from Tom McKenna c.1947  
Taken from the attic window of his grandparents house on the corner of Humffray & Bradbury Street. This home is on the right hand side of the photo of the tollhouse in 2004, which is shown below.

Site of Toll House – Corner Humffray & Bradburys Sts.



Even in those days, apparently the residents became irate about tolls. Richard McGrath, who was in charge of collecting the tolls on the Buninyong road, was assaulted by a man who cracked him across the head with a whip, solely because he refused to pay the two shillings toll – he only wanted to pay one shilling and sixpence, resulting in serious head injuries.

Wouldn't it have been amazing seeing three hundred miners and families attending mass in Humffray Street? In there reports there was no mention of rain, so we would like to think it was a lovely spring day at about 25 degrees Celsius with the sun shining overhead. Of course it was not known as Humffray Street in 1851, and perhaps they had not been here long enough to have even made tracks over the hills, and there could have even been people that got lost in the bush. But these people came from the bustling, gold panning, tent dwelling times of the 'gold rush' that was known as the "Eureka Gold Fields". Then later on in the 1860's you have established families attending church at the Wesleyan Chapel and later on St. Mark's Church of England. People dressed up in their best clothes walking along Humffray Street to Church what a colourful spectacle that must have been. I am sure they all walked when the tollgates where there – they wouldn't have wanted to pay a toll to attend church.



In a Memorial to the Ballarat City Council (July 1864) That from the Ballarat Cemetery for a distance of about 14 chains such road has never been formed or metalled and now remains in a highly dangerous state for traffic passing along to Creswick, Clunes, Daylesford and Castlemaine. To add to their petition for work to be carried out on this road they enclosed a Report by the Keeper of Toll Gate near the Turf Hotel, which was as follows:

Weekending 11<sup>th</sup> September 1863 –

Loads of Hay 63, Loads of Grain 9, Loads of Vegetables 8,

Loads of Manure 33, Loads of Merchandise 97, Sheep 68, Neat cattle 117,

Horses 4, Saddle Horses 223, Public conveyances 59, Carriages etc 130,

Firewood 233.

Toll Gate at corner of Bradbury & Humffray Streets, Ballarat

## Former Toll House sold

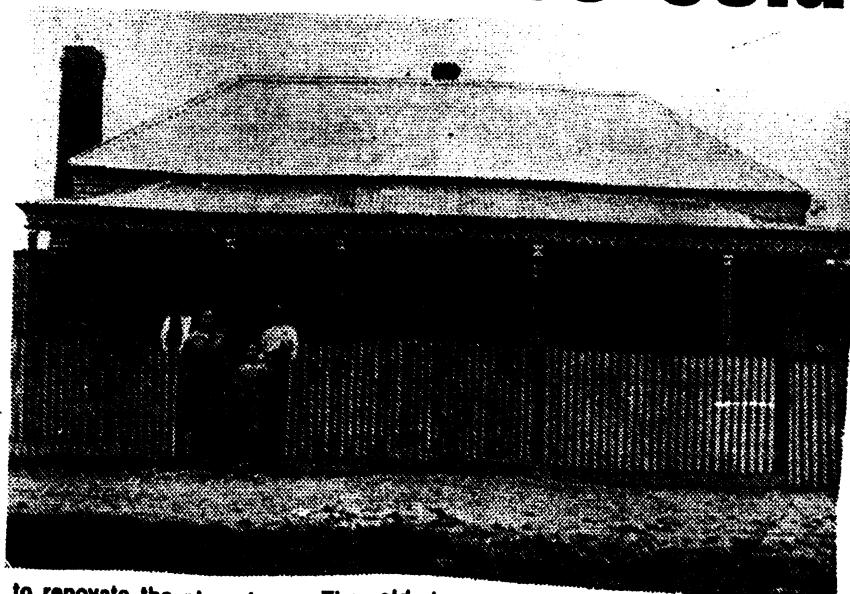
This house in Humffray Street north (pictured in the late 1800s) was used as a toll house to collect tolls from Chinese miners going to the Yarrowee alluvial diggings.

Still standing, and in fair condition, it was sold recently by Benjamins for \$30,500, complete with threequarters of an acre of land.

