

## GIONIS

**Frank**

Dingley Village

**Photos:** D000577, 578, 580, 1418, 1419, 1420, 1421, 2550

interview with Frank Gionis  
23<sup>rd</sup> April 2010  
Interviewed by Penny Flannery

Frank, what was it like growing up in Dingley?

It was pretty good. When you look back now we were pretty lucky. We didn't like it much as kids because you had one neighbour a hundred yards up, another one two hundred yards up, and another one 4 paddocks over in the bush. But it's pretty good when you look around at things today. As I said to you before, the first year I started school I rode a three wheel bike one mile to school and home again. No flash one with the chain driven onto the back wheels- just pedals on the front wheel. Spring Road then was probably about half as wide as it is now. You'd have a car every five or ten years – that's exaggerating but hardly any cars. It was a bitumen Road because pop Collie from around the corner used to deliver the ice twice a week to everybody in the district and you'd hear his steel rims on the wooden spoke wheels coming down from Clarke Road rattling on the bitumen and then once a week he'd come back as the bottle'o. He had a heap what seemed to me like hundreds of pigeons just around the corner here in Spring Road, next to Joe Souters. When we left state school and went to tech school- that was grade 6- in today's terms you're talking going from Year 6 to Year 7. I think it was four and half miles to tech school- we used to have to ride our bikes 365 days a year, summer and winter. The kids used to come from Clayton and everywhere else and they used to laugh at you when you said Dingley so we used to say Springvale. But with our close neighbours here well they're lifelong friends to this day we're spread everywhere but we're going back to '47 when we came here.

How old were you when you came here?

A two year old kid- probably two and a bit and me brother was just a baby and the other three were born here- the sister and the two younger brothers. But the other mates across the Road the Savages they came here in '49 – two families of them and the other mates the Hallet's whose house I'm in now in