

## COUGHLAN

### **James Coughlan**

b.1898 d. 1969

### **Ivy Coughlan**

d.1939

### **Ronald Coughlan**

b.1917 married Amy Brosher b.1922 d.2009

Son Alan, Daughter June

### **Jack Coughlan**

b. 1921 m. Eileen Fowkes 1945

### **Eileen Coughlan**

**d.1983**

Son Barry, daughter Patricia

### **Keith Coughlan**

b.1923

Son Terry, daughter Cheryl

### **Wilma Coughlan**

b. 1930 (twin) m. Ray Bateson 1953

Daughters Gail & Donna

### **Nola Coughlan**

B 1930 (twin) M. Ray Jackson 1955

Son Ron, Daughter Vicki

## Coughlan (Cont'd)

### Photos

D000035, 250, 251, 301, 569, 570, 572, 579, 580, 1409, 1420, 1421, 2065,  
2280



Amy Elizabeth Coughlan  
14<sup>th</sup> August 1922 - 12<sup>th</sup> February 2009

The Coughlan family wish to  
thank you sincerely for your  
care, love and support  
in appreciation and remembrance  
of our  
Amy Elizabeth.

*Baron and Members of Dingley  
Village Historical Society.*

*Many thanks for your kind  
thoughts and your support.*

*Ron and Family.*

# RON COUGHLAN ORAL HISTORY

## PART 1 FIRST FLEET DESCENDANT

October 1997

Ron Coughlan not only contains a wealth of knowledge about Dingley Village from 1925 onwards, his family history includes three descendants arriving on the First Fleet.

Supplied with this history are the following photostat documents:

1. Coughlan Family Tree.
2. Settlers Blocks on Norfolk Island 1796.
3. Thomas, Bryan, Editor, 'Nathaniel and Olivia, The Lucas Family', First Fleet Publication, 1988. (26/1/1988 - Bi-centenary day)
4. Boddy, Doris M, Beyond the Ninety Mile, The Early Happenings of Woodside, Bruthen Creek, Snugborough, Mullundung, Cherry Tree Flat and Balloong'.
5. Ivy Hunter: (Ron's mother) Sixth Grade Exercise Book: Balloong State School
6. Copy Photograph: 'Last trip of train from Goodwood Mill to Port Albert' 14/7/1920 - 'Mona'.

### **Nathaniel Lucas (1764-1818)**

Born c1764 in Thames Ditton near Kingston, Surrey, England and became a master carpenter. Although Nathaniel maintained his innocence which is to be given credibility, he was convicted and sentenced to seven years transportation.

Nathaniel lived in lodgings at a public house in Holborn, near London and because he wasn't a drinker and wouldn't patronise the bar, the publican's wife wanted the room for a more profitable lodger. Items reported stolen by a neighbour were found under Nathaniel's mattress. Until the day he died Nathaniel believed he was framed.

Placed aboard the 'Scarborough', the fleet landed in Sydney Cove on 26 January 1788, Nathaniel then 24 years of age. Shortly after landing, it was decided to settle Norfolk Island, as a source of food supply to the new colony, but more importantly to inhabit the island to dissuade the French from settlement. Governor Phillip organised Gidley King to form a party, Nathaniel volunteered and was transported with around 14 other convicts, including Olive Gascoigne his future wife, on the smaller ship 'Supply'. They landed on Norfolk Island on 6th March, 1788 at Sydney Bay having circumnavigated the island seeking a landing site. This remains the only suitable landing point on the island today.

Nathaniel and Olivia married and had 13 children, 11 of whom were born on Norfolk Island. The first settlement on Norfolk Island was not a penal settlement although eventually convicts were sent out onto the island. Nathaniel had a long history on the island forming a close working relationship with the commandant, Gidley King.



Ron and Amy Coughlan with a photograph from their wedding day and below relaxing at Coughlan Reserve.

N33MS304

# Diamond days for Dingley couple

RON and Amy Coughlan's former Dingley farmhouse was once famous as the police station on the long-running ABC soap *Bellbird*.

The pair sold their poultry farm to a sand extraction business more than 20 years ago and resettled in Marcus Rd.

This month, Mr and Mrs Coughlan celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary.

