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## NEWSLETTER

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### FROM THE EDITOR

The Society recently received notice of a reunion for descendants of passengers on the emigrant ship *Six Sisters* which arrived in Geelong in 1853 (*see more information on p.5*). This has particular relevance to our Society because aboard the ship were Joseph and Jane Scott, six of their sons and two daughters. They selected land in Steels Creek in the 1860s and they and their descendants have been part of the community and its history ever since. Being a member of the fifth generation of this family I hope to attend and bring back some information to add to our files on the Scott family.

Barry Watts has researched and authored the feature article for this Newsletter. If anyone has information about the history of St Hubert's as a vineyard, farm or boys training farm, we will be pleased to hear from you.

*Helen*

#### Historical Society Monthly Meetings

**8 July 2012** – Guest speaker: Mr Robin Droogleever who will be talking on the Boer War (*details below*)

**12 August 2012** – Guest speaker: Mr Frank Wood who will be talking of his experiences growing up and working in Yarra Glen

**9 September 2012** – AGM

**14 October 2012** – Tetlow Talk

**11 November 2012** – **Annual Excursion** – to some historic sites in Christmas Hills, led by Harold Muir

*All meetings are on Sunday afternoon at 1:30pm*

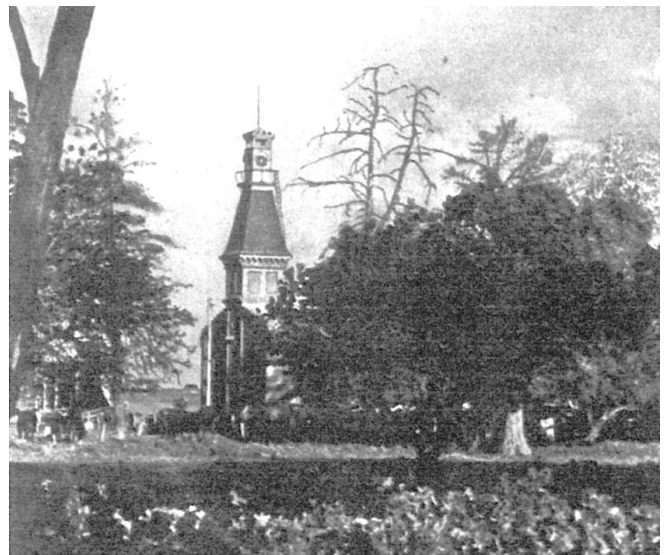
### The Boer War

Historian **Robin Droogleever** is currently writing the history of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Victorian contingent. He has previously published *That Ragged Mob: a regimental history of the Victorian Bushmen and Thornycroft's unbuttoned*.

Robin will be presenting a talk at the YGDHS meeting on Sunday 8 July. He will be speaking generally about Victoria's contribution to the Boer War and, if they can be identified, soldiers that had an association with this area. He is also interested to hear from any descendants of men who served in this war.

### THE YERING BOYS

*By Barry Watts*



*St Hubert's cellar with clock tower*

For a five-year period after the Second World War, the renowned *St. Hubert's* property at Yering was a Church of England Training Farm for Boys.

Originally part of the Ryrie brothers' 1838-1850 pastoral lease holding, *St. Hubert's* had undergone many changes in both ownership and use before the Church of England bought it in July 1945. Among its previous owners had been Hubert de Castella (who named it not after himself but his patron saint) and David Mitchell, Nellie Melba's father. Mitchell sold *St Hubert's* to Joseph Timms in 1905. Timms pulled out the vines due to lack of labour during World War 1 and turned to dairy farming.<sup>1</sup>

*St Hubert's* was not the first Victorian farming enterprise undertaken by the Church of England Boys' Society (CEBS). In 1937 the Rev R. G. Nichols conducted the Lysterfield Farm for Boys between Wellington Road and today's Monash Freeway. In 1942 CEBS took over management of this rural establishment, and its 40 resident boys, intending to train the lads in 'Christian citizenship and to help them find a vocation in life with training in mixed farming'. Two disastrous fires at the Lysterfield Farm during 1944 destroyed the main barn and a considerable amount of farm equipment. Then, to compound the

