

LETTER RECEIVED 7 MARCH, 1982. from MYRTLE WADDELL.

Dear Sir,

My father John Waddell, son of the late W. H. Waddell, lived in Fairfield where he was born, for 86½ years at that time, He was the longest living citizen in Fairfield. John Waddell was asked to compile some of the history of early Fairfield, and some of the history of his father's business as a Journalist. I am sorry, I can't remember all that my father talked about, when friends called in and talked about the good old days of Fairfield.

A horse drawn Tram was driven through Station Street, to promote the Sale of land. Fairfield was the scene of the first land boom, a more unlikely place for a township, can hardly be imagined. It was then a wilderness of briar and outcropping basalt. Unmade and flooded streets did not enhance any latent beauty, the land seller may have boasted. Truly the sturdy pioneers spirit was needed, but it was forthcoming. During winter it was almost impossible to cross the flooded lowlands on which poured water from Macdonald Lake, and from, the north down Fairfield Road. Street lighting was of the poorest, the hurricane lamp was a great friend. Years later gaslights were placed in the unmade streets. Transport was poor, my grandfather walked from above Separation Street to Heidelberg Road, then to Clifton Hill, to catch a train, which went around by North Fitzroy and the Zoo to Melbourne. The same in reverse at night. At that time there were no lights along the way. My grandmother used to hang a Kerosene lamp on the front verandah every night so her husband would not lose his way. Prior to these happenings my Grandparents lived at Prahran. My grandmother had poor health, her doctor advised her to get to Fairfield Park for the clean fresh air. My grandparents spent many happy years in Fairfield, Grandfather lived for 89 years and Grandmother 93½ years. They had 5 sons. During their time many swagmen knocked on their door. No-one went away hungry or without a coin in their pocket. On their way out, many would put a cross on the gate so their mates would receive the same. The Grandparents soon became involved in the local activities.

My Grandfather was present at the opening of the Church of England, Saint Paul's in Station Street, It may have been the first church in Fairfield; She and two sons attended the church until the Methodist Church in Gillies Street was opened. The family were present at the official opening. Prior to this my Grandfather walked from Fairfield to Scot's Church in Melbourne every Sunday morning. He soon joined the Methodist Church at Fairfield, he became a Trustee of the Church, and the Superintendent of the Sunday School for many years. Grandma was involved in the activities of the Church, a leading member of the Choir and pianist. Two sons were interested in singing. John, my Father won his heat in the South Street Ballarat competitions and received an honorable mention in the finals to compete in the Sun Aria. By this time my Grandfather was well established in the business world. He was born in Scotland in 1863. He was educated at a public school in Glasgow, He arrived in Melbourne by sailing ship in 1880 at the age of 17 years. He attended night school in Melbourne. He became Senior partner of the Mercantile Exchange He had the first telephone in Victoria at Byron Moores. He attended the first opening of Parliament in 1901. He was a Justice of the Peace and the first Justice of the

Peace for the four states. He had an entry in the 1938 edition of 'Who's Who' in Australia and 1944, 1947 and one in 'Table Talk' 1924.

My Grandmother had an entry in 'Principal Women of the Empire 1940' Australia, New Zealand, London — Mitre Press.

W. H. Waddell was manager of Country Press Co-op Company from 1901. Secretary, Victorian Provincial Press since formation 1910. Member of executive of Australian Provincial Press Association until 1946. Advocate in Commonwealth Conciliation & Arbitration Court since 1st Provincial Press ~~organised~~ Award 1924 and for whole Australian Provincial Press. organised Victorian Country Press, on behalf of the Government for War Publicity, carried out voluntarily throughout World War 1. The President, Mr. H. J. Manning of the Australian Provincial Press dedicated a book to W. H. Waddell J. P.. A guide, Philosopher and friend of the Australian Press Association.

"I feel anything I say will inadequately convey to the readers, how faithfully W. H. Waddell has served his brethren of the 4th Estate. He is a rare personality, inasmuch as he earned the respect of all, with whom he came in contact, I venture to say that no-one in the Commonwealth has a better knowledge, nor a more sympathetic consideration of the requirements of the men and women of the A.P.P.A who are producing newspapers under adverse conditions. It is from W. H. Waddell that these people receive their inspiration. In the wider sphere of Australian Journalism. He has taken a noble part, with W. H. W the individual became subservient to the cause, one felt that nothing detrimental to the interests of the newspaper interests and industry would happen, while the little man, W.H.W was at the helm. for this alone he has earned the undying gratitude of newspaper proprietors, the A.P.P.A never had a more ardent supporter than W.H.W. when the necessity arises his services were never sought in vain. Not only have you rendered loyal and interested service to your State Association, but in your honorary capacity as Advocate for the Australian Press Assoc. since the introduction of Arbitration Laws by the Commonwealth Parliament, you have won the confidence of each Judge of the Court, before whom you have appeared, as well as that of the Registrars with whom you have conferred. In addition by your strict impartiality and straightforwardness, in all negotiations, the respect of Employees, Advocates and Delegates attending conferences has always been acknowledged a personal tribute to the ability with which you, have conducted your case."

On the attainment<sup>at</sup> of W. H. Waddell 80th birthday the Association presented him with an Illuminated address at a dinner given in his honor.

The late Mr. Menzies, Prime Minister who was a personal friend of W. H. Waddell was present. W. H. W. served as Justice of the Peace for Mr. Menzies on several occasions.

MR. W. H. Waddell was a Councillor of the Shire of Heidelberg for 18 years during that period he served as President from 1873-4. He represented Fairfield with Councillors Porta & Donnelly in 1891. W. H. W. was at his best when praising co-workers, Cns Ford, Bond, Adams, Lugton, Latham, Pizzy, Oates Hill, etc. During this term W.H.W. with Mr. Lugton, Mr. Stone purchased the 'Fairfield Hall' in station Street which was later sold to St. Paul's Church of England for thirty pounds. The hall has been restored and is in constant use for many occasions.

You may be interested now that we are in Northcote Council.

Yours Sincerely,  
Myrtle Waddell.  
181 Arthur Street,  
Fairfield.

Family link with Fairfield State School was established, by the Waddell family.

In an unbroken succession of 40 years, there had been a Waddell as a pupil and all passed through the capable hands of Miss Sachse, the well known infant teacher; Two daughters of Mr. & Mrs. Waddell never missed a days attendance from Infant class to 8th Grade.