Mr Coughlan grew up in Dingley and left school at the height of the Depression in 1931.

He ran a small dairy farm with his family on land that is now the Kingswood Golf Links.

Mr Coughlan met his wife-to-be when the family moved to Labertouche in Gippsland and they married at the Church of England in Drouin. *SECRETARY, VESTRY MEMBER*

Mr Coughlan has served as ~~member~~ and secretary of the Dingley Church of England, master of the Springvale Masonic Lodge and president of the Dingley Football Club.

Coughlan Reserve in Dingley was named after the Coughlan family.

The couple has two children, June and Alan, and five grandchildren.



**Coughlan – James** – Information supplied by Ron Coughlan

**James Coughlan** – was born at Walwa in the Upper Murray region of Victoria, in 1898. He went to Gippsland in 1915 to work for an uncle who was partner in the Goodwood Timber Company. He obtained an engine drivers certificate, and drove a small narrow gauge engine taking timber out of the Mullendung Forest near Woodside, to Port Albert for shipment to Melbourne.

He met and married **Ivy Hunter** of Balloong (now Hunterston) near Yarrum in 1916. When the mill closed, he shifted to Wyalla, South Australia (then known as Hummock Hill), and was employed as an engine driver with B.H.P. Company, driving the trains that took the iron ore from Iron Knob to Wyalla for shipment to Newcastle, N.S.W.

In 1925, the family moved to Springvale, where Jim Coughlan was employed as an engine driver, and fitter, by Kelly and Lewis, who were at that time generating their own electricity supply. He lived for a short time in Ash Grove and later Moncur Ave. In late 1925, he purchased a 5 acre property in McLure Road, Dingley, for 500 pound (\$1000) from a Mr Kenyon.

In 1930, with the advent of the depression, and working only part time at Kelly & Lewis, he rented, from Gartside Bros. That area which is now the Kingswood Golf Course. He was instrumental in clearing a large area of it on which he dairied until 1935 - the milk was sold to Mick Bowler, of Heather Hill Dairy.

He sold the McLure Rd property in late 1935, and the family moved to Larbertouche in Gippsland where they continued dairy farming. He retired to Melbourne in the 1950's and was employed by the V.A.T.C. at the Caulfield Racecourse.

**James Coughlan** died in 1969, aged 79 years  
**Ivy Coughlan** died in 1939

3 sons and 2 daughters survived them.

**Ronald Coughlan** – born Wyalla S.A. in 1917, attended Dingley State School 1926 – 1932. Returned to Dingley from Gippsland in 1955, and poultry farmed in Spring Road until the property was purchased for sand extraction in 1975, and now lives at 30 Marcus Rd Dingley. He married **Amy Brosher** in 1943 at Drouin. They have 1 daughter – **June** (Mrs Reymers), and 1 son **Alan** who both attended Dingley State School

**Jack Coughlan** – born at Yarram in 1921, attended Dingley State School 1926- 1935, farmed in Gippsland during the 1940 – 50's. Married **Eileen Fowkes** in Drouin , 1945. Returned to Melbourne in the 1950's, moving to Barker Street, Cheltenham, and worked as a maintenance mechanic for the V.A.T.C. at Caulfield for 20 years. Jack Coughlan now resides in Port Albert.

**Eileen Coughlan** - died in 1983, leaving 1 son **Barry**, and 1 daughter **Patricia**

**Keith Coughlan** – was born Port Pirie S.A., in 1923, and attended Dingley State School 1928- 1935, and later farmed at Larbertouche, Saw war service, first in Geraldton, South Australia, and later in New Guinea. Married **Sheila Pitarine** at Drouin , 1946 was one of the first farmers on the Nambrok – Dennison Soldier Settlement Scheme, where he farmed for 25 years. They had 1 son, **Terry**, and 1 daughter **Cheryl**. Keith Coughlan now lives at 9 Buckley St, Sale, and Victoria.

**Wilma Bateson and Nola Jackson**, (both nee Gouglan) – twins – were born in Sister William's Private Hospital, Springvale – 1930.

**Wilma** married **Ray Bateson** at Warragul in 1953, and has 2 daughters **Gail** and **Donna** – is farming in Larbertouche.