Present at the auction was Mr Gilham (80) who was born in the house. His mother was also born there in 1872.

After its toll house days the building had a cobbler's shop on one corner, but that section was later demolished.

The new owners plan



to renovate the place in order to restore some of its original character.

The old house now contains six main rooms and amenities have been

upgraded in recent years, including an internal toilet.

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- Memorial 2/7/1864 - Unit 10 - Ballarat P.R.O.

	<b><i>TIMELINE</i></b>
1824	Hamilton Hume and William Hovell first to travel overland from Port Jackson to Port Phillip. (Sydney to Melbourne)
1829	Sturt traces the Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers to the sea on South Australian coast.
1837	Port Phillip District developed rapidly to a white population of 500.
1838	Pastoral pursuits & squatting of vast land areas over a ten-year period.
1842	Melbourne declared a town
1842	Lord Ashley's Mine Act prevents women and children under 10 from working underground in the Mines in Britain.
1848	Whispers of gold finds started at Navarre and later at Clunes
1849	Denomination system of Schools established.
1850	Act passed by Imperial Govt that gave self-govt. to NSW, Victoria, SA & Tasmania.
1851	First person to "officially claim" he had found gold.
1851	Sep 19 – Police Camp established near Magpie Street.
1851	Victoria is legally separated from New South Wales
1851	When the first gold was discovered Melbourne had a population of 20,000
1851	<b>Brown Hill -First Mass celebrated October 1851 – Catholic Chapel Humffray St.Nth.</b>
1851	First Diggers Licence, 20 <sup>th</sup> September.
1852	129 oz gold nugget found on Eureka Lead – March 9 <sup>th</sup> .
1852	Eureka Gang of Bushrangers
1852	Police Camp moved to Camp Hill
1852	Gold Escort to Melbourne, 16 <sup>th</sup> June.
1853	1619 oz Gold Nugget found Jan 31, Canadian Gully
1853	<b>Brown Hill National School opened September, 1853</b> Called the Eureka Goldfields National School.
1854	625 ounce Gold Nugget found on Eureka Lead - February 7 <sup>th</sup> .
1854	365 oz gold nugget found Chisholm's Claim, May 20 <sup>th</sup> .
1854	Eureka Stockade
1854	Post Office opened corner Mair & Lydiard Sts
1855	571 oz gold nugget found at Bakery Hill, March 6 <sup>th</sup> .
1855	<b>Brown Hill Wesleyan Chapel.</b>
1855	No poor laws during 1855-1880. No direct Taxation. Charity for the poor.
1855	First Wesleyan Church in Lydiard Street South
1855	480oz nugget of gold found at Bakery Hill, March 13 <sup>th</sup> .
1855	Mining Company Statute allowing limited liability mining companies.
1855	St.Paul's Church of England, Humffray Street South.
1856	First Eastern land sales 8 <sup>th</sup> December
1856	First election for Ballarat East Township
1856	Hospital opened in Drummond Street
1857	<b>Church of England School, Brown Hill</b>
1857	<b>Palmers' Gully School No.509 – opened 16<sup>th</sup> Feb.</b>
1857	<b>Wesleyan Denominational School, Brown Hill</b>
1857	Ballarat East proclaimed a Municipality
1857	540 oz nugget of gold found - Native Youth Lead, November 28 <sup>th</sup> .
1857	Ballarat Gaelic School – Corner of Queen & Gent Streets.
1857	<b>Brown Hill Post Office opened.</b>
1858	Post Office in Sturt Street
1859	First Ballarat Census (Population 32,000 of which 8,447 were Chinese)
1859	Thomas Austin introduces rabbits to Victoria.
1860	Warrenheip School No.674 – opens 3 <sup>rd</sup> June
1860	Ballarat Benevolent Asylum opened
1860	Brick Police Barracks completed
1860	Burke & Wills Explorers expedition left Melbourne
1860	Humffray Street Primitive Methodist Church - Foundation Stone laid July 8.

