



The Society and its Members acknowledge the traditional landowners, the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nations and their Elders Past and Present.

# Plenty News & Views

Volume 3, No: 16

March 2026

**President: Kerry Fitzmaurice**

**Vice President: Helen Zull**

**Secretary: Annemarie Webb**

**Treasurer: Anne Hullett**

**Newsletter: Kerry Jones**

## A Word from our Vice President...

## Plenty Historical Society

### Next Event

## The Biggest Morning Tea

To be held in May



Welcome to our first newsletter for 2026. Since our last publication there have been three newsworthy events that will be elaborated on in this newsletter.

For the second year the society organised a Remembrance Day service at the Memorial Gates followed by a morning tea at the Historical Church. Once again thank you to Ian Dunn and Kevin Williams for organising this event and researching members of our local community who served in the services or contributed to the war effort in other ways.

In December the celebration of the centenary of the Plenty Church was, for me, the highlight of the year. At our informal morning tea the chance to share memories of the church and the influence it had on their lives was taken up by many past and present residents.

Thank you to the large group that filled our little church that morning. .

Last but not least, I would like to remind members that we will again be hosting a 'Biggest Morning Tea' in May. This event was highly successful last year. Not only were funds raised for the Cancer Council but those who attended had a delightful morning catching up with other guests and sampling delicious goodies that had been brought for morning tea. We will be in touch soon with more details and the date. We hope that members and friends will be able to attend.

The final comment or plea I would like to make is about our membership. For the Plenty Historical Society to continue we require a financial membership base. Invoices for existing members were sent out in January.

## Forthcoming Events

May - Date & Details to come

The Biggest Morning Tea

11 November 2026

Remembrance Day at the Plenty  
Memorial Gates

28 November 2026

Open Day

## A word from our Vice President

### Continued...

Thank you to those members who have paid and I encourage those who have not done so to do so. If you did not receive an invoice please let the Treasurer know via email (treasurer3090hs@gmail.com) and an invoice will be sent. This newsletter is sent to community members outside our membership, I would encourage you to join our society to help us continue make our small contribution to the Plenty community.

*Helen Zull*

*Vice President*

## Plenty in the News

### Plenty.

(By a Casual Contributor).

Bounded on the south by Greensborough, on the east by Diamond Creek, on the north by Tanck's Corner, and on the west by the ever-flowing historic Plenty River, lies Plenty, the Toorak of the northern suburbs, where you get a panoramic view of the surrounding landscape for miles; a grand health resort, and only 15 miles from the G.P.O. Plenty was thrown open for selection in 1913, and since then wonderful progress has been made. A new school has been erected, and fine dwellings are being built here and there. The Plenty Social Club, which was formed 12 months ago, has brought Plenty into the limelight, and the committee that conducts the club is worthy of the highest credit for the benefit it has brought to the district. Plentyites have made friends near and far, and appreciation is voiced in the following verse by one who has travelled across the seas:—

I know a place of some renown,  
It's not a city nor yet a town;  
But if you want pure country air,  
You'll always find there's Plenty  
there.

Some say it is a quiet place,  
Yet Plenty has the human race,  
And three things daily happen  
right—  
There's always morning, noon, and  
night!

Friends you meet in Plenty there,  
Just as good as the country air;  
The smiling faces and others, too.  
Make you say of Plenty, "Thisilldo."

When once they crossed o'e: Plenty  
Bridge,  
They used to call it Looney's Ridge;  
Yet when of sense they thought  
they'd nil  
They soon found out they had Plenty  
still.

Another name seems rather strange—  
They used to call it Poverty Range;  
That's dead and gone I do declare,  
For now there's Plenty everywhere.

Mr. Winsor runs the store,  
Sells everything and Plenty more;  
And if you want to go to town,  
In his motor he will run you down.

The social club provides the fun,  
With outings too for everyone;  
While Mr. Lierse is at its head  
They'll never say that Plenty's dead.

You may travel far and wide,  
You'll still find out, whate'er betide,  
Be you eighty or only twenty  
You'll find no place to equal Plenty.  
—PLENTYITE.

From the Advertiser (Hurstbridge) on  
Friday 31 July, 1925, page 4

# Remembering the Fallen - Remembrance Day

Despite the wet, cold November weather a small group braved the elements to pay their respects and observe Remembrance at the Memorial Gates on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November. Kevin Williams and Ian Dunn conducted the service with respect and dignity, paying particular homage to the Plenty resident George Fineran. *(The article is attached for your perusal.)* After the minute's silence, local school representatives laid wreaths at the base of the flags, before everyone headed over to the church for some morning tea and chat.

