

Dorothy May Downie

We knew her as Nana, her family and friends called her Dolly. Her married name was Dorothy Crapper but there was no Mr Crapper around. Her children were Juds not Crappers. We always had questions for her. The surname was easily solved, she had been widowed twice. There was always the large photograph of her husband Jim Crapper on the wall at Mooroopna. Our family life very much revolved around her. We often stayed at Mooroopna; we spent every Christmas there until I was in my late teens. The Mooroopna house was like a second home. I wish I had started to piece together her story before the main players disappeared. From our collective memories, a collection of photographs and papers, and the official records that are available, this story has emerged.

Dorothy (Dolly) was born at Hay, N.S.W. on the 7th January 1896, the fourth child of Elizabeth Webster and Thomas Downie. Her siblings listed on her birth certificate are Elizabeth, aged 12, Arthur aged 7 and Henry Francis aged 3. Elizabeth Downie had four more children, Jane E.B. born 1898 died 1899, Ruby M., born 1900 and Leslie Martyn, born 1906 and William Sheppard Downie born 1909. All Nana's siblings were born at Deniliquin except Arthur who was born in Collingwood, Victoria.

Dorothy's parent's marriage broke down. Elizabeth and some of her children moved back to Neilborough, Victoria where her parents lived. The older children do not seem to have moved to Neilborough, Elizabeth was probably in Melbourne, Arthur had a child in Queensland in 1909 leaving Henry who stayed in Deniliquin and it appears stayed with the Hoskins family. He would have been about 17 and eventually took on the Hoskins surname.



Dorothy May Downie as a child

There is what we suspect is a photo of Dorothy as a baby and another of her as a child of perhaps ten with her sister Liz and friends on a picnic probably at St Kilda or nearby. All in the photo are very stylishly dressed.



Dorothy May Downie front centre, her sister Liz right back row in the big black hat.

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Dorothy married Kevin Joseph Judd on August 5th 1914, she was 18 and he was two weeks away from his twenty sixth birthday.

There are three great photos of Nana about this time. The engagement photo is one of the most striking; she looks



very young. In the individual photo she has a strong determined look. Finally her wedding photo which looks like it was taken in the backyard at Neilborough. You will find this photo in the Judd family chapter.



Not much is known of Dorothy's early life and where she met Kevin. He was a carpenter and builder of houses. He may have been working around Neilborough although it is more likely that she met him in Melbourne, perhaps she

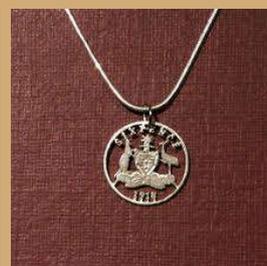
lived with or visited her sister Liz or may have been working in Melbourne herself.

There are two interesting things about the engagement photograph. Around her neck, Nana is wearing a brooch, which is a ruby surrounded by diamonds in a gold setting. This was in fact Kevin's mother, Caroline's



engagement ring and later it was made into a ring again as Nana's engagement ring. Mum gave the ring to Dot after Nana's death and the remnants of the brooch setting are still visible.

On the watch chain that Kevin is wearing in this photo and the wedding photo are two medallions, one has a map of Australia on it, and the other is a cut out sixpence. The Australian coat-of-arms has been highlighted by removing the silver in the background. Kaye had a cut out sixpence like this that she was very attached to. She wore it as a charm on a chain around her neck often. It is only when Dot saw the coin on Kevin's watch chain that she realised Mum must have given it to Kaye from Nana's belongings and that is why she thought so much of it. It was not amongst Kaye's effects after her death. It may have been lost in the trauma of her accident.

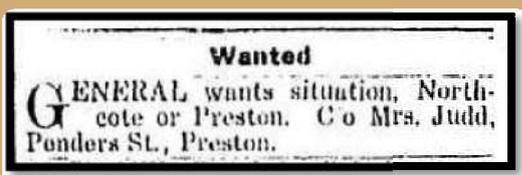


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The newly married Judds settled in Melbourne, their first child Kevin was born in 1915 and his birth registered at Northcote. They may have lived initially with Kevin's father, also Kevin, who was a widower and lived at his place of business a woodyard at 57 Smith St. Northcote. The first photograph again is a favourite; she is looking very happy, very proud of her baby. The vase beside her is one that we knew at her house in Mooroopna. A wedding present I think. Carol still has that vase in a cabinet at Cambridge Crescent.