1860	Government funds industrial schools to house deserted children and children of prisoners.
1861	Ballarat East Town Hall Foundation Stone laid. (Barkly Street)
1861	1861-62 New South Wales and Victoria Legislate to allow anyone to buy crown land.
1862	Kirk's Reservoir opened – by both Councils
1862	Little Bendigo Post Office Opened June 16 <sup>th</sup> .
1862	St.Mark's Church, Brown Hill -Tender to erect permanent Church April 1862
1862	<b>St.Mark's Church of England, Brown Hill – Opened July 1862</b>
1862	Warrenheip School No.678 opened 19 <sup>th</sup> May.
1862	First train from Geelong to Ballarat – April 11 <sup>th</sup> .
1862	First Hansom Cab, Ballarat.
1863	Ballarat East and West were declared Boroughs.
1864	St.James Church of England, Little Bendigo opened 12 <sup>th</sup> July.
1865	216oz nugget of gold found - Prince of Wales Mine, November.
1865	Wesleyan Church Little Bendigo - Foundation Stone laid March 17 <sup>th</sup> .
1865	Ballarat Orphanage opened
1865	Little Bendigo Wesleyan Church opened 25 <sup>th</sup> April
1865	Main Road, Ballarat East, fire destroys 60 buildings.
1865	Post Office Savings Banks opened in Ballarat, September 14 <sup>th</sup> . (Deposits of six-pence or upwards received.)
1866	115 oz nugget of gold found at Sons of Freedom Mine, February 1 <sup>st</sup> .
1866	Gong Gong Methodist Church opened on 10 <sup>th</sup> April.
1869	Brown Hill Wesleyan Church opened – 22nd March.
1869	Population for Ballarat & Ballarat East 64,000
1869	Push for shorter working week. Currently working 10 hours a day with shorter day of eight hours on Saturday.
1869	Victoria Land Act
1869	“Welcome Stranger”, the biggest gold nugget found.
1870	Ballarat proclaimed a City
1870	Married women are now allowed to own personal property, such as wages and dividends.
1870	Mining slump
1871	New Marriage Laws – Sth Aust legalizes the right for a man to marry his dead wife's sister.
1872	Ballarat East Borough proclaimed a Town.
1872	Minimum Weekly Wage is One Pound and Nineteen Shillings. (\$3.90).
1874	Cr.J.Russell – Mayor of Ballarat East
1874	144 Ozs nugget of gold found at Prince of Wales Mine.
1874	First sod of Gong Gong Reservoir turned.
1875	Warrenheip School No.1591 opened on June 23 <sup>rd</sup> .
1875	All Toll Gates cease in Ballarat on February 13.
1875	The first penny-farthing bicycle imported to Melbourne.
1876	Firemen's Demonstration – Russell Square – May 24 <sup>th</sup> .
1876	Scarlet Fever epidemic, Ballarat
1877	Gong Reservoir built
1878	Ballarat East Queen Street School No.1998 opened.
1878	Kelly Bushranger Gang formed.
1878	Little Bendigo School No.2093
1878	Pootilla School No.2095 opened on October 9 <sup>th</sup> .
1879	The name of Fellmongers Road changed to Pootilla road. (Pootilla was the name of P.O.)
1880	Galloway Monument – “Eight Hour Working Day”
1885	United Fire Brigade Demonstrations – Russell Square – March 11 <sup>th</sup> .
1886	Long Depression starts. Unemployment rampant. Banks fail.
1886	Government takes over banks and changes the legal tender from GOLD to PAPER.
1887	Horse drawn trams commenced on garden route.
1887	167 oz gold nugget found at Midas Mine – June 4 <sup>th</sup> .
1887	Mildura Irrigation Project
1888	Nazareth House, Ballarat
1891	Victorian Women's Christian Temperance Union, petition in Victoria for women to vote.
1892	Sixty-six Hotels closed by Local Option.
1894	Ballarat Electric Supply Company founded.