A big thanks goes to Ian and Kevin – for all their hard work and research in preparing the service. Also, to Kerry Fitzmaurice for organising the crocheted poppies on the Memorial Gates.

*Annemarie Webb*



## Remembering George Fineran

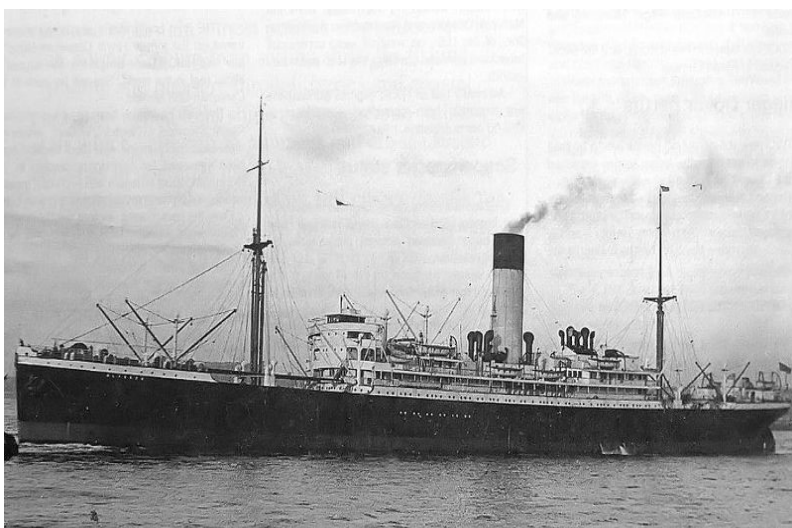
Corporal George Francis Fineran enlisted on 2 August 1915. He was 35 years old and was the husband of Beatrice Maud Fineran (known as Maud), to whom he was married in 1903. At that time he listed his occupation as orchardist, as he worked at a local orchard owned by Starling family. It was probably here that he met his wife Beatrice Maud Starling. George and Maud, as she was known, married in 1903. We will learn more of Maud Shortly.

Upon embarkation on HMAT A38 Ulysses for Egypt George had been made Acting Sgt. He was then made a member of 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion, which had been split to form the 59<sup>th</sup> Battalion under the leadership of the famous general Pompey Elliot. On joining the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion in February 1916, George reverted in rank to private.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

DASEY2



*HMAT A38 Ulysses - Upon which George embarked*

In March of 1916 George was promoted to Corporal, a surprisingly rapid promotion given that he is recorded as having no previous military experience prior to his enlistment in the AIF.

Cpl Fineran was killed at the Battle of Pozieres on 25 July 1916. In June the following year George's wife Maude was to receive a small package of George's possessions, addressed to her at Yan Yean Road, Diamond Creek. How sad this must have been for her to receive this package of meagre possessions, including 1 wallet, a dictionary, an inkwell

## Remembering George Fineran continued...

and a handkerchief. Later a further package containing two scarves, three handkerchiefs a tie and an exercise book were returned to Maud. George possibly lies in one of the many thousands of graves inscribed with the words of Rudyard Kipling: "A Soldier of the Great War – Known unto God".



Beatrice was granted a pension of two pounds per fortnight on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1916, which was subsequently increased to two pounds and 12 shillings on account of his promotion to Corporal. In early 1918 Maud was to receive an identity disc, possibly worn by her late husband.

On 25<sup>th</sup> July 1918 a touching piece appeared in the Age:

"I long for household voices gone  
For vanished smiles I long  
But God has led my dear ones on  
And He can do no wrong"

In loving memory of my dear husband Corporal G Fineran, killed in Pozieres, 25<sup>th</sup> July 1916 also my dear brother Private Walter Starling, died of wounds, King George Hospital London 18<sup>th</sup> May 1916 – Beatrice Maud Fineran and Family.

Maude was to become instrumental in the opening of a State School in Plenty. She pursued this issue with great determination, culminating in the school opening in temporary accommodation in early 1922. From there a new school was built in Howell Road Plenty, opening in 1924. Maud provided the four acres of land on which the school was built. The school was closed in the nineties and later was demolished. Fineran Court is now home to a new generation of Plenty residents.