Nana with her first child Kevin.



Within two months of Uncle Kevin's birth the Judds were living in Preston. In a local paper, the Northern

Leader, Nana put an advertisement seeking a position. The wording is rather vague but perhaps she wanted a cooking or cleaning job part time.

Twins Carrie and Arthur were born in 1917; their births were registered at Preston. The young family lived at 25 Pender St. Preston in a house believed to have been built by Kevin. The house still remains although its cladding has changed the chimneys are still the same.



In 1919 tragedy struck, on March 2nd Kevin died of flu. His death certificate states he was only ill a few days. This was the flu from a flu pandemic that struck Australia and was referred to at the time as Spanish Flu. It resulted in the deaths of between 50 and 100 million people worldwide. Strangely the main victims were young healthy adults.

Dorothy was widowed with Kevin 3^{1/2} and the twins just over one year old. Although they may have gone back to Neilborough for a short time the family stayed on in Pender Street. The children went to the Preston State School. During this time there are photographs of the three children but just one with Dorothy in it. She looks very striking.



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The photographs include studio photographs and snaps, the children are well dressed. Dorothy was a single parent for nearly five years, she must have had an income. Always a good cook perhaps she possibly turned to that. Certainly later in life she cooked for a living at the hotel and as a shearers cook, station cook and at the Mooroopna Cannery workers hostel.

In 1924 Dorothy married Albert James (Jim) Crapper at the Sacred Heart Church in Preston. Jim was twenty years older than Dorothy. Carrie said that her mother had worried about the age difference. The photograph is another great one of Nana looking very happy. They lived in Preston for some time. Jim was a Catholic and the children changed to the Preston Catholic School and were brought up from that time as Catholics. I do not think Dorothy converted; she certainly was not an active Catholic in her later life.

Eventually the family moved back to Neilborough. Carrie said she was ten when they came to Neilborough. This would make it about 1928. One of the things she noticed was the difference in clothes; she used to be teased about her "city" clothes.

They moved back to Neilborough to take over the Shamrock Hotel that was owned by Jim's parents Tom and Alice Crapper. Tom had died in 1909 but Alice had continued to run the Shamrock. She died in 1929 and perhaps her failing health resulted in Jim

returning to Neilborough. He came from a family of nine and five brothers lived in the area, most seem to be farmers. Jim was the youngest and perhaps left the hotel to be with Dorothy in Preston. The business was a combined hotel and general store. In Jim's will, written in 1933, there is a detailed description of the hotel.

Hotel premises, Section 1, Parish of Neilborough comprising Bar, Grocery Shop, 6 bedrooms, 2 bar parlours, dining room, kitchen, and pantry of brick, plaster walls wooden ceiling and a roof of iron.

This building is in a splendid state of preservation and although constructed over 20 years ago, is fairly modern, together with some old stabling and sheds, washhouse and dairy and bathroom. If carried on as a hotel, the business of which is very small, the value would be maintained, but if de-licensed would be of little value. Valued £800-0-0



Nana with her husband Jim Crapper

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The Crappers had owned the hotel since the 1860s. A photo of the Crapper family in front of the hotel about the turn of the century has five of the Crapper boys and one girl, Martha. One of the boys, identified as Jim Crapper, is holding a greyhound. Perhaps this is a clue as to how Nana became a very keen owner and racer of greyhounds. The picture shows the old weatherboard Shamrock. This hotel was burnt to the ground in 1904, a brick one was built to replace it.



The Crapper Family: The children of Thomas and Ann Crapper outside the Shamrock Hotel Neilborough (c1900)
From left Thomas (1863), Frederick (1869), Albert (1876), Lawrence (1870), Martha (1865) George (1867), Henry (1870)

A later photograph of the new brick hotel is in Carrie's album, probably taken by her in the 30s or 40s. I cannot recognise the young child at the front door. The hotel is now a private residence and has been lovingly kept and added to. It still holds the dignity and presence it had in this early image.



