

DARLINGTON BAKERY - TIMELINE OF BAKERS

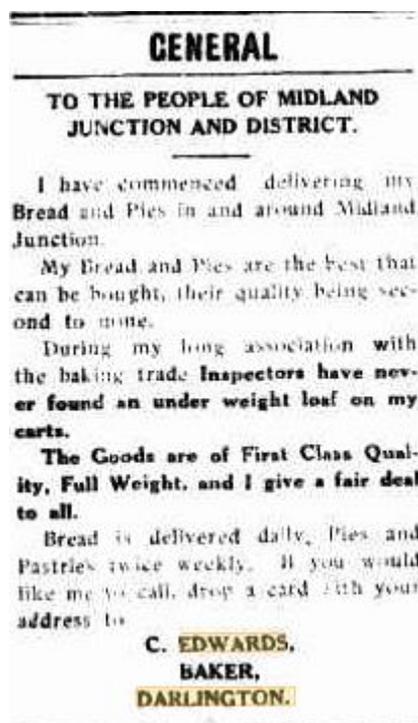
In 1920, a newspaper article which contained the Greenmount Road Board's minutes, mentioned John Frederick Mitchell receiving permission to build a shed on Lot 17 Montrose Avenue. The shed would have been originally built by Mitchell for storage, as he was running the Darlington store from 1920-1923.

Mitchell owned the two Montrose Lots 16 and 17 until 1948 (in later rate books the various bakers were listed as using Lot 17), after which both were finally signed to Morrie Owen¹ (Owen appeared to be paying off a mortgage to Mitchell).

This shed was later converted to a bakery by Morrie Owen, c1930, who was the Darlington store owner at that time. An extra room to house the oven was added to the back of the shed.

THE BAKERS

1. **Charles Edwards** – was not in the Darlington Postal Directory but the Electoral Roll (E.R) and advertisements in the “Swan Express” place him at Montrose Ave Darlington, as a baker from **1931 – 1934**. Charles was born in S.A in 1885 and married Jessie May Parnell at Fremantle in 1916, where the E.R has his occupation as a ‘carpenter’ until 1925. After time in Darlington, Charles and Jessie moved down south to Wuraming and later, in 1954, to Mandurah which was the year Charles also died. Jessie lived on into her nineties in Mandurah and died there in 1987.



Swan Express 1932

¹ For more on Morrie Owen, go to: Shops & Businesses> Shopkeepers at the Montrose Ave Store> The Owens.

2. **Richard Thomas Pugh** – was in the Darlington Postal Directories as a baker in **1934**. Richard Thomas Pugh was born in 1894 in NSW and married Laura Grubb in 1922 at Perth. Around 1931, Richard was a baker in Morawa, then he moved to Darlington and after this was recorded in the Electoral Rolls at Menzies. The couple had at least 3 children: Richard b 1923; Margaret b1925 and Dorothy b1927. They were all reported in the annual sports day at Darlington in 1934 and would have been in the school class photo of 1934. Richard died at Perth in 1977 aged 83 and his wife Laura, two years later aged 94.

3. **George Lottin** – was in the Darlington Postal directory from **1935-1938** (In 1939 he was managing the Piccadilly Tearooms in Beverley). The name George wasn't his correct name it was Joseph Emile Lottin and he was born c1908. The family story recounts he was Belgian and jumped ship in Albany. In 1935 he married Elsie Theresa McDonald in Perth.

Joseph was a keen cyclist firstly in Albany, then in Fremantle and Midland. In 1934 he donated a cup to the Midland Club.

Joseph died in 1977 aged 69 and his wife Elsie and daughter Elsie both died in 2012.

4. **John 'Jack' Gilks** – was in the Darlington Postal Directories **1938-1940** (a newspaper notice dated 1st December 1938 recorded that Jack was moving to Perth from Esperance). John (Jack) Gilks was born about 1906 in England, migrating as a farm worker in 1927 to WA on the ship "Berrima." He later went to work on a Forestry Scheme in the south west, thus he spent his younger years in Esperance where he first operated a bakery. Jack belonged to the local Rifle Club in Esperance. He married Cecilia Grace Bow in 1932 and they had their 4 children in Esperance before moving closer to the city, purchasing the Darlington Bakery. Jack's son; John, was a Baptist Minister in Mundaring whom Judy Love contacted and interviewed in 1996 and he recalls the family lived in a stone house above the railway station (5 Montrose Avenue – the Victor House which they rented).

