

## What's on in Kalorama/Mt. Dandenong

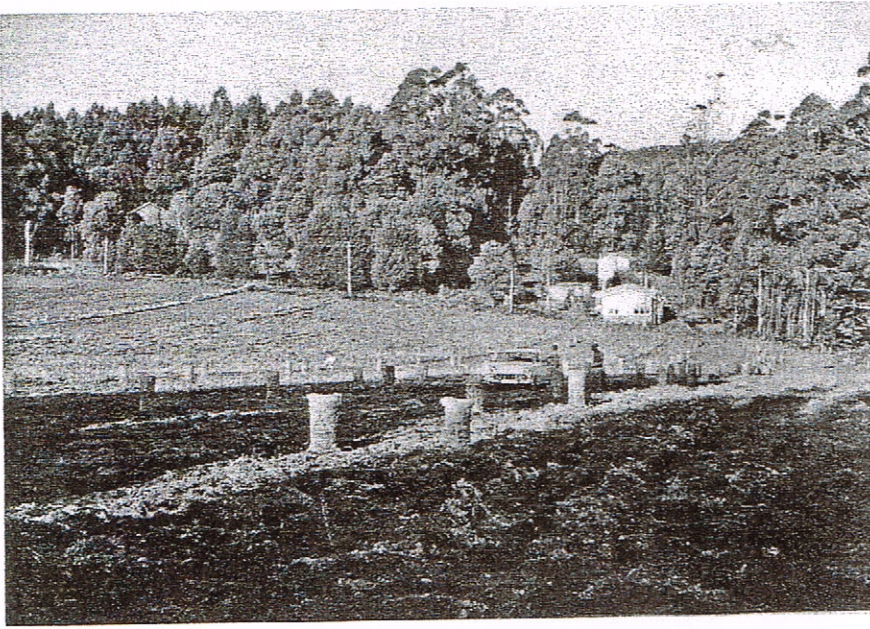
### Potato Paddocks around Olinda



Bob Faull, as he was known, cleared and planted potatoes in the 10 acres, known as Chater's. This property was within the Campbell Avenue, Ridge Road and Yvonne Road area and was used for a fire evacuation area in the 1962 bushfires. People parked their cars in the middle of the potato crop for safety which didn't do the potato crop a whole lot of good but saved a few vehicles.

Potato crops were not always profitable as they relied on natural rainfall to grow. The photo shows Bob Faull and his two draught horses called Rose and Tiny, working a potato planter. The photo was taken on the potato farm by his son John Faull who worked the machine while his father, Bob, drove the horses.

The horses were rested on Perc Dodd's property at 1 Monash Avenue where John now lives. John rode one horse and led the other from one property to the other. Prior to this Bob grew potatoes in Chater's other paddock opposite in the Viola Avenue area and before all this Bob grew his crop in a paddock opposite the hotel where shops now stand.

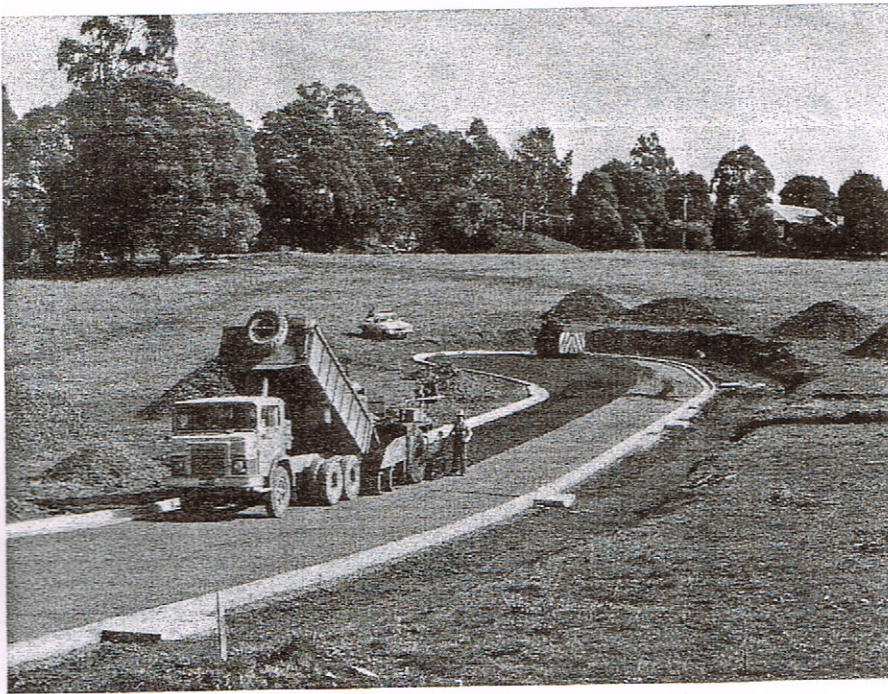


Bob was later allocated land adjoining the Olinda Pine Plantation in the Olinda State Forest.

This land was to be cleared and made into a fire break for the safety of the Pine Plantation which is now the Arboretum.

As the land was cleared, the potato paddock was developing until eventually it was an area of 30 acres. The firewood from the cleared land was sold all around the hills.

They had the good fortune to be able to irrigate the potato crop from the Olinda Creek. Prior to all this Bob grew potatoes on the Round's property north of Campbell Avenue, along Ridge Road.



In the 1970's Gladys Court was constructed – named after John's grandmother, and the land was available for houses.

*Photos and text supplied by*

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*Corrections always welcome. The Historical Society meets at Farndons Hall on the first Saturday of the month.*

*At 10 a.m. Next meeting Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August*