The Great Depression began in October 1929 with the collapse of the Wall Street Stock Market and continued through the 1930s until the Second World War. This would have been a tough time to be running a small business in a small town that relied on farming, mining, and timber cutting. In hard

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times many local men turned to “Eucy cutting”, that is, the cutting of the local mallee eucalypts for the distillation of eucalyptus oil. There were many eucalyptus distilleries in the area.

The children were still of school age when they arrived in Neilborough. Both Arthur and Carrie achieved their Merit certificate. This qualification was achieved at grade 8 when the children were about 14. They were able to leave school at 14 and the twins joined Kevin working for their parents at the hotel and store. Kevin and Arthur drove the truck used to pick up supplies in Bendigo and deliver goods to the locals. Arthur was very young to be driving but he always claimed that nobody worried about that in those times.

The photo here shows the truck with its label on the tarp; Kevin and Arthur are shown together with Uncle Les and another young woman Carrie identified once as June Cooper. Carrie was obviously the photographer as another photo taken on the same picnic includes her it was probably taken by Arthur. Although Les was the Judd’s uncle he was only twelve years older than Carrie and Arthur and was living at home with his mother Elizabeth at Neilborough. He features in many of the family Neilborough photographs.



June Cooper, Kevin, Arthur and Les Downie on a picnic with the hotel truck in the background.

Glenys Rokhar (Arthur’s daughter) says that Arthur had a reputation of being hard to handle and that he was sent to Harry and Elva Hoskins in Deniliquin to work on their farm. Apparently he spent some time there. Harry (actually Harry Downie brother of Dorothy) and Elva were married in the same year as Dorothy and Kevin and she maintained a friendship with them for the rest of her life.

Glenys also tells of meeting one of Harry and Elva’s sons Frank in the 1970s. Frank lived at Yanchep near Perth.

“Your Mum and Dad had not long previously visited Frank and when Dad told Carrie we were over there it was arranged for us to ring Frank. He was a delightful man a year or so younger than Dad but you would have thought they (Frank & Arthur) were twins!

The likeness was uncanny...same mannerisms, laugh, stature, looks, hair, even hair style ie grey thick brushed back and same height and carriage. He was a genial host and entertained us with stories about his youth.

When I remarked on this Frank said that half the Downies should be named Hoskins and that they (many of the Downies) were brought up by the Hoskins family anyway.”

I have mentioned the relationship with the Hoskins family when writing of Elizabeth Downie (Nee Webster). It does not seem possible that any more children than Harry were brought up by the Hoskins but further research may bring up a different story.

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The life around the Shamrock is further documented mainly in photographs, in another section of this website. The hotel being a centre for local life meant that Dorothy had many local friends and in her collection are many photographs of the locals. The pub had a player piano that was the centre of many sing-a-longs, especially during the war years. Mum loved the piano and was really disappointed when it had to be sold at the auction when the family finally left the pub, she would have loved it.

Nana was musical too, she played the mouth organ and sang, but not at the same time. Boom Boom. All by ear, she couldn't read music. I remember her Irish jigs and her lilting, ie Didly I di di diddly I di di diddle diddle dum. Which is a very Irish thing too. Not that she has much Irish in her background. Dot still has her mouth organ that she ordered especially from Germany and says she can still taste and smell her lipstick on it when she plays.

Many of both Nana's and Mum's photographs feature greyhounds. This interest may have started with the Crappers but Nana, Uncle Kevin and to a lesser extent Mum maintained this interest until the late 1950s.



The greyhounds were a major interest. Les Downie is with the pups.

One part of Nana's life that we didn't know much about was the period when she adopted a daughter. Dorothy Crapper was the adopted daughter. The adoption must have occurred in the mid thirties the girl was Dorothy Herbertson and became known as Dorothy Crapper and lived with Nana through the late 30s and to the mid 40s. There are many photographs of Dorothy with the family. She was reputedly from a large family in Bendigo that Nana knew. It would have been during the depression and possibly Nana saw it as a way to help.