Unfortunately, the bread became subject to a Bacterial Bacillus, called in the trade 'Rope', which spoilt the bread and this bacteria was difficult to eradicate back in the 1930s, so Jack and his family left Darlington for a bakery in North Perth. He died at Perth in 1995, aged 89.

5. **Alfred Arthur Cole** –The Electoral Roll in **1943** had him living at Brook Rd, Darlington. Arthur was born in Victoria in 1898 and served with the AIF in WW1. He returned to Victoria after the war and married Allie Irene Cronin. At this time he worked as a pastry cook. By 1943 he had left Victoria and come to WA and was living with Betty Challinder (nee Naylor), and working as a baker in Belmont. The couple had their third child, a son, whilst in Darlington. When Alfred left Darlington he returned to the bakery at Belmont, then had a change of occupation to become a

marine collector (recovering empty glass bottles). He died at Mandurah in 1969 aged 71, with Betty dying in 2004, aged 92.



Alfred Arthur Cole

6. **Trevellyn Alexander Wholagan** – He was listed in the Darlington Postal Directories for **1944-1945** and in the rate books as owning 8 Montrose Ave, purchasing the property from Miss Benham in 1943-44. A death notice for Trev's grandmother has the family living in Darlington, late January 1944.

Trevllyn married Ena Joyce Dryden in 1937 at Collie River WA. The couple had two children, Robyn and Neil.

Robyn's recollection of their time at Darlington was of a horse called Ginger who spooked and took off with the bread cart down from the bakery and toward the Presbyterian Church, where the kindergarten was operating. The horse stopped just short of the railway line spilling bread out of the cart. This may account for an advert in the West Australian in October 1944 requesting a 'reliable delivery horse, baker's cart. T. Wholagan, Darlington'.

Her other recollection was of her father suffering from a carbuncle and not being able to work the bakery, so her mother stepped in and took over the running of the business.



