

Residential Streets of the 'Married Quarters', Yallourn c1948 to 1960s

- Wattle Street
- Quarry Road



My mother Lauris Stanger and my father Ivan Brill moved into **47 Wattle Street, Yallourn** after their 1954 marriage [Lauris was born and raised in Yallourn]

I was born in 1955 at Yallourn and lived at **47 Wattle Street** for the first five years of my life. My brother Robert was born in 1958 and sister Helen in 1960.

Our family lived at **47 Wattle Street** until 1961 when our family moved to Cranbourne.

Wattle Street and the 'Married Quarters' has been part of our family folklore for a long time.

In researching my family history, I was completely bewildered that I could not find a Yallourn street map or similar which included **Wattle Street**. It also seems many stories written about Yallourn fail to include the residential streets of 'Married Quarters' and the many families who lived there.

I have since discovered I will not find any Yallourn 'Married Quarters' residential streets listed or shown in any Victorian Government publication, map, drawing or road directory due to the simple fact the SEC (State Electricity Commission of Victoria) was the registered landholder of this area and all residential and other roads were internal, not public roads.

In 1922, when the Open Cut was established the many men who worked for the SEC at Yallourn lived in tented accommodation at either the onsite Eastern or Western Camp.

From 1924 married SEC staff were able to rent SEC built and owned houses within the growing Yallourn township, however accommodation in the Yallourn township was generally available only to permanent SEC staff and their families (my grandparents, Thomas and Irene Stanger, lived at 11 Maryvale Road for 13 years and 44 Banksia Street for 26 years). Contract staff were offered rental SEC accommodation in the tented Western Camp and later onsite hostel accommodation.

As the SEC workforce increased, more single men working as contractors and living onsite married, consequently there was a growing need to provide additional family accommodation for these men and their families.

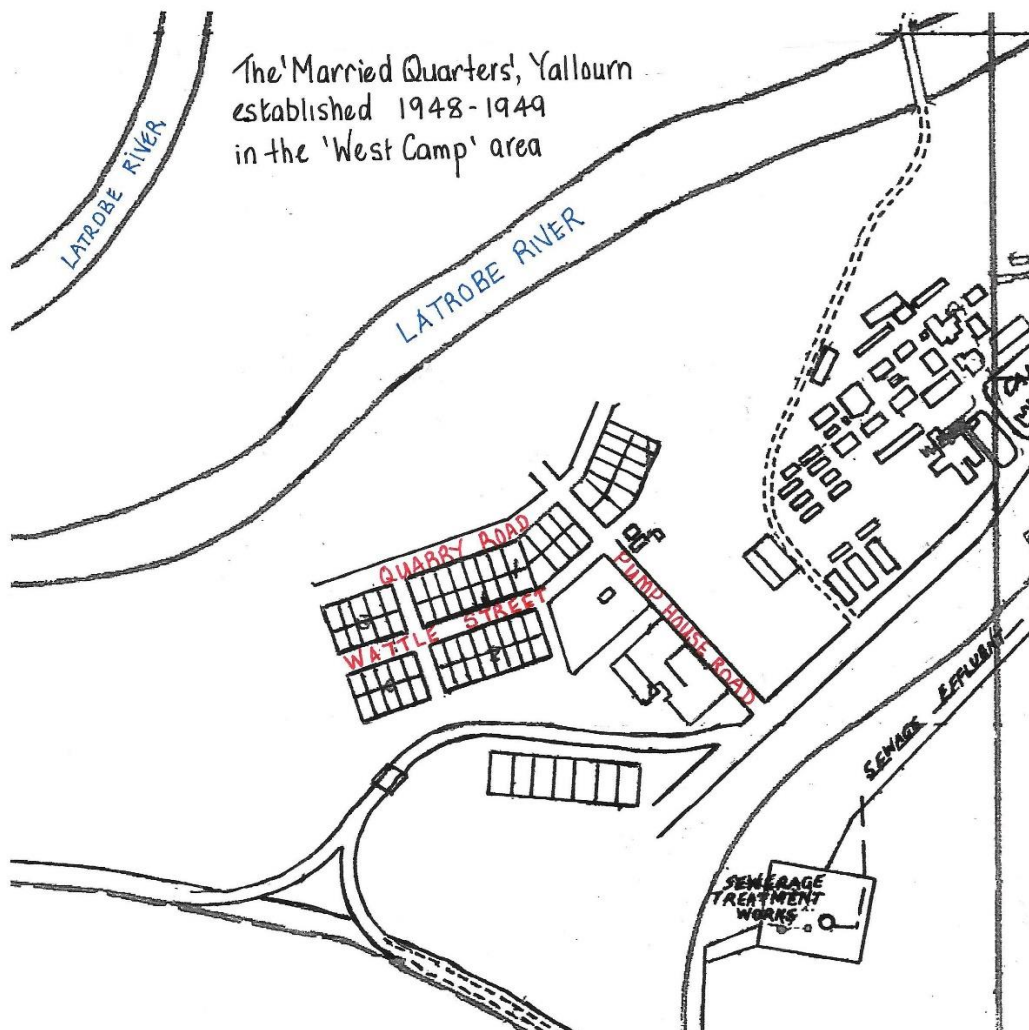
By 1948, Yallourn Township accommodation had reached its maximum development.