**Nola** married **Ray Jackson** at Yarram in 1955, and has 1 son **Ron** and 1 daughter **Vicki** – in farming at Yarram.

**Oral History**  
**Ron Coughlan (cont)**  
**1997**

**December**

When we returned to Dingley to live in 1955 the Kingswood golf links were laid out, otherwise there had not been much development. The shops opposite Dingley Primary School didn't exist and the area was still scrub all the way down to the lower road. The area was very much as we had left it in 1935. The market gardens and poultry farms were continuing with the same families. Howsons, Kings, Barnetts and, Souters on Spring Road. Spring Road had not changed in appearance, the houses had been there in 1935. The school had grown from about 50 pupils when we left to around 100 on our return. June was 11 years of age and Alan was 9 when we I returned with my own family. They finished primary schooling at Dingley before their secondary education at Dandenong Girls and Springvale High respectively.

There was a good bus service on our return but still that didn't help open up the place. Initially few of the residents had cars and most kids walked to school.

The store which was a little wooden shop remained next to the school on Lower Dandenong Road. It was in its original condition and had been built well before the school. In 1925 when I was a kid a Miss Roddy ran the store. She was an old lady then, her nephew Basil Thompson, then aged about 16, used to help her. After Miss Roddy a family called Weir took over the store. The Weirs took on the Post Office licence. Mr Weir was a retired Army Captain, from India, I think. He was an Army type and used to go by the name 'Captain'. Mrs Weir used to run the store. Originally the store had quite a large strip of vacant land abutting the school with a row of large pine trees and a little tin shed. I never saw it opened. There was a petrol bowser that never seemed to sell petrol.

Apart from a few odd houses nothing had visually changed in 30 years. It was shortly after our return that one began to notice a difference, things started to move. Around 1960 Chadwick, a developer from, I think, Brighton, and later a Councillor, had the first subdivision in Pauline Avenue. I can remember Bill Belt, the local Real Estate Agent saying they would sit there weekend after weekend and never sold a block. All of a sudden they sold a couple of blocks and a better type of house went in, this encouraged development and the housing explosion began.

We purchased a free range egg farm in Spring Road in 1955 on our return. Down the track and on sale to Ready Mix, we had 18 months of further living in the property, eventually being asked to leave we were allowed to sell the house for removal. The house was moved to Neerim East. We purchased a house on Marcus Road where we have remained. Intending to eventually build on Timms Crescent where we owned a block, we settled well into Marcus Road and sold the block.

The housing development in Dingley seemed to mushroom overnight from the late sixties to 1975. The building of Kingswood Primary School gave incentive for housing development down Howard Road and Dingley took on a suburban look.

Sand mining in the area didn't have a great visual impact. The sand extracted lay 2 to 3 feet below the surface. The topsoil was bulldozed into a front bank to shield the mining from the frontage. There were only a couple of pits in existence in 1935. A



### DINGLEY 1926 - 1930.

As seen by past pupil Ron Coughlan.

Dingley in the period between 1926 to 1930 was roughly defined as the area bounded by Clarke, Springvale, Centre Dandenong and Tootals Roads, the only other roads within these boundaries being Spring, Marcus, McClure, Howard and Rowan. Centre Dandenong Road was a narrow strip of bitumen as was Springvale Road, the other roads being mainly formed and covered with a thin coating of 'marl' from a pit in Clarke Road, giving a reasonable surface in summer but cut up badly in winter.