1895	Electric lights in some Ballarat streets.
1899	First direct telephone call Melbourne-Ballarat.
1899	First Victorian troops leave for the Boer War in Africa.
1900	New South Wales Suffrage Movement helps hasten the raising of the Age of Consent from fourteen years, and establishment of special juvenile courts during the period 1900-1910.
1901	Federation – First Federal Parliament.
1902	Boer War ended.
1902	Women denied the right to sit for Public Service entrance exams. This continued until the 1940's during World War II.
1902	Yarrowee Creek paved with basalt.
1903	Australia gets a National Flag – granted by King Edward VII.
1903	Australian Federal Election – First time women could vote. First time in the World that Women could vote and stand for a National Parliament.
1903	Melbourne and Sydney linked by telephone.
1905	First electric tram, Ballarat
1907	Basic Wage is introduced.
1907	Rabbits have spread to cover all of Australia.
1908	Moorabool Reservoir construction begins.
1909	Old Age Pension and Invalid Pensions introduced.
1912	Captain Robert Scott and his Expedition reach the South Pole.
1913	All trams electric from August 14 <sup>th</sup> .
1914	World War I begins. 60,000 Australians killed. 120,000 injured. Ended on November 11 <sup>th</sup> , 1918.
1916	Hotel Closing set at 6.00p.m.
1916	The factory on the corner of East & Victoria Street changed from Long's Biscuit & Confectionary Company to become Sunshine Biscuit Factory.
1919	Influenza Epidemic. 10,263 people died between the ages of 20 and 39.
1921	Amalgamation of Ballarat East and Ballarat West.
1922	Sewerage construction commenced.
1923	First radio stations for Melbourne and Perth.
1923	Licensing of Motor Omnibuses.
1928	After 142 years as a Colony of the British Crown, Australia's status as an independent dominion officially recognised.
1929	Great Depression
1930	State Government Sustainance.
1932	Poliomyelitis epidemic (Victoria had 116 deaths of children under 16) Thousands more were crippled.
1936	Ladies Cricket Association – Sunshine Biscuit Company Team Won Premiership Cup.
1936	The Midday Scot train from Glasgow to London set record speed of 52.9 miles per hour.
1936	Basic Wage 10/8d. (\$1.07) per day.
1937	Dad and Dave radio serial begins.
1938	Centenary of the founding of Ballarat.
1938	Men working a forty to forty-eight hour week.
1938	Worst bushfire catastrophe – 71 people died in Victoria (Black Friday)
1939	Hills Hoist rotary clothesline invented.
1939	World War II declared on September 3 <sup>rd</sup> .
1941	<b>Brown Hill Swimming Pool</b> opened January 18 <sup>th</sup> .
1941	Child endowment introduced – five shillings a week. (50c)
1942	Daylight Savings introduced as a wartime economy.
1942	During World War II – clothes, tea, sugar, butter, drapery, meat & petrol were all rationed.
1942	Widow's pension comes into affect.
1943	Screens were removed from streetlights with easing of certain blackout restrictions lifted.
1943	1000 Italian POW's brought to Australia to relieve farm labour shortage.
1945	End of World War II. Commonwealth unemployment and sickness benefits introduced.
1946	Chips Rafferty in the film "The Overlanders"
1946	<b>Littlehale's Bus Service</b> takes over the Brown Hill Bus Service on November 25 <sup>th</sup> .
1946	Ballarat Teachers College re-opened.
1947	Cr.George Stewart – Mayor of Ballarat