<sup>1</sup> Ray Henderson, *From Jolimont to Yering*, 2006, p.316

situation, the Government informed CEBS that the property was to be acquired as a catchment area for a water supply system then being expanded.<sup>2</sup>

“A decision was made in July [1945] to purchase a lovely property called *St Hubert's* situated at Yering” recorded the CEBS commemorative history published in 1988.<sup>3</sup> *The Argus*, in its issue of 18 August 1945 was more forthright: FAMOUS VINEYARD TO BE BOYS' FARM. The CEBS training farm “moves from Lysterfield within three or four months” *The Argus* told its readers. It quoted the chairman of CEBS, Canon P. W. Robinson, who forecast “*St Hubert's* [is] capable of being built up into one of the most up-to-date establishments of its kind in Australia.” Sixteen weeks later, 4 December 1945, the CEBS chairman paid over a cheque for the full purchase of *St Hubert's* including its stock and machinery.

*The Argus* covered the story on page 4 the following day:

#### CEBS BOYS' FARM BEGINS AT YERING.

*Ninety-four cows had to be milked at St Hubert's, Yering, the new boys' training farm...when the changeover from Lysterfield took place and the owner handed over the property... The farm supervisor and a team of boys went over from Lysterfield on Monday, and the first milking last evening was a great event for them.”*

A few days later, *The Age* published an extensive article and photograph quoting Canon Robinson, and commenting on the “old buildings” on the site.<sup>4</sup>

*These buildings, have long been a distinctive feature of the Lillydale<sup>5</sup> district, and are a reminder of the prosperous pioneer vineyard industry, which in the middle of last century was one of our most valued enterprises. The existing buildings are ecclesiastical in design, having a small spire and clock, and once contained the wine vats of the establishment. It is proposed to use the main building as the school chapel, and as time goes on to erect further buildings for the housing of the boys.*

The balance of the article, about 80 per cent of its length, was devoted to the history of *St Hubert's* and its early owners, the local wine industry and its successes, and lengthy quotes from Hubert de Castella's 1886 book *John Bull's Vineyard*.

The CEBS history publication, *Fifty Years On*, baldly recorded the move to *St Hubert's*:

*In addition to providing one shilling to all boys in Church of England Homes, Christmas Cheer this year enabled a bumper party at Lysterfield. This was the last to be held there as on 4<sup>th</sup> December the Farm was officially transferred from Lysterfield to Yering (p.15)*

In May 1946 Archbishop Booth attracted 2000 guests to *St Hubert's* for the hallowing of the property. A newspaper article recording this event provided more details of CEBS's plans:

*...The farm, which covers 523 acres (211.8ha) of fertile pastures along the banks of the Yarra, accommodates 24 boys in temporary dormitories, but when plans are completed the settlement will house 80 boys. Opportunities for boys who wish to learn farming will be unlimited on occupation. 110 cows have been put to this beautiful estate. ... and of these the boys are milking 80, using modern milking machine equipment. Later, mixed farming will be undertaken, giving the boys an opportunity to learn varied types of agriculture.<sup>6</sup>*



On a weekly roster basis the *St Hubert's* lads aged fourteen and over helped maintain a vegetable garden, assisted with the preparation of meals, served in the dining room, rounded up the cows, did the milking, and collected the eggs. They raised poultry, ploughed the fields, fed the calves and generally participated fully in farm life. The younger lads attended an on-site school and on Sundays travelled in the farm truck to Lillydale for a morning Church service.

The CEBS Board adopted a “master plan for the development of Yering” during 1946, and decided to launch a public appeal for funds, with a target of £50,000, to implement it.<sup>7</sup> They produced a twelve-page brochure containing eight large photographs of the lads of *St Hubert's* participating in various activities (at school, in the games room, dining, preparing meals, ploughing, harvesting, poultry-farming, and tending cows); two different shots of the de Castella wine vat building with its clock tower; the proposed new milking equipment; and three photographs of young men at the CEBS holiday camp at Frankston.