***Plenty Primary School***

George and Maud had a daughter Coralie who along with her mother was very active in the Plenty community.

Sadly, in June 1949 Maude was to die as a result of being struck by a car in Thornbury.

At a future time we will learn more of Maud's two brothers who also enlisted to serve in the Great War. We will also learn of the service of Maude and George's son in law John Clode, a veteran of Tobruk in WW2, and later a serving police officer with Victoria Police.

For the time though, we honour the memory and service of George Francis Fineran.

# 100 Years of the Plenty Church

## The History & Significance of the Plenty Methodist Church



*The Plenty Church—1930's*

The former Plenty Methodist Church is a good example of the Methodist revival of the 1920's. The home mission established in England in 1875 was a response to the concerns that the established church was not interested in the salvation of the masses. The Home Mission particularly worked amongst the poor, workers and remote overseas communities. The mission was based on travelling preachers and lay helpers drawn from its own ranks. Chapels were quickly built in areas of population predominantly funded by money raised by the local congregations. The Home Mission spread Methodism throughout remote communities of the British Empire by deploying trained 'home missionaries' to these outposts to lead the movement.

The church at Plenty was part of the Nillumbik Mission and opened in 1925 less than a year after the revival commenced. The church built on land owned by Alfred Hills with trustees from local people including Alfred Hills (carpenter), Frederick Osmond and Frederick Bird (orchardists), Ernest Osmond and John Wainman (poultry farmers), Josiah Ashton (pensioner, James Wilson (contractor) and George Starling (farmer). Services were first held at Plenty early in 1925 under the auspices of the Diamond Creek Methodist Mission – Diamond Creek, Arthurs Creek, Cottles Bridge, Hurstbridge and Wattle Glen.

In 1925 the Victorian Methodist Church encouraged the building of new churches offering 50 pounds to communities who could raise 100 pounds. Plenty took advantage of this offer and within five years the church was debt free; such was the devotion and hard work of the local community. The Minister at the

# 100 Years of the Plenty Church

## The History & Significance of the Plenty Methodist Church continued...

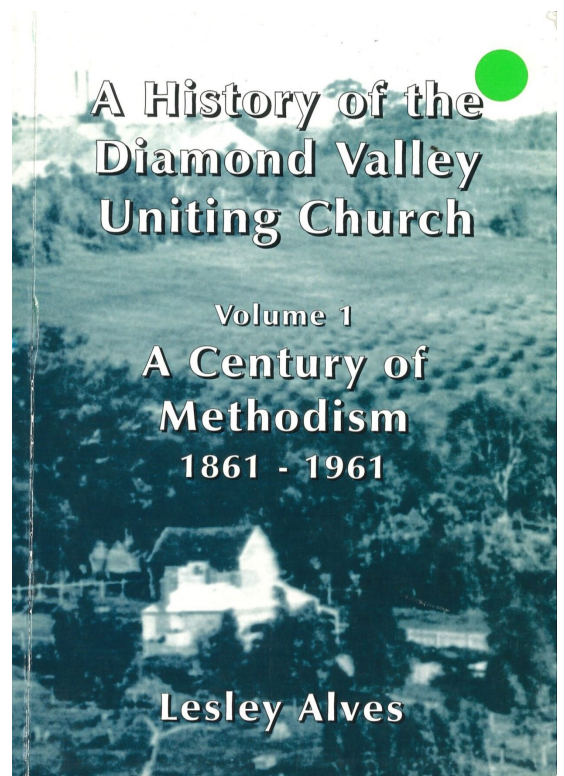
time noted it was "a church that believes in prayer and gives, and is never in debt, but on the contrary, continually shows good credit balance" (Alves 2001).

The first Home Missionary was Joshua Courtney replaced in 1927 by Bert Seaton who died soon after appointment. His successor was 27 year old Alf Milligan who became the longest standing minister of the church and presided over the centenary service (of the Home Mission movement) in 1974. In 1970, following the formation of the Uniting Church in Australia the Plenty Church became part of the Diamond Valley parish and was closed in the 1980's due to falling numbers.

### Some Personal Memories of the History and the Times of the Plenty Methodist Church

Lesley Alves in her book "A History of Diamond Valley Uniting Church" notes the building was not very large. It consisted of a little porch at the front and about six rows of seats on either side of the aisle. The pulpit was at the back at the end of the aisle with the organ to the left and a back door to the right. Lighting was from Gloria lights fuelled by Shellite and needed to be pumped. A vestry was built later with an access door from behind the pulpit and one from the outside. The vestry provided a space for meetings, storage and Sunday School Kindergarten. "I remember this being built and we used to run around on top of the foundation posts". There were two toilets on a pan system behind the church "they were full of spiders and spider webs!" Lesley Alves recalls sitting with her siblings in church and peeping during the prayer!