Nana with Dorothy Crapper

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Dorothy Crapper with greyhounds

Somehow in the latter years at Neilborough the relationship broke down. Dorothy fell pregnant and married Albert Benbow, and went on to have a family in Bendigo. Some sort of reconciliation must have occurred as there is a letter from Dorothy amongst Nana's photographs that is thanking her for her getting in touch with her after the death of her son Bill, a policeman who died in an accident when a wall collapsed on him. This was in 1971. The letter shows that Mum and Dad, and Les and Clara Downie had been in touch with her after her son was killed. Dorothy was particularly grateful that Nana had signed the letter "Your loving Mother" Mum and Dad knew Dorothy when they lived at White Hills, Mum was always cool towards her, the story goes that Dorothy was supposed to be watching me when I wandered away from the Shamrock and nearly drowned in 1945.

In 1938 Jim Crapper died leaving Dorothy widowed for a second time. It must have been around this time that Arthur Judd left to join the Police Force. By 1940 Arthur was a police constable at Mooroopna and probably encouraged Dorothy and Kevin to move there after the war.



Arthur and his fellow police trainees at the Police Training Depot. Arthur is third from the left in the top row.

After Jim died Kevin and Carrie stayed on at Neilborough, Dorothy continued to run the hotel and store and in 1940 Carrie met her future husband Bob Hollow. Bob was appointed as teacher at the nearby Neilborough East Primary School to commence on 30th January 1940. He found board at the Shamrock. Bob had great plans; he was engaged to a girl in Chiltern and purchased an "A" Model Ford intending to use it to travel to the school of mines in Bendigo to further his qualifications.

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The accompanying photograph may have been his new car. It is taken outside the Shamrock and must have been sometime in 1940.



Mum and Dad are not together but she is there sitting on the running board. Nana is next to Dad on the far right. The girl in plaits at the front looks like Dorothy Crapper.

Because of his engagement Bob was off limits as far as Carrie was

concerned. But things turned out differently and Bob and Carrie did get together. Bob enlisted in the RAAF and was called up in July 1941. They became engaged and after Bob finished his initial training and before he was sent overseas, they married at the Bendigo Sacred Heart Cathedral on October 18th 1941. The story is taken up elsewhere.

As the war progressed the hotel and store came under pressures. In 1942 Kevin was working on the docks as a wharf labourer in Melbourne and according to the Electoral roll of that year, living at 47 Washington St, Marybyong. Dorothy M Crapper, our Nana, is also listed at the same address. I think she may have alternated between there and Neilborough. The licence of the hotel was surrendered in March 1942 and the store closed. The truck had been commandeered by the army for the war effort. Dorothy, Kevin and Carrie continued to live at the Shamrock until after the war ended in 1945.

Kevin moved to Mooroopna and commenced working at the Ardmona cannery in Mooroopna on 20th February 1946. On 19th November 1946 Kevin Judd opened a bank account at the State Savings Bank, Mooroopna Branch with a deposit of £40/13/2; he was living at the Royal Mail Hotel in Mooroopna at the time. Maybe Nana was there too but somewhere around 1947/48 she bought a home at 37 Echuca Road, Mooroopna where they lived for the rest of their lives.

We always spoke of our grandmother and uncle as one unit, Nana and Uncle Kevin. They were like a married couple. In Mooroopna Kevin had his job at the cannery and Nana had seasonal work there and also took on other seasonal jobs cooking at large properties during shearing. I can remember her working at Caniambo (not far out of Shepparton) and other places up the mallee somewhere; she had a series of photos taken around Robinvale which



Kevin with workmates at the Ardmona Cannery

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may have been one of her places of work. The job at the cannery was as head cook at the cannery hostel. In the fruit season the cannery would open a hostel for female workers. These women prepared the fruit for canning. It was all done by hand, the peeling, stoning, cutting and slicing. We always had the special utensils from the cannery in our cutlery drawer.