The main illustration, over two pages, was of the ‘Vision Splendid’ – an architect's drawing of the “*St Hubert's* of the Future” (see opposite page). The accompanying text reads in part:

*The plans have been completed down to the last detail, and when this building project is realized, St Hubert's will be able to accommodate and train many more lads than at present, in a manner of the ideals which St Hubert's represents. Of high priority will be the construction of new dormitories, better service facilities, recreational and hobby rooms and chapel.*

The Appeal brochure answered several important questions to persuade potential donors:

*WHO ARE THE BOYS? They are gathered from every sphere of life. Some are underprivileged, and are looking for a chance to satisfy the ambition of life. Others have strayed somewhat from a good standard of life, and are helped by the influence of the Training Farm. All are brought into a happy family life, irrespective of membership of any particular Church. ‘Need, not creed’ is the slogan of welcome.*

<sup>2</sup> Between 1936 and 1975 Lysterfield Lake supplied fresh water to the Mornington Peninsula. After 1975 Cardinia Reservoir became operational and Lysterfield Lake was no longer required. (source: Parks Victoria).

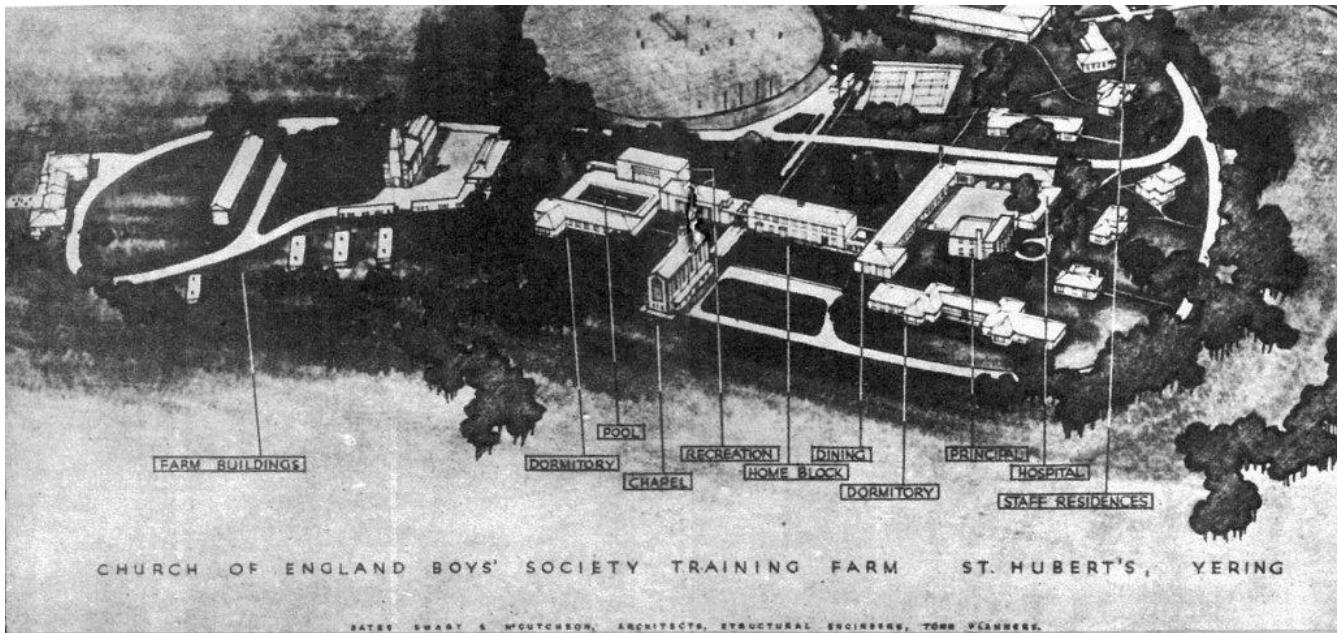
<sup>3</sup> *Fifty Years On: a History of CEBS in Melbourne 1939-1988*, p.14. [copies are held at the State Library of Victoria and The National Library of Australia, and described thus: ‘This document comprises selected pages from what appears to be an internal history written in 1988 relating to training farms run by the Church of England Boys' Society in Victoria, at Lysterfield, Yering and Tatura.’] (Underlining by me – B.W.)