Trevellyn Wholegan



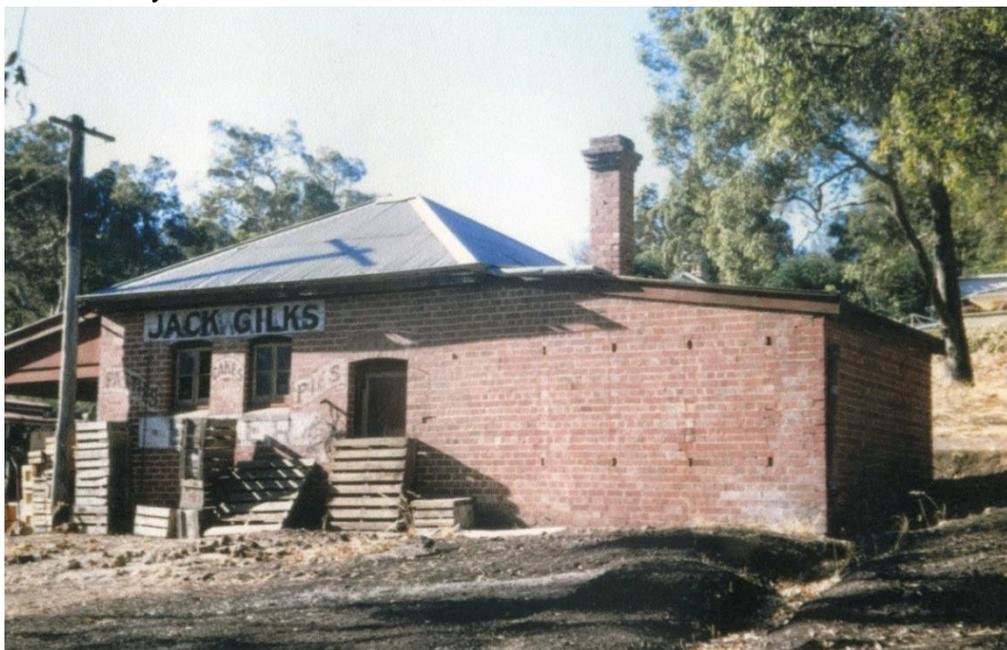
Ena Wholegan

7. **Matthew Herbert Brown** – He was listed in the Darlington Postal Directories from **1946- 1947**, and rented the cottage at 8 Montrose Avenue from T.A. Wholagan. Matthew was born in 1914 in South Australia and married Laura Evelyn Bradley in Perth in 1940. They appear to have had one child, a son, Kenneth. Before coming to Darlington, Matthew was a baker in East Perth. Early in 1946 he advertised for a utility vehicle stating he was a baker at Darlington so presumably it was needed for his bread delivery round. Mathew and his wife eventually went further out east to Bruce Rock where he continued working as a baker. Sometime later the couple retired to Mandurah where he and his wife later died. They were buried at Mandurah Lakes Cemetery, Matthew in 1989 and Laura in 1995.

8. **George Phillip Jones** took over the Darlington Bakery from **1947** and purchased 8 Montrose Ave from T.A Wholagan. He was born in 1917 in South Perth and was one of 7 children. In 1942, the same year that he enlisted for WW2, he married Iris Petrel Trevaskis who was born at Tambellup in 1922 and was of Cornish descent. George had done his apprenticeship as a pastry cook before being conscripted in 1942 and was discharged in early 1946 after which the couple settled in Darlington. An article that printed an interview with George Jones related that he got up at 3am to bake the bread; the delivery started at 6.30am and was finished by 1.00pm. George and his wife Iris both delivered the bread taking differing parts of the round then alternating. A horse and cart was used to do their delivery around Darlington and Iris carried the bread in a washing basket. The bakery supplied loaves of bread, buns and jubilee twists. They were affected by the disease, Rope,

but solved it using vinegar. It was hard work with little rest and eventually the lack of availability of good flour and difficulty getting assistance with the running of the bakery forced them to close in **1948**. According to this same interview with George, the oven was removed from the bakery that same year.

He then took up employment at the Midland Workshops where he worked until his retirement. George died at Darlington in 1990 aged 73. Iris lived for many years on her own at the Montrose house until, in 2015, she moved down to Busselton to be cared for by her son Clarry and daughter-in-law, Beverley Jones (nee Prater). Iris died in October 2018 aged 95 and was buried in the same grave as George at the Midland Cemetery.



Darlington Bakery 1950's courtesy Thelma Rhodes



2017 photo of the room where the bread oven was removed after George Jones left

The Bakery takes on other uses

1948-2020:

The Bakery has not been used as such since operated by George Jones but has had a variety of uses such as storage, nursery and a meeting place. In the 1990s, a village nursery business, run by Kim and Michael Noonan, operated from the building.

Kim and Michael Noonan – 1991 - 1995

“Yes my husband and I created “*The Village Gardener*” Old Bakery (with the McCartney Rose as our emblem) in May 1991.

I saw the old heritage building sitting there all alone and approached Mal Berrick, who at the time owned the Liquor Store and surrounding property, with a proposal to lease the old bakery and surrounding land.

Mal was very hesitant at the time, as he used to have a monthly wine tasting inside the old bakery. We agreed as part of our lease to make the main room available for the wine tastings to continue.

Initially we had a lot of opposition to this development from the community, but we soldiered on with the approvals from the council and created a much loved garden centre, specializing in unusual plants and species that were historically planted by the founders of the Darlington village.

A lot of the landscaping we undertook to develop the nursery is still in existence to this day.

It was rewarding for us when over time the majority of the local people, who initially objected to our plans, returned as loyal customers with many embarrassed faces apologising to us for their initial objections all of which proved to be unfounded.

At the time we came to understand that the objections to our plans actually represented the strong ownership of the village for which Darlington has become famous.