The ordained Minister who was in charge of the Circuit lived in Diamond Creek. Church services were held at different times in most of the churches – Plenty being at 11:00am – but no Minister could get there every Sunday!



The Minister's job was often strenuous and stressful having to organise preachers for seven churches each Sunday, as well as transport! Some even needed hospitality and weekend accommodation. There were few phones then so all was done by letter. The minister only preached at plenty about every quarter, at which communion was conducted, other services being taken by local preachers and helpers. These came from within the Circuit or from other suburban areas, and brought up to Plenty by the Minister, or someone from Plenty who would go and pick them up. And of course, the preacher had to be fed.

# 100 Years of the Plenty Church

## The History & Significance of the Plenty Methodist Church *continued...*

Evelyn Harrap (nee Harris) a former Historical society member is the granddaughter of George Starling one of the original trustees who helped build the church.

In her personal memories, Evelyn mentions memorable events in the church calendar. Events such as Sunday School Anniversaries when the children would collect wild red Brier-rose berries to thread together and string across the platform where the pulpit usually stood. Harvest Festivals where the pulpit was decorated with bunches of grapes and sheaves of hay.



*Red Brier-Rose Berries*

The congregation brought produce which following the festival was auctioned to raise funds sent to church headquarters to be used for a charity or appeal. One special highlight was the Sunday school picnic. Parents and children sat on boxes in the back of a truck to be taken to the picnic venue; in later years this became a covered in furniture van!

By Kerry Fitzmaurice & Neisha Forbes

References:

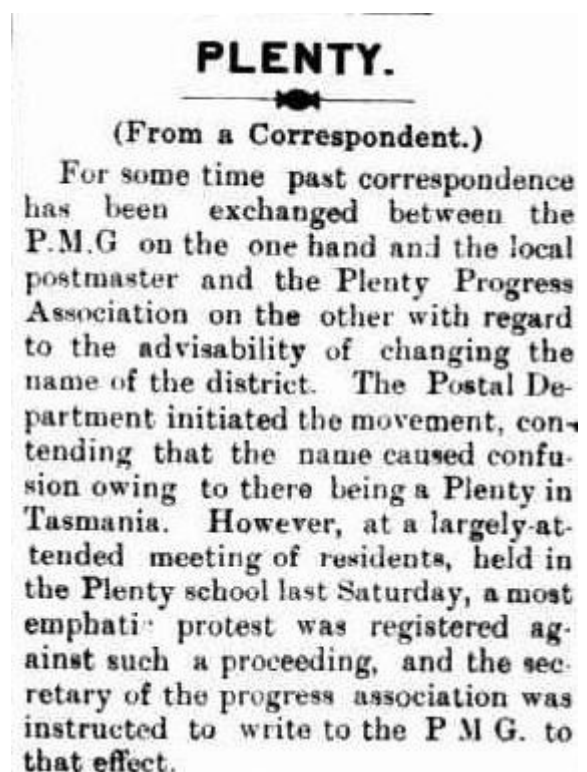
Context- Expert report commissioned by Nillumbik Shire Council as evidence for the Amendment C67 Independent Panel hearing. January 2012.

Lesley Alves 2001 A History of the Diamond Valley Uniting Church.

Evelyn Harrap personal communication.

### In the News...

From The Advertiser (Hurstbridge) on Friday 28 March, 1924, page 2.



# Our Plenty Church - Thanks for the Memories

By Norm Wearne

My memories of the little wooden church in Yan Yean Road go back over 70 years to the late 1940s. My brother Cliff and I were in the Preston Life Saving Scouts, linked with the Preston Salvation Army Corps. After Christmas we had a scout camp in the wilds of Plenty, on a small farm in Brown's lane opposite Bushy's Pig farm, on the rim of the Plenty Gorge. Highlights were cricket in the cow paddock, dry cow dung fights and a swim in the Plenty River, in that order. On Sunday there was a church parade, of course. Despite the heat we marched a mile or so along Brown's Lane and down Yan Yean Road to the Plenty Methodist Church. I have one memory of worship there: the preacher told a story which included the old saying: 'Don't blot your copy book'. He may have wondered why we all laughed.