<sup>4</sup> ‘HISTORIC LILLYDALE VINEYARDS NEW BOYS' FARM SCHOOL’ by H.W.L.S in *The Age*, 8 Dec, 1945.

<sup>5</sup> The original township was named Lillydale (two ‘l’s) in 1861; since 1872 the use of a single ‘l’ has become popularly accepted.

<sup>6</sup> Extract from unsourced press clipping dated 27 May 1946 [possibly *Lillydale Express*]

<sup>7</sup> *Fifty Years On*, p. 19.



The Appeal brochure also addressed the provision for the schooling for the lads – some of whom were only eleven or twelve years old. “Normal Primary School education is provided for the lads of *St Hubert’s* under teaching staff supplied by the Education Department,” reads the caption of a classroom photograph.<sup>8</sup> The theme is then expanded:

*Those who have shown outstanding scholastic ability are given an opportunity for higher education according to their gifts, and to study for any trade or profession they desire to enter, if they are not found to be adapted for farming.”*

#### Beach holidays?

*Each year the lads of St Hubert’s enjoy at least ten days at the seaside permanent camp of CEBS. Here, in the company of lads drawn from homes in every part of the city, the St Hubert’s boy becomes one of a happy family in which there are no distinctions. Here any lad would learn toleration and understanding, how to acquire true manliness, how to fit himself physically, mentally and spiritually, for the sterner battles of life.*

Throughout its twelve pages the Appeal brochure emphasizes the high moral values being instilled during CEBS training, with supporting references by Benjamin Franklin, Abraham Lincoln, John Ruskin and even Charles Dickens worked into the presentation. The final pages called for financial donations to support the *St Hubert’s* farm objectives – two forms were printed, the first soliciting “allowable deductions for income tax purposes” i.e. a single cash donation, and the second a Form of Bequest suggesting that CEBS Training Farm be nominated “in your Will” to receive a specific amount from the donor’s estate. Completed forms were to be sent to the Society’s address at the St Paul’s Cathedral Buildings, Melbourne. The brochure presented a clear message outlining the purpose of the Appeal and the broad benefits to accrue to the youth in their care, and as a result, the nation in general. It also underplayed the denominational aspects of the controlling body. Even today, two-thirds of a century later, it has the ring of a well conceived, professionally prepared document.

<sup>8</sup> Boys under the age of fourteen were regarded as the ‘junior boys’; they attended the single on-site classroom. Boys over fourteen, the ‘senior boys’, received farm training from the CEBS. The two groups occupied separate dormitories and were firmly discouraged from interacting.

In February 1948, two years after the acquisition of *St Hubert’s*, the chairman of CEBS Canon P. W. Robinson launched the Appeal.

*A public appeal was officially launched at the Melbourne Town Hall presided over by the Lord Mayor to raise funds for development of the St Hubert’s Farm property. Members of the Society ran a message by relay from the Farm at Yering to the Lord Mayor to arrive at the official opening. Rubber bricks were sold as a feature of the appeal.<sup>9</sup>*

The next morning’s *Argus* published a photograph of Canon Robinson with three Yering lads in shorts with the caption:

*Canon P W Robinson reading the dispatch carried to him by runners who ran in relays from Yering to Melbourne to mark the opening of a £50,000 appeal for St Hubert’s Training Farm at Yering.<sup>10</sup>*

Although these two paragraphs conflict about the recipient of the relay message, the publicity gained proved fruitful.