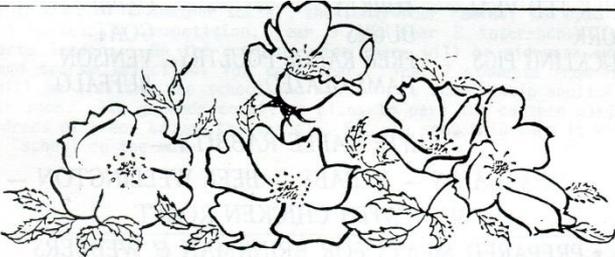
We ran the Village Gardener for around 4 years, but due to an accident to myself, I had to sell it and retain my landscape and construction business.

They say things turn the full circle as we now own the Heritage listed Guildford Post Office building where we have the offices for our landscape business as well as a garden design centre and the small French inspired Café Poste”.

Kind Regards, Kim. (Noonan) November 2018

The business offered a landscape element, cottage plants, natives including orchids, fertilisers, pots, fruit trees and the popular roses, azaleas and camellias.

The business was sold in May 1995.



* INVITATION *

The Village Gardener

'Old Bakery'

4A MONTROSE AVE
DARLINGTON 6070
PH: 09 299 6377

KIM NOONAN IS PLEASED TO INVITE DARLINGTON
RESIDENTS TO THE OPENING OF THE VILLAGE GARDENER.
OVER THE MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND 10th & 11th MAY, '91.

GARDEN GIFTS * FRESH FLOWERS * ASSORTED PLANTS
* LANDSCAPE SERVICE *

TUES - SUN 9AM - 5.30PM

Advert in the Darlington Review for the Village Gardener business

Matt Rutherford and Julie - May 1995 – 1997 took over the business, keeping its name the "*Village Gardener Nursery*" and offered a very similar service to the Noonans.



MATT
"The Gardener"

PH: 299 7244 MOB: 018 900 573
38 STONE CRESCENT, DARLINGTON. W.A. 6070

- ✓ **Garden Maintenance...**
including clean-ups, pruning, planting, whippersnipping, firebreaks, etc.
- ✓ **Landscaping...**
including Moss Rock walls, Steps, Ponds, waterfalls etc...
- ✓ **Planting,**
Mulching service available...
- ✓ **Roll-Turf Service** available, rejuvenating Lawns.
- ✓ **Topiary** - Hedges clipped & trimmed.
- ✓ **Firewood** - Dry Split Jarrah, Prompt delivery in easy to handle quantities.
- ✓ **Phone Matt Rutherford for a consultation and appraisal...**
...on phone 299 7244 or mobile 018 900 573

All you need to know about...

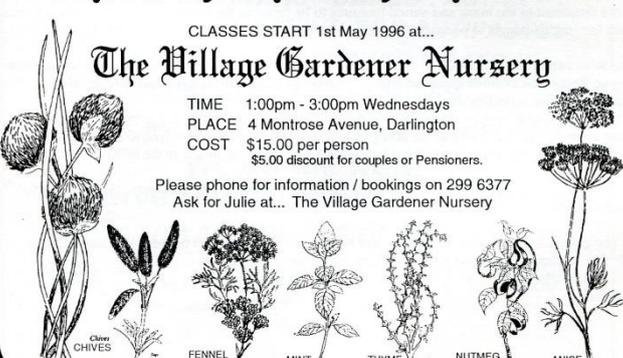
Herbs, Herbs, Herbs...

CLASSES START 1st May 1996 at...

The Village Gardener Nursery

TIME 1:00pm - 3:00pm Wednesdays
PLACE 4 Montrose Avenue, Darlington
COST \$15.00 per person
\$5.00 discount for couples or Pensioners.

Please phone for information / bookings on 299 6377
Ask for Julie at... The Village Gardener Nursery



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Darlington Review Advert May 1996

Marie Berrick took over the business in 1997 and changed the name of the business to “*Old Bakery Craft Gallery*” offering cottage crafts by local artists, gifts, cut flowers, cottage plants plus a smocking and pleating service. It also ran craft classes. Marie came to this enterprise having done 10 years’ experience with smocking. This business wound up in 1998/9. with no one immediately taking on another enterprise.