From that day our Scout Master Jack became Jack BLOTT!

Little did I think then that from 1960 onwards I would be conducting worship services in the same church. In those days I often took the same sermon to six churches – not only Diamond Creek, Hurstbridge and Plenty, but also Wattle Glen and Panton Hill (both now private residences and Arthur's Creek (still there with the 1871 Diamond Creek Church building attached since 1963).



*The church was opened in 1925 when Joshua Courtney was the Minister.*

I remember Les and Gladys Gawler and family, who were the backbone of the Plenty Church until the congregation eventually dwindled away.

In our Diamond Creek congregation were Bill and Bessy Wadeson. Bill was very keen on film making. He roped lots of people in the community into taking part. He filmed the 'Volunteer Organist' in the Plenty church which was a melodramatic poem by William B Gray. It tells the story of the minister asking for a volunteer organist, because the regular one was ill. Up to the organ staggers a disreputable drunkard, and unexpectedly plays the most beautiful music! The Minister and congregation are stunned. Colin Chapman (our minister) played the minister's part. Somehow, I scored the part of the drunk. "Well cast!" said some of my friends. Bill's many films have been saved for posterity by his sons Lance and Grant. Frank Shield sometimes puts on film nights with those films.

## Our Plenty Church - Thanks for the Memories continued...

There was a hall attached to the Plenty Church. It had to be moved there in the 1970s from the 1873 Greensborough Methodist church. In 1985 it was moved a second time, to Hurstbridge, where it now forms part of the suite of Uniting Church buildings. Removal day was early one Sunday. Some of us temporarily removed guide posts along the windy mile into Diamond Creek. Extra railway staff raised the overhead wires so that the hall would not fowl them. Others chopped off the occasional overhead branch. But the hall made it, and it was amazing to see the prime mover driver manoeuvre it onto the stumps, already in place.

Our Parish owes a lot to Frank Polmear for his visionary practical outlook on so many development projects. He insisted that we keep the Plenty Church for as long as possible. He was so right. Not only has leasing it for community use provided extra income, but when compensation is agreed between VicRoads, Synod and our parish, it still has the potential to provide regular interest income for approved outreach activities.

So now we come to 2018. Because of the duplication of Yan Yean Road, after 93 years Vic Roads has moved the church to its final resting place between the Plenty Hall and the nearby shop in Yan Yean Road. They have refurbished it and donated it to the Plenty Historical Society so its historical significance will be respected.

Norm Wearne



*Norm Wearne celebrates 70 years as a lay preacher. Pictured with his wife Ruth and lay preacher Alistair Davison.*

# Memories of the Plenty Church

## Shared at the 100th Birthday Celebration

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2025 we gathered at the Plenty Historic Church to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of this beautiful old building. Invitations were issued to past and present residents for whom the church had been a part of their lives. The floor was opened to anyone who wished to share their memories.

**Sonia Douglas** has lived in Plenty for 50 years. She had four children and took them all to the church at the same time to get them christened. All four children went to Sunday School there until it closed and they went up to Yarrambat. It wasn't the same!

**Glenda Embling** She went to the church on Christmas Day for the last service in 1985. Helen French was the Sunday School teacher that all of our kids had. Glenda still comes to the church every week to attend the craft group. When the church closed everyone went to Diamond Creek.

**Kerry Fitzmaurice** The Sutherland homes had an impact on the church. The hall was added for the Sunday School to accommodate the children from the homes. It was brought up from the Greensborough church in 1975. Originally Sunday School was in the vestry with the two Miss McLaughlans. The church numbers were affected when Sutherland Homes became a non-residential service.

**Geoff Gawler and his sister, Lois Stanley** There were six children in the family. The Gawlers moved to Plenty in 1963. Dad had been a poultry farmer in Montmorency. The Gawlers were in Plenty at the time the hall was added. Their dad was the Sunday School superintendent for many years. The children were all very involved through that period. Geoff was married in 1974 and moved away but the rest of the family was here for some time after this. Lois was also married in the church in 1977 (last Methodist wedding before it became the Uniting Church). Geoff played the church organ in the latter years.



# Memories of the Plenty Church

## Shared at the 100th Birthday Celebration continued...

He remembers the lady who played before him had bifocal glasses and had an interesting style.

