

LOOKING BACK... with Molly

This "Looking Back" could really be termed a nostalgic trip back in time to the fifties and sixties when the mailman and the cream truck driver rated high on the list of the farmers' friends in the western rural districts of the Denmark Shire. (Here I use "man" without hesitation because it was some time before we welcomed a female delivering mail).

At that time the mail was delivered on Mondays and Thursdays. If no stamps were available in the household there was a very amicable arrangement with the Postmaster in the Denmark Post Office. Cash was left in the letter box to cover the cost of letters and estimated cost of parcels. This could sometimes be difficult to determine so the next trip to Denmark brought about a very interesting transaction with the Postmaster... If too much cash had been left out with mail, the rural resident was presented with change...if too little, the Postmaster would enlighten the resident as to the amount owed - all very civilised! The mailman was a good friend and could sometimes be persuaded to carry other items than mail if there was an urgent need.

This all changed as progress reared its head and if too little money was left there was a terse message on an official white card informing the hapless resident that he/she owed double the postage due to insufficient payment!

The cream truck travelled out three times each week to pick up the cans of cream from the dairy farmers who at that time provided butterfat, not whole milk.

On the trip out, the driver often carried a motley variety of needs for rural residents...stores from the Denmark Co-op, vegetables, chemist needs, the odd tractor part, in fact anything that could be fitted in. The driver of the cream truck too was a good friend and was willing to go to almost any lengths to oblige rural residents. On his arrival at the various properties there could be earnest discussions in connection with what he was carrying - especially if the part sent out was the wrong one. Drivers were so obliging and nothing was too much trouble.

Thinking back, these two services in particular made an immense difference to rural dwellers especially in the time when the road from Denmark was gravel and settlers hesitated over making too many trips to town. The bitumen reached Bow Bridge about 1960 but it was quite a number of years later that Hazelvale residents rejoiced in the tarmac.

Walpole rural dwellers (Manjimup Shire) also had a similar, welcome service of the cream truck, but residents collected their own mail.

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WALPOLE ART AWARDS
Walpole & Districts Seniors Accommodation is no longer running the Walpole Art Awards and is unable to identify any other organisation prepared to take on the event at this stage.

Therefore, with apologies and thanks to the artists and sponsors who have previously supported both the 2D and 3D exhibitions, there will be no further Walpole Art Awards offered in the foreseeable future unless some other community group takes it up.

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