Three weeks later *The Argus* published another story under the headline: TATURA FARM GIVEN TO CEBS APPEAL

*Mr A. G. Maskell, of Burton Hall, Tatura, has given his freehold property of 330 acres [133.65ha] together with the homestead, to the Church of England Boy’s Society. The property is in an irrigation district. It will be used as an adjunct to St Hubert’s CEBS training farm at Yering. Canon P. W. Robinson, chairman, CEBS, and Mr G. J. Pengilly, assistant secretary, went to Tatura yesterday, at the request of Mr Maskell, to receive the title deeds of the property. Canon Robinson, chairman of the CEBS, said last night that Mr Maskell’s very generous gift was an indication of the interest aroused by the appeal for £50,000 to develop the work for underprivileged boys at the Yering training farm.<sup>11</sup>*

A fortnight later, the *Healesville Guardian* reported a forthcoming fund-raising event at Yarra Glen:

*...a ball was arranged and plans were made for the raising of money for St Hubert’s...the following*

<sup>9</sup> *Fifty Years On*, p. 21.

<sup>10</sup> *The Argus*, 3 Feb 1948, p 12.

<sup>11</sup> *The Argus*, 24 Feb 1948, p 3.

people are at the helm: President, Margaret Commerford; vice-presidents, Noel Taylor and Ivy Reade; secretary, Pat Kennedy; joint treasurers, Enid Ault and Mrs H Smith jnr.<sup>12</sup>

On a broader scale, an Art Exhibition of modern European paintings and sculpture was held at the Melbourne Town Hall in aid of the St Hubert's Appeal during July 1948.<sup>13</sup> The exhibition included items by Cezanne, Chagall, Degas, Augustus John, Monet, Orpen, Picasso, Renoir, Utrillo and Henry Moore, loaned by leading Melbourne citizens. How much this outstanding assemblage raised for the appeal has not been established.

The public appeal for funds, on the preceding evidence alone, appears to have been successful. At the very least, the CEBS work at Yering gained a far greater public awareness than it had previously known. As a result *St Hubert's* operated one of the most up-to-date dairies in Victoria, completed at an estimated cost of £10,000. It was

*equipped with milking machines, boiler-room, cooling room, a washing section, shower and dressing rooms, and a feed store and pens. Old buildings which once housed a flourishing winemaking business, are now mostly used for storing hay.*<sup>14</sup>

In February 1949 further funding was announced in the press:

*The care and training of orphan children from Britain will be a practical contribution to the present migration programme by the different Church denominations. The decision of the State Cabinet this week to make £90,000 available to assist in financing building work at Church institutions will make it possible for plans which have been held up for some time to be put in hand. The Commonwealth Government and the Churches will find another £180,000 to complete the work.*

*The Church of England Boys' Society will use its share of the grant towards erecting the first section of its new buildings at St Hubert's Training Farm, Yering. The section includes a dormitory and dining and service blocks. When this is erected it will be possible to house 75 migrant boys between 10 and 16 years. The boys will be trained for farm work.*

[The plans of other denominations then followed.]

*Under the welfare scheme the State government and the British government contribute towards the upkeep of the children in the homes.*<sup>15</sup>

A little over two months after this announcement, *St Hubert's* was involved in unsavoury allegations of ill-treatment and slave-labour working-hours for boy students. It was alleged that some boys worked from 3.30am until 5.45pm; that some were bashed; that their mail was censored; and that several boys had ran away.

*Truth's* front page headline ran: DEPT. PROBE INTO CHURCH SCHOOL FOR BOYS. The report occupied two pages and included interviews with two former staff members, the school principal, and members of the CEBS city-based Farm Committee.<sup>16</sup>

During an interview with *Truth* Mr Robin Donald Humphrys, who had resigned as the *St Hubert's* farm manager two weeks earlier,<sup>17</sup> claimed:

- while at the school he had seen boys brutally treated, punched and kicked, by a member of the staff
- on one occasion a staff member said to him: 'I did my block ... the boy struck me first and I acted in self-defence
- I have seen women on the establishment crying when boys are being beaten
- more than five boys had ran away from the school while he was there.