There were six or seven churches in the Methodist grouping and one minister used to try to get to at least two of the churches each Sunday. He would conduct the service at Diamond Creek and then travel to another church. Arthurs Creek met in the afternoon. Their father **Les Gawler** was a lay preacher and used to preach at various churches. Les' children used to time him and rate his performance each week. The shorter the service the higher the mark. This didn't happen very often. He was never short! Les got a fifty-year award as a lay preacher and then continued on. He was one of the longest serving lay preachers in the Uniting Church. He used to preach at Greensborough before the family moved to Plenty.

The Hurstbridge church where the hall was moved to from Plenty is exactly the same as the Plenty church on the outside.



**Max Lierse** remembers coming to church in the 1940s from the Sutherland Homes. We used to go to church and meet Dad there and then we would go home for lunch because they lived locally down Memorial Drive. We would come back for Sunday school with the Cunninghams and Nuckies (Sunday school teachers) and then we would walk back home for tea and Dad would take us back to the Sutherland Homes. Sunday School would go for a couple of hours. Max remembers one day the Minister was preaching about the evils of alcohol. There was some metho there and he nearly burnt the church down.

Many weddings were held at the church. Mavis Harris (nee Cunningham is here today with her Flower Girls).

**Vicki** moved to Kurrag Rd in the 60s. Her children went to Sunday school in the church and the two youngest were baptised there. A memorial service was held for her mother here. They had great memories of Plenty and when the church closed, they transferred down to Diamond Creek. They kept a small bible study group going at Plenty once a week. For some reason Diamond Creek was upset about this, they felt they were being boycotted. Colin Chapman used to come up and take the bible study group. Some people could not get to Diamond Creek so this worked well. Unfortunately, it fizzled out after a couple of years. The family moved to Woodstock in the 80s.

Vicki was a guide leader – Kerry Fitzmaurice was her first Queen's guide.

**Kerry Fitzmaurice** talks about book written by Evelyn Harrap for her grandchildren. Evelyn grew up in Plenty in River Avenue.

The minister used to come in a horse and cart to take the service. Local families had to entertain him for lunch during each visit.

# Memories of the Plenty Church

## Shared at the 100th Birthday Celebration continued...



**Ian Lamont** introduced himself. He is a local who is researching a database of Australian Christian clergy and church histories. He said if we go to his data base and look up Diamond Creek Methodist/Uniting church we will get the list of ministers who were at Diamond Creek and they will be the same ones that served Plenty.

Diamond Creek was head of the circuit (nine churches at one stage that relied on lay preachers). The address for Plenty at this time was still 'Plenty via Diamond Creek' A lot of Plenty's history is connected to Diamond Creek.

The day of the West Gate Bridge collapsed - 15<sup>th</sup> October 1970 - there was a service in the church run by a lady preacher, the first female preacher the community had experienced. She was a visitor to Plenty at the time.

The day the church was moved along Yan Yean Rd to its present site, Neisha Forbes, some of her nieces and Milton Embling lay down on the road to stop the traffic!

The Plenty Church was an important part of the lives of Plenty residents for many years. We had an extended morning tea where many memories were shared and many people reconnected. I think communities have lost that glue and support network that was once provided by the old community churches, halls and sporting clubs. The more I talk to our older residents the more I appreciate the richness they had in lives (if not in the bank) that carried them through many challenging times.

Thank you to those who attended and shared their memories.

Helen Zull



# Church Histories

## Taken from [churchhistories.net.au](http://churchhistories.net.au)

### History and Architecture:

The Diamond Valley Parish traces its origins to the Heidelberg Primitive Methodist Mission, which dates from 1854. The Primitive Methodist Church was a nineteenth century evangelical revival grounded in the teachings of John Wesley. A branch of Methodism, Primitive Methodism originated amongst the poorest farmer labourers and miners of the English midlands, and spread throughout England and eventually to the colonies.

The first Primitive Methodist service was held in Melbourne in 1849.

The Heidelberg Mission opened a church Eltham in 1860, then reached out to Diamond Creek. It is believed that services commenced in a barn, near the site of the present Diamond Creek East Primary School, in the September quarter of 1861. In March 1862 a small chapel was built on a site 500 metres east of the present church. That little chapel was the first church, and possibly the first public building, in the Diamond Creek district. It also housed the district's first school.