Nana, with her neighbour at Mooroopna, Mrs Carruthers

One of the great memories was the Annual Fair in Mooroopna, I imagine it was around Christmas but I am not sure. Mooroopna had a very wide main street; the road was divided with a large park in between which ran the length of the shopping centre, some four or five blocks. The fair was set up in this park and was full of rides, merry-go-rounds, spinning wheels, etc. I think there was a parade too. The cannery must have sponsored it as Uncle Kevin always had tickets for the rides for us.

The house in Echuca Road was on a large block, when Nana and Uncle Kevin first moved there it was a weatherboard house painted white with a dark green roof and windows and doors. The garage at the side was painted to match. It must have been newly painted as I remember it all being very neat.



Carol and Nana in a later photo showing the hedge and gladioli.

The front fence was hidden by a large Cyprus hedge. It had distinctive shape; there were two square towers at each end. The hedge between the towers started about two thirds of the way up the towers and sloped upwards from each tower so that it looked like a pitched roof. In the middle at the front a large "V" shape was sculpted into the front that faced the street. I think it was a V for victory sign that had been grown and shaped after the war. There was also another larger hedge that separated the house from next door, Mrs Carruthers', on the



Nana with Carol and I in the front garden at Mooroopna with the hedge behind us.

Northern side.

In their freshly trimmed state the hedges look great but they were a lot of work and as time went by they were often overgrown. I can remember spending many hours cutting them. I can also remember having a great time climbing in them and playing hidey in them. Nana and Kevin did not approve of this at all. At times the hedges were so big and thick that once inside you could not been

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seen by anyone walking past, great for spying on people. The hedges are in the background of each of these photographs taken by Mum. She had a great habit of putting our ages on the back of photographs. The one of Carol and me has our ages, me 4 years 9 months and Carol 8 months, also written is weight at 7^{1/2} months, 17^{1/4} pounds. So the photo was taken September 1948, probably not long after Nana and Kevin moved in.

The house had a large aviary and a fernery and the outdoor toilet at the back. At the back of the garage was the washhouse with a great double trough and a wood fired copper. There was an inner back yard then beyond that in the outer backyard were many sheds mostly set up as chook houses. There were also kennels there as Nana and Kevin kept their racing greyhounds. There were also house dogs. Bessie was a black greyhound that we loved. She had retired from racing and they bred from her. Her racing name was Erin's Colleen, another Irish reference. There were other dogs, at one stage they had a couple of Pomeranian crosses, I am not sure of their names, one could have been Trixie.

Nana and Uncle Kevin always kept ducks and chooks but after Uncle Kevin left the cannery poultry became their business and the sheds were often full of ducks (mostly Muscovy), chooks, and geese. The washhouse became the part where the poultry were killed, plucked, and then the birds were taken inside the house to be dressed.

The first years at Mooroopna were very happy years; the Hollow family would spend every Christmas there staying for what seemed like weeks. Santa always

came there. On Christmas Eve we would hang our Christmas stockings, pillow slips, off the mantel piece and leave some cake out for Santa. I am sure Nana and Kevin contributed to the presents. I can remember Toby, our first Australian silky terrier being a present, also my bike. I got up Christmas morning and went through my stocking. I was then told I had missed something so I went through the pillow slip again but nothing more. What was the other present? I think even then I had to be prompted too look at what my pillow had been hanging on. A new bike.

I can remember waiting eagerly for Uncle Kevin's return from work in the afternoon, he always walked home carrying a Gladstone bag and most times it contained little treats for us. I remember my first football came home one night in that Gladstone bag.

When we were living at Gellibrand in the Otways, Mum suffered from Asthma there and could not spend winter there. In the end she moved to Mooroopna and stayed with Nana and Uncle Kevin for about three months and I went to school at St Mary's Primary School. One of my memories of that period was the daily ritual of walking the dogs. The dogs had to be exercised morning and night and I



Kevin with Barry Downie, Carol and Colin in the front garden at Mooroopna.

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can remember Uncle Kevin setting off with maybe five dogs all straining at their leads. They lived near the Mooroopna race course and he used to walk them around that. As well as racing the greyhounds they also took to showing them at local dog shows. There are cards and ribbons won by their dogs.

