

REFRESHMENTS? TRY THE LOG CABIN CAFE

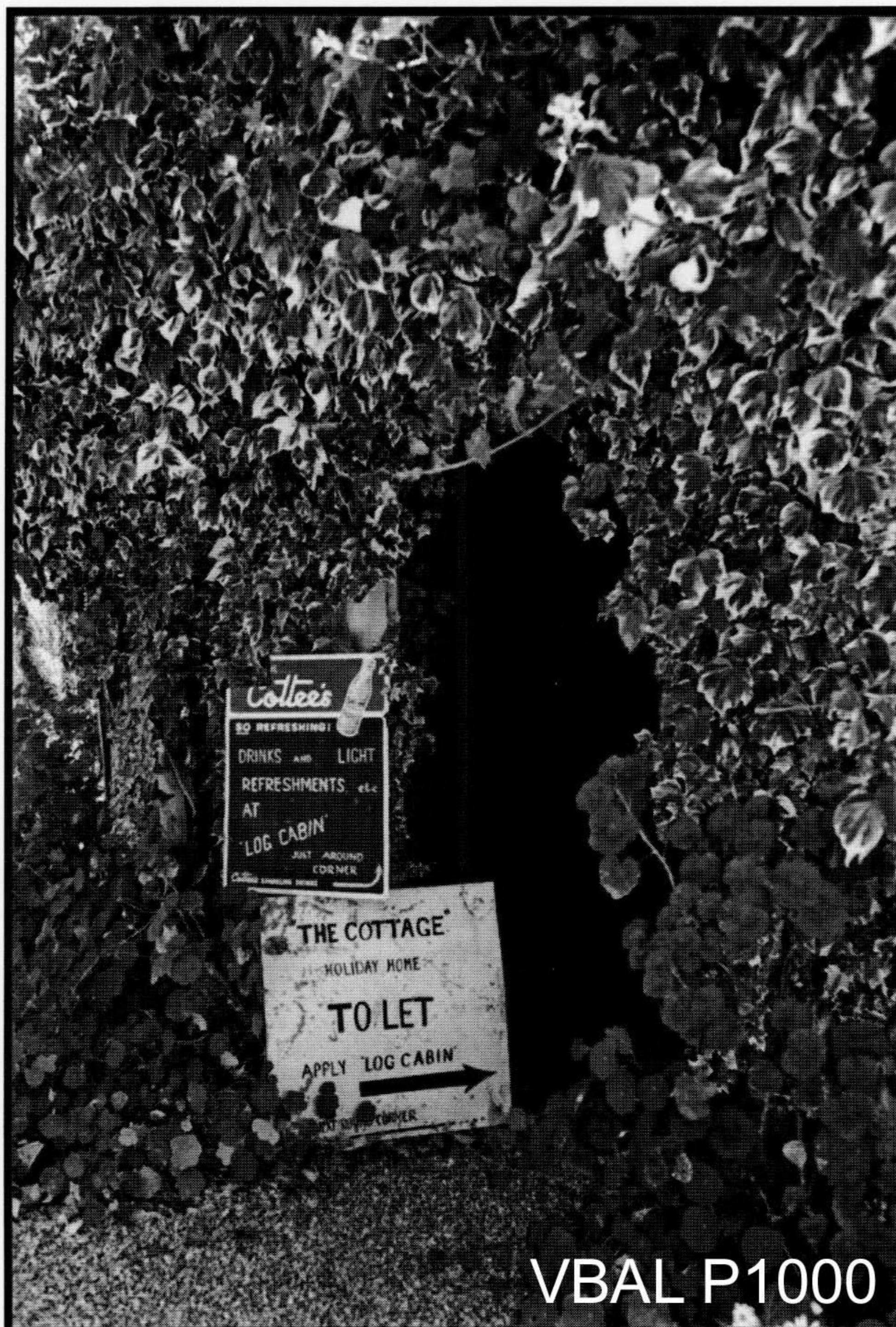
How different was Balnarring in 1964. It did not warrant a map in the Street & Business Directory of the Mornington Peninsula for that year but was described as being within the Hastings Shire, 45 miles from Melbourne, a fruit-growing and dairying district with an excellent beach that had all facilities. The population was estimated to be 285 people and there was a reminder that Saturday was a half day, i.e., businesses closed at noon.

The three businesses mentioned are the General Store (at the corner of Balnarring-Mornington Road, Balnarring Motors on the Hastings-Flinders Road and 'Take it from Here' (also known as Mrs Pichler's) where you could buy not only roast chickens but confectionary and milk bar items. It was also a poultry farm. The General Store supplied groceries, farm gates & fences, farm & station supplies, plumber's supplies, hardware, agricultural sprays, builder's supplies and veterinarian supplies. It was a newsagent's, a grocery and a seedsman & nurseryman centre as well as being an agent for Golden Fleece petrol. Balnarring Motors supplied petrol and was a car and truck dealers as well as a service station with a towing service., It was a centre for refrigeration sales and services and offered welding services.

Nearby Balnarring Beach was a holiday resort with three excellent camping grounds and a store, on Tulum Road. It could be reached by rail to Frankston and then by bus. There were 150 houses there while its estimated permanent population was 53 people.

Three churches, a post office and a hall were listed for the area. The last named was on the Balnarring-Mornington Road. The area was without a school. Primary-aged school children were bussed to Red Hill Consolidated School; those at secondary school level went to Frankston or Mornington. There were two libraries where books, supplied the by the Regional Library service, could be borrowed. One was at the building on the Hastings-Flinders Road that housed the childcare centre & kindergarten. The other was at Balnarring Beach in the front room of Wally Turner's home (the house now called 'The Old Library').

Sporting Clubs listed were the Racing Club and the Western Port Yacht & Boat Club while civic groups mentioned were the Progress Association and the County Fire Association.



A feature of today's Balnarring Village is its cafés and restaurants. In 1964 just one venue is listed – the Log Cabin Café. This was run by Mrs Edwards from a small log cabin-style building in the front yard of her home in Mason Smith Street at Balnarring Beach. She sold mainly Devonshire teas and soft drinks.

Ilma Hackett

Balnarring & District Historical Society

Do you have a query about our district's past? B.D.H.S has a wonderful collection of photographs and archival material relating to Merricks, Balnarring and the coastal communities of Somers, Merricks Beach and Balnarring Beach.

Contact us by phone on 5983 5326 or by email balhist4@gmail.com