**Darlington Old
Bakery Craft Gallery**

4A Montrose Ave
DARLINGTON WA 6070



*cottage crafts *plants *cut flowers
MARIE BERRICK Ph: (08) 9299 6377
Fax: (08) 9274 4091

NOW OPEN

COTTAGE CRAFTS BY LOCAL ARTISTS

GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

CUT FLOWERS AND COTTAGE PLANTS

SMOCKING PLEATING SERVICE

Come and wander through our as yet unfinished garden and see what the local talented people have made.

**THE
SCENTED GARDEN**
Nursery and Garden Shop

Add some colour and fragrance to your garden with lavenders, daisies, wisterias, roses, herbs, cottage garden plants and Aussie natives. Start planning and planting for Christmas colour now with brilliant annuals. New stock arriving every week.

MORE THAN PLANTS - The Garden Shop has a stunning range of giftware including Anna Chandler and Elle Brown Design. Skin care products, hand made soaps, cushions, cards - come and have a browse! Layby, EFTPOS and Credit facilities available.

ANNA CHANDLER will be in store Saturday 4th November from 2pm. Bring your pieces for signing, or just come and meet this inspiring artist and join in our Darlington Arts Festival celebrations.

OPEN: Every day except Monday - Closed
10AM - 5PM.

4a Montrose Ave., Darlington. Tel: 9252 1888

Darlington Review Adverts October 1997

and November 2000

Donna Broun revived the business in 2000 – 2001 as “*The Scented Garden*” which operated as a nursery and garden shop. The products included scented plants such as herbs, cottage garden and Australian natives. There was also a range of giftware by Chandler and Elle Brown design plus skin care, soaps, cushions and cards. Donna added her artistic flair to the business.

Christine Davis then took over in April 2002 and renamed it “*Marigolds*”. Christine was a florist so the business specialised in wedding bouquets, fresh flowers as well as gifts, recycled furniture, garden ornaments, wind chimes and bird feeders. By September, Christine notified her customers that she was relocating to Guildford and thanked them for their patronage as well as the owners Lynn and Terry Evans for the opportunity to run the business from the old bakery.

Old Bakery gets a new lease of life

This month a new business will open in the Old Bakery by the Darlington Liquor Store. Christine Davis who came to live in Darlington in August has christened her new shop Marigolds of Darlington and she’ll be selling local arts and crafts, potted plants and garden ornaments, plus silk flowers. Christine is a florist and will also be doing fresh and silk weddings. Her shop opens Wednesdays to Sundays from 10.30 to 5pm. We wish her well in this new venture.

Article in the Darlington Review March 2002

Marigolds of Darlington



Marigolds has relocated to 121 James Street, Guildford.

Chris welcomes past and new customers to her new shop in Guildford and would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for supporting her.

A special thank you to Lyn and Terry at the Liquor Store for giving Chris the opportunity to trade at the Old Bakery.

Advert in the Darlington Review September 2002

“The Darlington Club” Feb.2005 – Oct. 2005

The first general meeting was held on Sunday 13th Feb at the old bakery, 30 members attended with 16 apologies. The President was Andre Vogel and Vice President, Michael Jones. When the “Darlington Club” based itself at the bakery building in early 2005, the owners were Lynn and Terry Evans, however change was in store. They sold the business in mid 2005 and new owners, Doris and Chris Thomson, took over the business. The group moved the Darlington Club to the Lesser Hall in November 2005. Its aim was as a social club where people in Darlington could meet and get to know each other in a relaxed social atmosphere. Various social activities such as sundowners, barbeques, and other events were organised to enhance the social aspect.

Storeroom - 2005-2018

The bakery had now turned a full circle and returned to its original function of serving as storage, however being part of a liquor outlet its use involved storing mostly alcoholic beverages instead of groceries

In 2018 the property, which included the store and bakery, was put up for sale. The store found a new owner in Les and Deb Woods in September 2019. The couple also own the Glen Forrest Bottlemart. The store still operates as “Darlington Liquor and Gourmet” selling various meats and cheeses along with a variety of alcoholic beverages.

Meeting Room 2019

The bakery now has a new usage as the monthly meeting place for the Darlington Dipstick Club who negotiated this arrangement with the current owners mid-November 2019, with their inaugural meeting being held on December 1st 2019. The club intends to operate some of its social occasions from the old bakery building.



For sale sign for Store and Bakery 2018