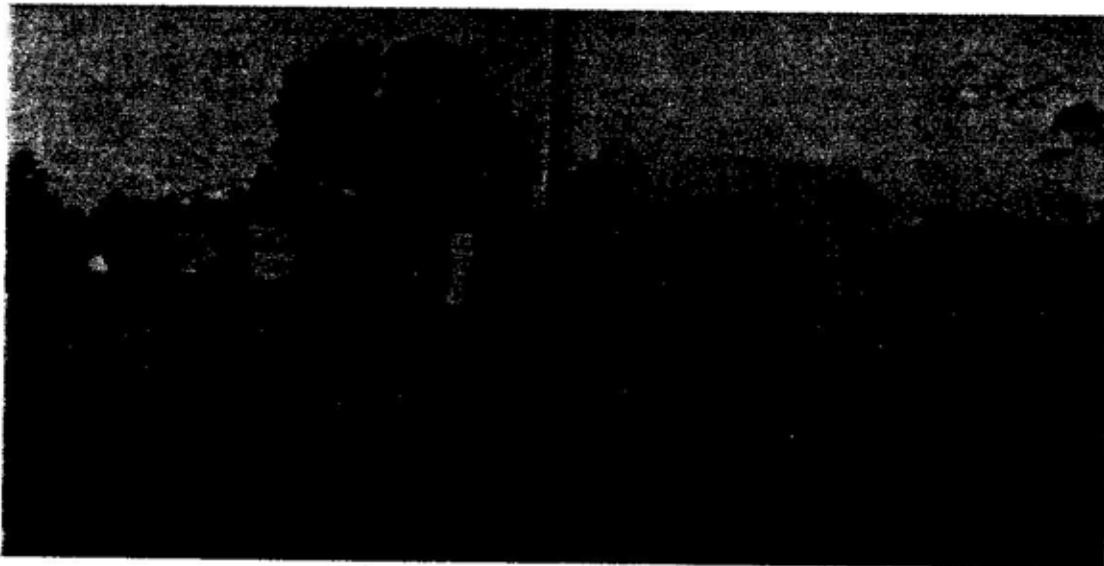
With the exception of Gartside's Cannery referred to in those days as the 'Pickle Factory' Dingley was mainly a rural area of scrub, market gardens and a scattering of poultry farms. A few small dairy farms were in the area, namely Bowlers 'Heather Hill Dairy', on the corner of Spring and McClure Roads and Kingstons opposite the old Church of England, also on Lower Dandenong Road, where the Southern Golf Club now stands. Market Gardens occupied most of the area between the old Church of England and the Five Ways. On the left side were Barnetts and Kings on the right Souter Bros., Leeworthys, Hamlings and Howsons.

Hollands were on Howard Road. Wm. Souter Sen. occupied the property on the corner of Centre Dandenong and Tootals Road, moving later to the property on Spring Road which is now the housing area jutting into Kingswood Golf Club.

George and Elliot Swallow had a large area under market garden in Tootals Road as also did Bookers. A couple of poultry farms were also in Tootals Road, namely Norm. Mickleborough and Harold Hill - Norm is still in the industry in Old Dandenong Road, Harold Hill still occupying the property in Tootals Road.

Most of the pupils in those days came from within a mile radius of the school, with the exception of the Harders family who walked from the corner of Spring and Clarke Roads. Rickards and Smithards were in the Springvale Road area, Condons and Jenkins in Rowan Road, a good proportion were from Spring Road, but the majority were from Centre Dandenong Road.

Our first Headmaster was Mr. H. A. Jones, assisted by a sewing mistress - Ruth Penn - for the early part of its history. She was later replaced by Miss Morris, who used to cycle from Keysborough daily. Mr. Jones occupied a house in Spring Road, Dingley but later moved to Springvale, and then drove each day to school in a horse and jinker.



Home of the Monk family George(39-45) Hazel (40-45) William(45) in Spring Road facing present tip area. Track leads in to back of Kingswood Golf Club. (This was probably the home of the Talbot children). 1925.



City of  
**KINGSTON**

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11 July 2000

4/1

Mr R J Coughlan  
30 Marcus Road  
DINGLEY 3172

Dear Mr Coughlan

**Re: Coughlan Reserve off Seaton Drive, Dingley**

I refer to previous correspondence, and am now pleased to inform you that the new name of "Coughlan Reserve" has been officially accepted by the relevant Vicnames authority, and duly gazetted.

The reserve is now therefore officially known as "Coughlan Reserve".

A sign indicating the new name will be prepared, and installed upon the reserve later this year.

Your Ward Councillor, John Ronke, has asked me to pass on his congratulations to your family, and his pleasure that the history of the Coughlan family has now been formally recognised in this appropriate way.