Mr Allan Joseph Edyvane, who had been dismissed as Dairy Manager at *St Hubert's* when Mr Humphrys resigned, wrote to the CEBS committee:

*...I am of the opinion that the principal (Mr R B Wilson) has victimized me because I took a stand in connection with others of the past and present staff against the shocking way certain boys are treated and the tyrannical methods and oppression meted out to them ...*

The CEBS committee in Melbourne, upon hearing these allegations, notified both Archbishop Booth and the police, and asked the *St Hubert's* principal (Mr R. B. Wilson) to stand down pending an inquiry. Archbishop Booth instructed the committee to contact the Children's Welfare department and seek for a prompt investigation. Police headquarters ordered Detective N. Cox of Lilydale to make inquiries.<sup>18</sup>

Mr Wilson, the Principal of *St Hubert's*, told *Truth*: "I say in general terms that I deny that there has been any bashings, either by myself or as far as I know by any member of the staff."

Sixty three years on (2012), it is nigh impossible to access the results of these investigations. *Truth* ran a follow-up story several weeks after breaking the initial news. The paper reported that the principal of *St Hubert's*, Mr Ronald Barr Wilson, had resigned his position because of ill health – a resignation that 'was in no way connected with the allegations, although they had aggravated the illness which had forced him to resign.'

In *Fifty Years On*, a curt paragraph outlines what happened next:

*Problems arising at the Farm. With the resignation of the Farm Principal and insufficient boys coming forward for Farm training it was decided to transfer the farm training scheme to the Tatura property and sell St Hubert's, Yering. Arrangement were made for placement of the boys of school age currently at the Farm...Mr A. L. Browne was appointed Acting Principal at Yering until the transfer was completed*<sup>19</sup>.

Then events transpired which sabotaged the proposed migrant boys scheme. The august Council of Empire Settlement (UK)

<sup>17</sup> "He was given an excellent reference by the principal when he resigned' – *Truth*, 16 Apr 1949, p. 1

<sup>18</sup> The information in the preceding four paragraphs draws solely on the *Truth* article of 16 Apr 1949; other substantiation of these claims, events and statements has not been established, save that they are broadly consistent with the unpublished autobiography of Peter Graeme Emberson who, as a twelve-year-old, was a 'St Hubert's boy' at the time.

<sup>19</sup> *Fifty Years On*, p.23. [This document was written in 1988, thirty-nine years after the Principal's resignation – B.W.]

<sup>12</sup> *Healesville Guardian*, 6 Mar 1948

<sup>13</sup> A 24 page exhibition catalogue is held at the State Library of Victoria (Bib ID280660)

<sup>14</sup> *Truth*, 16 Apr 1949

<sup>15</sup> *The Argus*, 5 Feb 1949, p. 15

<sup>16</sup> *Truth*, 16 Apr 1949, pp 1-2

found recruiting suitable children extremely difficult. Its Hon. Secretary wrote to Australia House on 26 September 1949:

*In spite of the fact that postwar child migration has been in operation for nearly three years, we are of opinion that Great Britain is not reconciled to the great opportunities and advantages which Australia offers to the children of 52 Local Authorities, only two had submitted children for migration.<sup>20</sup>*

‘The Vision Splendid’ for *St Hubert’s* was unravelling.

After producing a splendid brochure outlining grandiose plans for *St Hubert’s* and conducting a successful Public Appeal (supported by church leaders, Melbourne’s Lord Mayor and its elite art-lending citizenry), CEBS was faced with the task of publicly explaining why, within two and a half years, they were abandoning their *St Hubert’s* proposal for an irrigation farm at Tatura which even lacked an electricity supply.