As a result, the SEC relocated nineteen (19) houses from Leongatha - these 'temporary residential houses' for the contractors and their families were erected in **Quarry Road** and **Wattle Street** within the Western Camp area adjacent the Western Hostel and would become known as the 'Married Quarters'. **Pump House Road** was a designated access road.

My father worked an engineering contractor for the SEC and hence following his 1954 marriage was offered rental accommodation at **47 Wattle Street**, Yallourn.

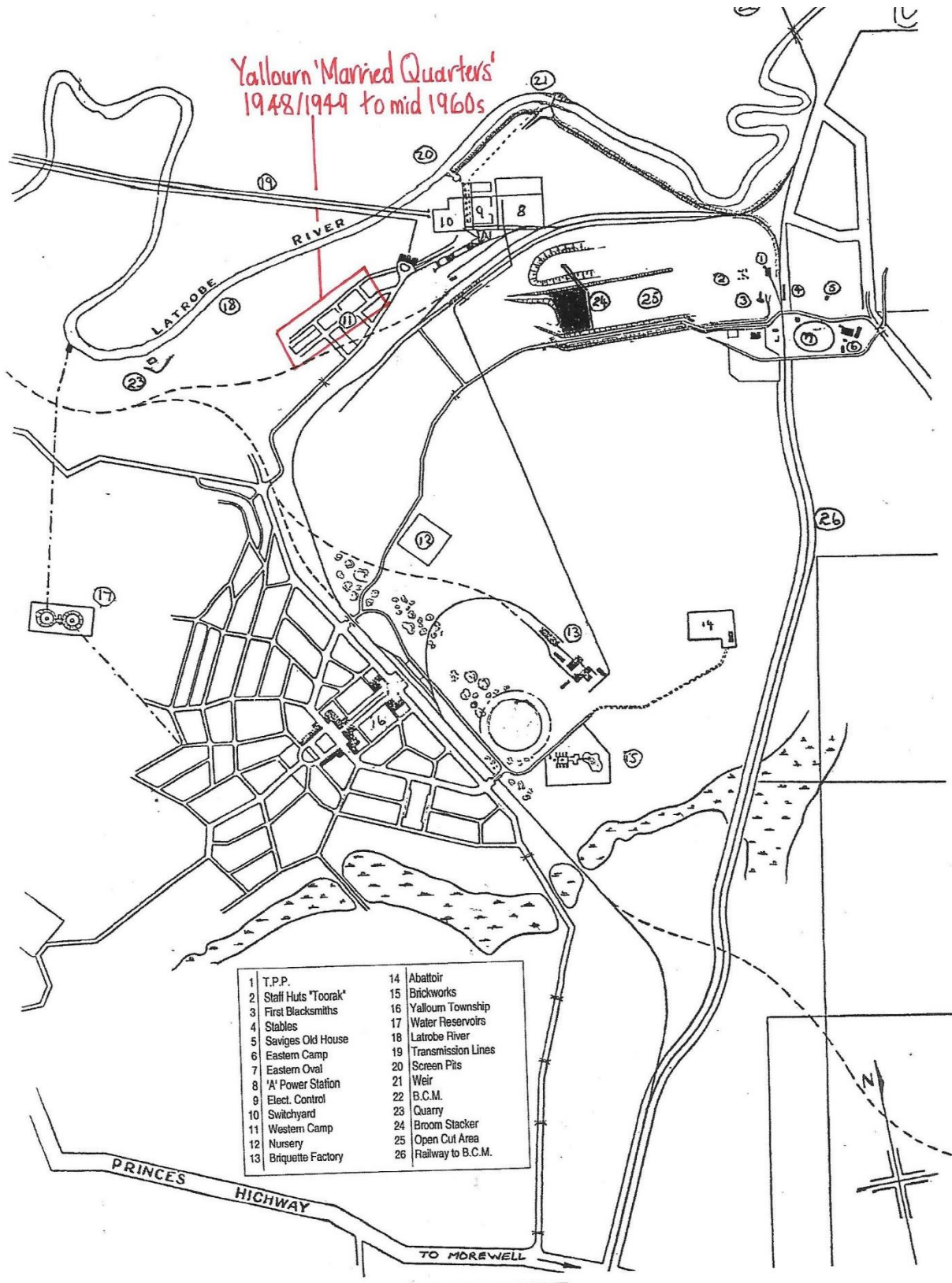
The 'temporary residential houses' were gradually removed during the 1960s to allow for construction of Yallourn W Power Station, Stage 1.

The following edited layout/site plans are included to provide some location context for the residential streets of the 'Married Quarters'. **Please note these layout/site plans are not to scale.*



Residential streets of the 'Married Quarters' (1960 SEC Yallourn Site Plan, courtesy of SEC)

1922 - Location of 'Western Camp' which later became the 'Married Quarters'



1922 SEC Yallourn Site Plan

1960 - Location of the 'Married Quarters'



1960 Yallourn Open Cut Plan (courtesy SEC)

References:

- Yallourn Power Station – A history 1919 to 1989. Author: Colin Harvey, Published 1993
- Yallourn Open Cut, South Field Development Report, SEC December 1960
- Mr John Drewett, ex-Yallourn SEC employee and SEC Consultant

I compiled this document to help me and previous **Quarry Road** and **Wattle Street** residents gain some insight into why it seems impossible to find the residential streets of the 'Married Quarters' listed in any Government map/street directory.

Kaye Brill, 2022