1947	Forty Hour Working Week.
1947	Merit Certificate of Education abolished.
1949	Aborigines obtain vote.
1949	Myxomatosis introduced to reduce rabbits.
1950	Basic Wage increase – Women to get 75% of male wage instead of 54%. Men to receive eight pounds and six shillings. (\$16.60).
1950	First snap frozen vegetables.
1950	Korean War – ended 1953.
1950	The new British Morris Minor & Morris Oxford available in Australia. Five-hundred and sixty Pounds for Minor, Eight-hundred and six pounds Oxford. Plus Tax.
1951	National Service for 18 years old. Served 3 and 6 months in army, navy or air-force. (250,000 national servicemen). This continued until 1959.
1951	Victa Motor Mower invented.
1952	White Swan Reservoir completed.
1954	S.P. betting legalized.
1955	First dual carriageway built – Melbourne to Geelong.
1956	Black and White Television transmission for Melbourne Olympics.
1956	Employment of Married Women Act passed. (Women can now teach in schools after they are married.)
1956	Opening of Ballarat Civic Hall and closing of Alfred Hall.
1957	Basic Wage in Melbourne increased to 12pounds and 15 shillings.
1957	McCann's Dairy started with horse & cart deliveries.
1958	Equal pay for equal work.
1961	R.A.A.F. School of Radio at Ballarat Aerodrome closes after 21 years.
1962	Ballarat & Western Victoria BTV6 commences transmission.
1963	Grants to Non-Government Schools – the first for 100 years to provide state-aid.
1963	Proposal to close Bridge Street to traffic.
1964	Catholic Priests allowed to join the annual Anzac celebrations.
1964	Liturgy at Catholic Churches changed to English instead of Latin.
1965	National Service – Birthday Ballot – Army for two years. This was from 1965-1972. 50% of these men went to Vietnam War.
1966	<b>Opening of Brown Hill Public Hall</b> by Cr.Kennedy, Mayor of Ballarat on December 2 <sup>nd</sup> .
1966	Decimal Coinage.
1966	Government aid to Church Schools
1966	Six o'clock closing for Hotels ceased. Hotels open until 10 p.m.
1968	Cr.Maurice Brown – Mayor of Ballarat
1968	Measles vaccination introduced in Australia.
1969	South Australia becomes the first State to legalize abortion under certain circumstances.
1970	Change to Metric Weights and Measures.
1970	Brown Hill Senior Citizens started December 3 <sup>rd</sup> . Honorary Board, Brown Hill Hall.
1971	Ballarat Tramways closed on September 20 <sup>th</sup> .
1971	Save the Trams
1971	Trams stop running in Ballarat. Replaced with buses.
1973	Supporting Mothers entitlement, which will benefit all single Mothers who solely support their children. Will receive the same as a Widow's Pension. Weekly \$21.50, plus \$4.00 for first child and \$6.00 if child under 6 years and \$4.50 for each additional child.
1974	First consumer credit card – called "Operation Bankcard" by the Banks.
1975	Cr.Maurice Brown – Mayor of Ballarat
1975	Colour TV introduced.
1977	"Advance Australia Fair" becomes National Anthem.
1977	Save Bakery Hill.
1978	Cr.Melton Foo – Mayor of Ballarat
1978	Maternity Leave – The right for women worker's to twelve months unpaid leave. A guarantee of return to their former job. Protection against being dismissed.
1978	McDonald's opens on Bakery Hill.
1978	Westgate Bridge opens – with toll charges.
1980	Australia's first "in vitro" baby born in Melbourne (Test Tube Babies)
1980	May 1980 introduction of Automatic Teller Machines (ATM's). Protest outside bank "But

	there's no one to talk to. No one at all. And it won't join the union – the hole in the wall”.
1981	AIDS first reported in Australia in 1981.
1981	Bridge Street becomes the Bridge Mall
1981	XPT Train establishes Australia's speed record of 183 km/h.
1982	Cr. Don Woodward – Mayor of Ballarat
1983	Cr. Melton Foo – Mayor of Ballarat
1983	Compulsory superannuation introduced.
1983	By-pass of Wallace and Bungaree on Western Highway completed.
1985	Westgate Bridge tolls lifted.
1986	Stock Market Crash. Including Tri-Continental, Alan Bond's Empire, Victoria State Bank, Farrow & Clarke's Pyramid Company, Christopher Skase's Quintex Empire.
1987	Australian Share Market loses \$55 Billion in “Black Tuesday” crash.
1987	Plastic Banknotes introduced for Australia's Bicentennial Year.
1990	Age Discrimination Law. Women's Pensions being phased in to become the same age as men. (65 years instead of 60.)
1992	Unemployment reaches 11.4 per cent, highest since Depression in the 1930's.
1993	After Poker Machines introduced into Victoria they overtook N.S.W. for biggest tax.
1996	Goods on Service Tax (GST) introduced.
1998	Government introduces “Work for the Dole”
2004	Train line opened from Alice Springs to Darwin – First freight train, over a mile long, departed on January 15 <sup>th</sup> .
2004	<b>Brown Hill CWA</b> celebrates 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
2004	Leo Callinan, Brown Hill, awarded the <u>Order of Australia Medal</u> for service to the Ballarat community, particularly to people with disabilities.

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