CEBS placed a display advertisement in *The Argus* on Friday 8 July 1950.<sup>21</sup> The Society’s general secretary (J. Wills) set out a ten paragraph rationale commencing with the Lysterfield training farm ‘in the depression’, its resumption by the State government, and the transfer to Yering. “With encouragement of the Government bodies,” he wrote, “plans were prepared for an establishment capable of caring for 96 boys, and farm improvements in keeping with this responsibility were made with the aid of generous benefactions and an appeal to the public.” Just as contracts were “about to be let for the erection of the main buildings, warnings came from the Government migration authorities” that the “supply of migrant boys over school age for farm training was not materializing,” and the Government was no longer prepared to subsidise new accommodation buildings. He made the point that “fewer and fewer local boys were offering for farm training owing to the high wages offering on farms and in other employment for unskilled workers.” This meant the original scheme would have to be “drastically curtailed” although “a modified scheme could be inaugurated” on the smaller Tatura property.

Mr Wills continued:

*Irrigation property proved to offer greater scope for training with less exacting hours of work than the dairy property at Yering...[which emphasized] the advantages of the small family unit type of farm training, often referred to as the ‘cottage system’, as against the institutional type envisaged at Yering ... The Society has, therefore, decided to dispose of the Yering property and concentrate on the Tatura farm...*

He concluded with the observation that henceforth all activities would be conducted under the name of ‘The CEBS Training Scheme for Boys’<sup>22</sup>.

It is noteworthy that the name ‘St Hubert’s’ was not used anywhere within this 400 word official statement made in 1950 – only the district name ‘Yering’ – perhaps indicating that the *Truth* allegations had tainted the *St Hubert’s* name in CEBS’s judgement.

The *St Hubert’s* property was sold in 1950/51 to Mr Fred Rowe. It included a two storey house, a coach house, cellars, barn, milking shed, and two double-storey mens’ quarters. The land was then subdivided with Rowe retaining 143 acres (60ha) on which he built a new home and dairy.

In 1966 *St Hubert’s* became the first Yarra Valley property to replant vines, and eight years later produced its first commercial vintage.

**For an account of the experiences of one 12 year old boy at *St Hubert’s* see p.6**

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### ***The Six Sisters***

The emigrant ship, the *Six Sisters* (also known as *Zes Gesusters*) arrived at Geelong from England on 13 January 1853.

A reunion for descendants of passengers will be held on Sunday 13 January 2013 at Geelong to celebrate 160 years since its arrival at Point Henry.

Passenger family names include

Atkinson, Balding, Barker, Barraclough, Bell, Belsy, Benfield, Bort (Bolt, Bott), Brain, Brown, Bulfield, Bumpstead, Cochrane, Cox, Deans, Dedman, Eves, Ewing, Fletcher, Fox, Frusher, Fry, Giles, Goldsmith, Goodman, Grey Hall, Hankin, Harper, Hawkins, Higgins, Hogarth, Horne, Hunt, Hutchinson, Kemp, Lambourne, Malcolm, McCarthy, McFarlane, McMeekin, Moir, Newland, Nunn, Oakey, O’Grady, Parker, Perry, Pinnell, Pitman, Pratt, Prentice, Read, Rowland, Sampson, Scott, Spence, Sprake, Steel, Sulman, Swift, Taylor, Totnall, Vaught, Wakefield, Warren, Warrington, Webb, Whittington, Wiltshire, Young.

For more information contact Rob Newland at [robnewland@yahoo.com.au](mailto:robnewland@yahoo.com.au)

<sup>20</sup> Document A436, 1947/5/4171

<sup>21</sup> The CEBS advertisement appeared on p.7, beneath one for Wunderlich roof tiles and Durabestos asbestos-cement sheeting.

<sup>22</sup> The word ‘Farm’ was no longer utilised.



### *Peter Emberson: one of the 'Yering Boys'*

**Peter Graeme Emberson** (above) became a 'junior boy' at *St Hubert's* in 1947 aged 11. His widowed mother withdrew him from their care immediately following the public allegations of mistreatment in 1949. He subsequently undertook an apprenticeship in a plant nursery, married, and raised a family.