Yours sincerely

**Peter Frost**  
**Governance Administrator**

CC Cr John Ronke  
Team Leader Parks and Urban Design



Kingston Historical Society

COUGHLAN

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## Poultry Farming at Dingley

For decades poultry farming was an important industry in the Kingston area. This was acknowledged in the seal of the Shire of Moorabbin where a cockerel was featured in the top right quadrant. Writers in the local press gave advice on breeding, feeding, marketing and other matters of concern to anyone keeping fowls. In 1914 poultry farms were spread from Ormond, through Cheltenham and Mentone to Mordialloc.[1]



*Seal of the Municipality of Moorabbin.*

In 1955 Ron Coughlan bought 'WillowBend', a poultry farm in Spring Road, Dingley from Chris Howe. The property had a septic tank system and both power and water were connected but as Ron explained the water supply was poor. "We were still under State Rivers and it was still the old wooden pipe line. We would connect up a thousand gallon tank at the end of the hay shed in the summer time. To keep the drinkers going for the fowls we used to have to switch off the main and switch on the thousand gallon tank to keep the drinkers up." [2]

"The power was very poor. We were right at the end of the line. We used to have a job to even get a jug to boil in the wintertime during the peak period. We had an electric stove but it wouldn't even cook a meal there was such a drop in power."

"There were four rows of poultry pens each of which were divided into five units. Each unit held about one hundred fowls. So the farm consisted of about two thousand birds which was the norm for poultry farms at that time," said Ron. "Day old chicks were bought and placed in a four tier brooder in a room set aside for this purpose. The chickens were kept in this warm environment until they were about one month old when they would be gradually be transferred to a weaner where there was no heat. There they remained for a fortnight before being placed in 'colony runs' - little sheds with a run for them to exercise and grow. From there they were placed in the pens."

Ron Coughlan – Interview 2

Betty (Ron's sister) always used to have a bath of a night and ... ah ... anyhow ... she was bathing there one night and Joe went under the house with a stick and she's sittin' in a bath full of water like that and Joe put the stick up and knocked the plug out ... yeah ... He came back inside and left her sittin' up in the empty bath ... yeah ... good fun ... good clean fun.

Cookin' pancakes on an open fire at Hancock's lookout in the Flinders Ranges looking down at the lights of Whyalla, Port Augusta and Port Pirri. Yeah she said it was a beautiful night, she said it was overcast but it was clear, she said you could see the lights of Whyalla, you know, forty or fifty miles away, quite clear and Port Pirri directly opposite the top of Spencer Gulf and Port Augusta just down at their feet.

Qn: Do you recall a "Bayview Quarry"?

A: I can't recall a Bayview. When we sold out we sold to Ready Mix but Ready Mix may have been part of Bayview.

We spoke about the house and the shower and the bath. the other question I wanted to ask you was: At home of a night time when you would've come back from ... well come out of the work with the eggs ... ah ... dinner time at home ... What did Mum cook on ... what was life like for Mum cooking in the kitchen.

A: Well there was just a wood stove, just a stove that had a, just a, I think it was built into a fireplace at the back ... or was it? No, I think the open fire was ... we had a ... brick ... with an open fire place what was the sitting room and um ... but I ... the kitchen ... I ... I just can't remember what the stove was like but it was just a brick stove.

Qn: Not electric?

Yeah there was no power anywhere in Dingley. Nowhere. We walked around with kerosene lights, you know, just the lights with the kerosene with a wick and ...

Qn: So would you have had a curfew? Would you have had to be home by a certain time when you were say early teens?

No. No we, um, no we always had um, we used to get home from school about um, oh you know about half past three, quarter of an hour, twenty minutes to get home, and um, it was a piece of bread and jam. The dad had um, you know we had the five acres there and the dad had um about um, oh about five or six bee hives and ... ah ... we used to get our own honey. Yeah ... and we used to store it in four-gallon tins, you know, so the honey used to be, he-he, used to have to get the honey out of a four-gallon kerosene tin ... to put on your bread. And I can remember Doug Gartside, he was a great mate of Jack's. Jack and Doug grew up together, and I think I've got Doug's photo in that there, and um ... he used to always come home with Jack (Ron's brother) of a night and they never got home ... they used to take anything up to an hour to get home from school. They used to walk across the paddock and we could see them coming, ah you know, when ... Mum and I used to be milking the cows after I'd left school and you'd see Jack

# RON COUGHLAN ORAL HISTORY

## PART 1 FIRST FLEET DESCENDANT

October 1997

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