### Clergy

Here is the list of Clergy that served the Plenty Church:

1924—1927	Joshua Courtney
1927	Bert Seaton
1927—1931	Rev. Alfred William Redvers Milligan
1931—1934	Rev. C.K. Daws
1934—1936	Rev. C Preston Murray
1935—1938	Rev P. Lassam
1938—1941	Rev. S. Shepherd
1941—1946	Pastor George B Richards
1946—1953	Pastor F Garrett
1953—1955	Pastor A.E. Dunstan
1955—1960	Pastor R.B. Hughes
1960—1968	Pastor R.B. Lade
1968—1971	Pastor R. Harkness
1972—1973	Pastor Bert Haywood
1973—1977	Rev. Ivan Haywood
1977—1984	Rev. C. Chapman

# Eddie Skiba & the Plenty Cricket Club

*Eddie Skiba was interviewed by Helen Zull on 21 August, 2025 about the Plenty Cricket Club.*

The Skiba family moved to Plenty in 1957. At this time Plenty Cricket Club did not have any junior teams so when Eddie started playing cricket in about 1958 or 1959 it was with Greensborough. Juniors were introduced at Plenty in 1961 and Eddie as a 13-year-old played in the under 16s. Johnny Greenwood was the first captain, then Peter Tonkin and Eddie was captain in his last year as a junior. Roger Fellows was also at Greensborough with Eddie, but he stayed there as a junior and returned to Plenty as a senior. At the start players came from far and wide to make up the Plenty teams. Players came from Greensborough, Diamond Creek and Yarrambat. Many of these players were friends who were recruited to make up the numbers. After a while there was a bit of an influx, and they were able to establish a C Grade and a few years later a D Grade.

There were not many options for recreation in Plenty so the cricket club and the tennis club were well supported and created a focus for the tight knit community.

In the early days the two tennis courts were asphalt. Eddie remembers that they were not playable during his first 8-10 years in Plenty. He remembers a drum of tar sitting there for years that was to be used to repair the courts, but it never happened. The Cullens played tennis, Geoff Heddle, Hughie and Beryl Cullen, Bessie Furse and Ailsa played. Anyone who could play was seconded. The cricket ground used to be sloped north-south with the pitch running east-west. This was later rectified and the pitch direction changed. Eddie thinks that the Cullens donated part of their property for the sporting facilities. Pop Cullen used to walk over and watch the cricket sometimes.



*Eddie (at the front) in a 1961-62 team photo of the Plenty first 11.*

## Eddie Skiba & the Plenty Cricket Club *continued...*

The clubrooms were built by volunteers and the finance to upgrade and extend them was raised by the regular bingo nights in South Morang. Eddie was one of the community members who organised these nights. The wider community benefitted greatly from this fundraising.

The afternoon teas at the cricket club were apparently spectacular. Some of the ladies remembered were Berryl and Ailsa Davies, Peggy, Bessie and Kath Furse. The ladies played cards at the cricket club on Wednesday nights.

The tennis and cricket clubs were very social and when the games finished on a Saturday everybody from both clubs got together and socialised. In the early 1970s Saturday night was card night. All were welcome and they would rotate between people's homes. There was always a good supper. Very small bets were laid. Ernie Lofts tried to up the ante at one stage but was shut down.

Presentation nights were a big affair held at the Plenty Hall, Bundoora Hall and the Masonic Hall in Diamond Creek. Everyone's extended family and community members would come along; it was a big social occasion. Everybody knew everyone else. You knew people through the school and the shop as well as the sporting clubs.

Christmas at the cricket club was big occasion for the children. Father Christmas would arrive with good quality presents. There would be horses and all sorts of activities.

There are score books at the club that go back decades.

Eddie remembers members of the club who went on to play VFL, Barry Armstrong played over 200 games for Carlton, his brother Ray to North Melbourne and Nick Stephens in later years to Port Adelaide then Carlton.

Many members played into their 60s, Hughie Cullen is one who did. These players played in the lower grades.

At one stage the club had ABCDE & F grade teams. Eddie remembers that his brother worked on the oil rigs but used to ride his motorbike back to Plenty to play cricket.

Many players played for a long time through the grades. All five of the Skiba children played cricket for Plenty and Eddie and Sean played together in seniors.

Helen Zull



### CONTRIBUTIONS:

If you would like to make a contribution to a future edition of 'Plenty News and Views', I can be contacted on:

kerry@jones.id.au or 0414861557

Thank you,

Kerry Jones—Newsletter Editor

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support and financial assistance received from Nillumbik Shire Council in the production of this newsletter.



*Note: The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Plenty Historical Society or its members.*