In the year 2000 he drafted his autobiography, *The Life and Times of Peter Graeme Emberson*, part of which has been made available to us.<sup>23</sup> It provides a fascinating view of his time at *St Hubert's*. The following are quotes from his writing:

*Having decided at the age of eleven that I wanted to be a farmer, I developed the idea that if I attended such a Training Farm, I would have made a start.*

*...After several talks and interviews with the Church, the last being with the Principal of the Training farm, my mother signed for me to attend and be accepted at the Church's own school to commence in the seventh grade. (p.55)*

*Anything I relate now [in the year 2000, it] must be remembered that I was only 12 years old. I could not have known all the facts. (p.69)*

*The boys I came into contact with were to some degree orphans and delinquents. I clearly remember two brothers from Fitzroy who had been placed in the care of the church and both were quite wild.*

*...Saturday night was the big night out to the picture theatre at Lilydale. Sundays were for attending church at the Church of England in Lilydale, again in the farm truck. The main interest the boys had (self included) in attending Church was to meet girls.*

*...During these visits to Church, I developed the love to sing hymns. Len Brown [the *St Hubert's* Housemaster] soon had me in the Boys Choir...so twice every Sunday I attended Church. The trips home in the truck were looked forward to as Len Brown stopped at a Milk Bar near Coldstream, called 'Mum's Kitchen' so we could all spend some pocket money on lollies.<sup>24</sup> The big break was after church on Sundays when my mother would arrive at the church, driven by my brother-in-law...many happy picnics were had before they took me back to the farm.*

*After about four to five months at the farm, I became rostered to do duty at the dairy, rising at 4.30am to bring in the cows and then the milking.*

*...During school hours (one room for all grades) I was not happy or ever an average student. The [teaching] position was for a bachelor and some unpleasant experiences are remembered.*

*One night after dinner three other boys and I were rostered to do the dishes. To pass this unpleasant job we developed into singing as boys at that age might do. The school teacher, named McCubbin, was having his dinner in the next room. He told us to keep quiet. I considered that this man had no right to inflict his power on us after school hours. Also we were then in the charge of Len Brown and I recommenced the singing after he left. He again entered the room we were in and asked who started the singing? Boys of that age living together, although we had our differences, always developed a sense of not dobbling in a mate, so none replied to his question. He went to the nearest boy and slapped him on the face: no answer came. The same with the second and third. When he slapped me on the face I slapped him on the face as hard as I could. He then punched me in the body, arms and face and I was carried off to my bed. (p.56-7)*

*The next day all hell broke loose. McCubbin came up asking about my health, "Are you all right? I didn't mean to hit you." The other boys treated me as their hero. The acting Principal asked me about my version. A few days later McCubbin was gone; and a few days after that we received a new teacher. (p.70)*

*The Principal Mr R. B. Wilson (we called him Mr. Rotten Bastard Wilson, behind his back of course)... If a boy got sick, like the flu or a fever, he made them leave the normal dormitory and spend the night at the manor house, the principal's residence. I remember a senior boy saying, "If you get sick, never tell Wilson and never stay overnight at his residence." I believe he was interfering with the boys and they were too scared to say. He did try this on me on one occasion when I was sick and I played dumb and moved away. The next morning I reported as being much better. Wilson came to leave the employ of the Church. They were well rid of him. (p.69)*

*[The day after the Truth allegations] on Sunday morning well before the truck left to take us to Church in Lilydale, there at the farm gate were Leila, Roy and Mum. "Are you OK? Are you all right? We've come to take you home." I was amazed I had no knowledge of anything being wrong. Everything that I had experienced had been set in my mind as normal. One didn't whinge about the ups and downs of school life. I was 12 and quite able to take care of myself. (p.69)*

*I have since visited the area with my daughter (1979) and the [then] present owners were very kind to show me over the grounds and the house...she could not believe my statement that I and other boys had slept in [the old stables] building, as the inside would not now be fit to keep animals. Coming back to this place after 30 years brought back many memories. (p.56)*

<sup>23</sup> Pages 55 to 76 only

<sup>24</sup> Probably refers to 'Mum's Pantry', originally started by a Mr Owens at the corner of Maroondah Highway & North Road, Lilydale – quite some distance from Coldstream.