

WHO? WHEN? WHERE?



After a hailstorm had whitened the ground outside his parents' home and store, a playful Vern Stone scooped up a handful of hail and compacted it to form a sizeable 'snowball'.

Vern was the youngest son of Ern and Annie Stone, the only one of their nine children to be born in Balnarring after the family had moved here from Brighton.

Their general store, at the corner of the Hastings-Flinders Road (Frankston- Flinders Road) and the Mornington-Balnarring Road (Balnarring Road) was then called the Junction Store. The family home was the weatherboard house to the left of and adjoining the store. As a young man, Vern helped his parents with the running of the store and also the store that his mother had opened at Tulum Beach (Balnarring Beach) for its summer trade.

Across the road and behind Vern is St Mark's Anglican Church with its white-painted walls and a low white fence either side of the gateway. There appear to be shrubs growing behind the fence. Vern is on the corner outside what is now the Red Hill Bakery.

The photo was taken probably in the early 1930s. Vern enlisted in the army during the Second World War. He was killed in New Guinea in 1943.

Whether his snowball hit its target is unknown. Whoever took the photo seems to be well out of range.

Photograph and information from the archives of the Balnarring & District Historical Society.

Ilma Hackett