Another memory of Kevin is that he was never seen outside the house without his hat. There are some pictures of him at Neilborough without a hat but by the time they lived in Mooroopna he was a committed hat wearer. I think he was sensitive about his baldness, which occurred early in his life. There was always a hat, an Akubra, he would put on before he opened the door to leave the house.

I can remember Nana and Kevin buying a new car, their navy blue Vauxhall Velox, SP 541. I am pretty sure that was the numberplate. They bought it about 1949. I can remember many trips with Nana and Kevin, to the dogs and to the Bendigo Easter Fair. They used to race their greyhounds and the track was at Tatura, probably half an hour away. We would be loaded up me in the front between Nana and Kevin and the dogs, two or three in the back seat. A little later, about 1950, the Hollows bought their first car, a fawn Ford Prefect, RU 145

Another of Kevin's hobbies was growing gladioli. The front garden would be planted out. The curved path up to the front door was bordered by beds of Gladys but there were also beds across the front and down the sides of the front yard. You can see them in the Mooroopna photos. I think he used to supply people with flowers when they were in season.

Nana and Kevin were also remembered for the generous and frequent presents. Besides my first football there was an air rifle, a leather jacket, pigeons. I think it was mainly Kevin behind the presents and he didn't know when to stop. A great example was my pigeons. I had built a loft and he said he could buy a couple of pigeons for me at the auctions where he used to buy poultry. Nana and Kevin often came over to St James for Sunday dinner and on this day they arrived with my pigeons. They amounted to two crates holding about twenty pigeons. I instantly had a flock.

In January 15th 1957 the pace and feeling of life changed in Mooroopna. Uncle Kevin had a fall at work. He was a labourer and did heavy work. One of his jobs was keeping the female cutters supplied with cases of fruit. He was carrying a case of fruit when he stepped into an open drain and fell gashing his leg badly. The drain had been left open after being washed the previous evening. The factory nurse dressed the injury and Uncle Kevin returned to his work as if nothing had happened. The wound had to be dressed daily for another fortnight. One day, about a month after the fall, Kevin's fellow workers noticed he looked unwell, he worked on but the next day the foreman put him on a lighter job.



Kevin and other patients during his stay at the Mooroopna Base Hospital.

He continued to work until April 23rd when he collapsed at work and was taken to the Mooroopna Base Hospital where he was admitted and remained for seventeen days. His diagnosis was

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“Congestive Cardiac Failure” which is the inability of the heart to supply enough blood to meet the body’s needs.

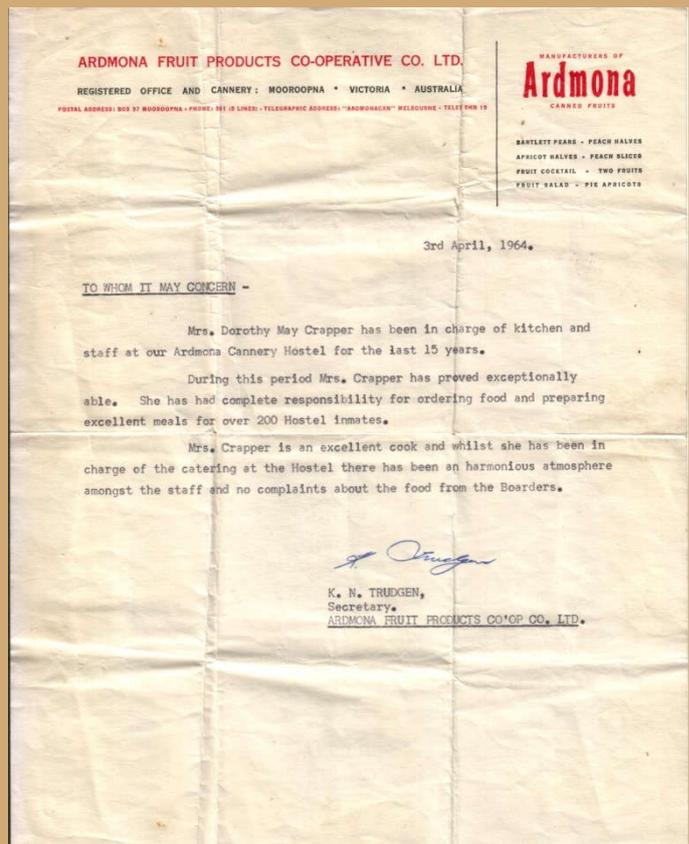
After he left hospital Kevin continued to be treated but returned to work after about five weeks. This was in July. In November Kevin was dismissed, given a week’s notice. Although he was paid for accrued Long Service Leave Kevin did not initially receive any compensation, a battle he took up with the company with the help of the union. In the end I think he did get some compensation but it came after much heartache and rancour.

Kevin was never the same. He, and Nana, changed, Kevin was only 43, and their income was reduced and not guaranteed. Kevin eventually got a pension but times were a lot tougher for them.

This is when they began their poultry business. They sold dressed to poultry out of their backyard and sold it to cafes, pubs and individuals. They would buy chooks, ducks and geese from the market in Shepparton to supplement what they bred and raised themselves. To help with the feed bill they collected the waste from the local greengrocer in Mooroopna. This was bad fruit and vegetables and the other waste such as cabbage leaves etc. Kevin collected it daily in banana boxes which were wooden in those days. The boxes were stacked in the backyard and at times it resulted in a stack of boxes about thirty metres in diameter and stacked as high as a Kevin could reach, and he was a six footer.

They battled on for five years until Kevin passed away on July 10th 1963, three weeks after his 48th birthday. After Kevin died, money was a bigger battle for Nana, She talked of going cooking again, even of going back to Queenstown. This is an indication that she may have spent time there. Her aunty, Jane Rudd, and her family lived there for quite a time at the beginning of the century.

She did take on cooking jobs at sheep stations and other properties. She actively sought work as amongst her belongings are references written for her after Kevin died. One from the Mooroopna Cannery in 1964 states she had been in charge of the kitchen and staff at the cannery hostel for the last 15 years. This indicates she had worked at the cannery from when she first moved to Mooroopna. Another from Caniambo says she had worked there as a cook during shearing time for 14 years. A reference from Berriwillock says she had been a “lady help and companion” for the past six weeks. A letter written in February 1967 made arrangements for her to come to a property at Annuello near Robinvale for three months, or more if she wanted to. Nana would have been 71 at this time.



Nana's reference from the Ardmona Cannery, 3rd April 1964.

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One way she raised some money was to subdivide the property at Echuca Road. She also did take on some shearing cook jobs. Eventually she too was overcome by ill health. She had a stay in hospital, but was not a happy patient. I think it was the first time she had ever been sick in hospital. She was in her 70s at the time.

The photo is one of the last taken of Nana, she and Mum are in the front yard of the house at Dunolly. Les Downie's wife Clara is in the background.

Nana died on October 6th 1971, she was 75 and living with Mum, Dad and Dot at Dunolly. She still played the mouth organ and had her brandy lime and soda before bed. Dot's memory, "she always snored, big time, and laughed hard with her gut and weepy eyes."

Amidst life at her place several Nana-isms are remembered. She often did tea cup readings. In the days when tea was made from free tea leaves, not in tea bags she would take our empty cups in turn and interpret the pattern that was left behind. It was no one off party trick she did it regularly and would point out the images she saw. She also had some house rules to ward off bad luck. No new shoes on the table. If giving a purse or bag as a present always put a silver coin in it. No peacock feathers inside, Opals and Emeralds would also bring bad luck.



Carrie and Nana outside the house in Dunolly. Clara Downie is in the background.

She was a powerhouse, hard working and loving. In her 75 years she had a husband with her for only 18 years, she was married at 18 so for almost 40 years she was widowed. She was a very happy, positive, generous person who loved a joke. We all remember her fondly.

A Curious Coincidence

If you read the later chapters, the Downie family story and the Judd family story you will find that Nana's father, Michael Thomas Downey and her father-in-law, Kevin Judd, were both made wards of the state. Further, they both were at the Sunbury Industrial School and their times spent there overlapped.

Finally, they both were married within three weeks of one another in April 1883.