

John Hewish & May Crouch



John Henry Hewish born 7th January 1878

The eldest child of ...

Henry Hewish and Catherine Kent
of "Cheriton Farm" Templestowe

John Hewish was born in January of 1878, the eldest of three sons and was known as "Jack".

His younger brother William, born on 22nd December 1882, died on the 16th February 1883, two months after his birth. (22nd December 1882 is also the same day his mother Catherine died).

When John was only four years 11 months, his father died aged 37 years from liver disease in November 1884. With the loss of both parents, his Uncle Thomas & Aunt Ann Hewish took on the responsibility of bringing up John and his other brother Ernest in Templestowe. (They both received an inheritance upon the death of their Uncle Thomas in 1901)



May Hewish abt.1901

On 14th October 1908, John married

May Crouch born 15th August 1880

The eldest daughter of...

Henry Crouch and Marion Longmuir
of "Hillcrest" Doncaster.

They had 3 Children

Ella Maisie b.1909
Allan Henry b.1914
Ronald John b.1918



Maisie, holding Ron and Allan
abt.1919

Orange Blossoms.

"A quiet but pretty wedding was celebrated at Hillcrest," Williamson's road, Doncaster, on Oct. 14th, when Miss May Crouch, eldest daughter of Cr Henry Crouch (president of the shire of Doncaster), was married to Mr James Henry Hewish, popularly known throughout the Doncaster and Templestowe districts. The ceremony was performed by Mr Henry Downes Smith, evangelist, in the presence of a large number of intimate friends and relatives. The bride was very neatly and appropriately attired, and was given away by her father. The attendant bridesmaids were Miss Ruby Crouch, Miss Reta Crouch, and Miss Hazel Crouch, who were also nicely dressed and carried pretty bouquets, while Mr Arch. Crouch was best man. A sumptuous wedding breakfast was supplied the numerous guests, the tables being excellently arranged along the verandah at the rear, which was suitably enclosed for the occasion. The usual felicitous speeches were indulged in, and when these had concluded and all had been regaled,



the remainder of the evening was devoted to games, music, &c. A few selections were rendered by the Doncaster brass band, of which Mr Hewish was formerly an active member, and all thoroughly enjoyed the various forms of amusement provided. The social was kept up till about 11 p.m., and on the departure of the bride and bridegroom cheers were given in the customary good style. Mr and Mrs Hewish, who are taking up their residence at Diamond Creek, have the best wishes of a large number of friends and acquaintances for their future prosperity. A number of cheques and useful presents were received by the young couple, and among the gifts was a massive inkstand from the members of the Doncaster band, bearing an inscription on a silver shield."



Church of Christ, Doncaster - Choir 40th Anniversary 1903
May Crouch (centre row-middle)

May was an active parishioner at the Church of Christ, Doncaster. At the turn of the century, she was a member of the choir, appearing in Church photos of the time.



Opening of the Government Cool Store, Doncaster March 16th 1905
John Hewish [4th from left centre] later held the position as chief engineer at the cool store.

In February 1920, the Governor-General of Australia, Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson and his wife, Lady Helen, visited Doncaster to meet orchardists and view and hear about the fruit-growing activities in the Doncaster area.

"The central stores were visited, and the process explained by the engineer, Mr J. Hewish. At this and the orchardists' store, the governor-general was shown over the building by the engineers in charge."

At the time of his marriage, John had an orchard in Diamond Creek, and he was one of the first to become involved with the cold storage of fruit. The construction of the Government-financed Central Doncaster Cool Store led him to later take up the position of chief engineer at the cool store.

He suffered poor health, from the constant monitoring of the cold chambers, forcing John to give up his work at the cool store and his last years were spent driving a road roller for the Shire.

- He was a prominent member and treasurer of the Doncaster I.O.R. Lodge No.129*
- He was also a member of the Doncaster Rifle Club and the Doncaster Brass Band.

Little else is known of his short life... *(Independent Order of Rechabites)



Doncaster Brass Band December 1919 - John "Jack" Hewish (second right back)



Doncaster Brass Band 1920

Back: 1. Philip Tolley, 2. Harold Smith, 3. Ralph Corbett, 4. Alf Petty, 5. Fred Tolley, 6. Fred Neal, 7. Archibald "Archie" Crouch
Centre: 1. Tom Manns, 2. Ernie Aumann, 3. Fred Tolley (snr), 4. Lawrie Smith, 5. August Zerbe, 6. John Tully, 7. Herbert Clay, 8. John "Jack" Hewish, 9. Tom Carr
Front: 1. John Smith, 2. Horrie Corbett, 3. Jim McKinley, 4. J W Plunkett (Band master), 5. Roy Tully, 6. Ted Bienvenu, 7. Albert Aumann

John died on the 5th June 1927 at the age of 49 years from pneumonia /meningitis*

This left May to bring up the children on her own, with Maisie nearly 18, Allan 13 and Ron almost 9.

In early 1939, May sold "Coo-ee" in Doncaster Road to her brother Stanley, before moving to 226 Union Road, Surrey Hills, where May lived on her own until no longer able to cope in her ageing years. May spent her remaining years living with her children, Allan and Maisie.

In July 1962, after the sale of the Clay Orchard property in Doncaster, May with her family moved to a small house purchased in Dromana, while a new house was later built in Red Hill South. May's health deteriorated over the next three years until it was too difficult for Maisie to cope anymore, placing May in the care of the Dromana Hospital. She was only there for a very short period before passing on 7th May 1965.

* Ref: June Crouch



Ron, Maisie, John, May and Allan - "Coo-ee" Main road, Doncaster abt.1926

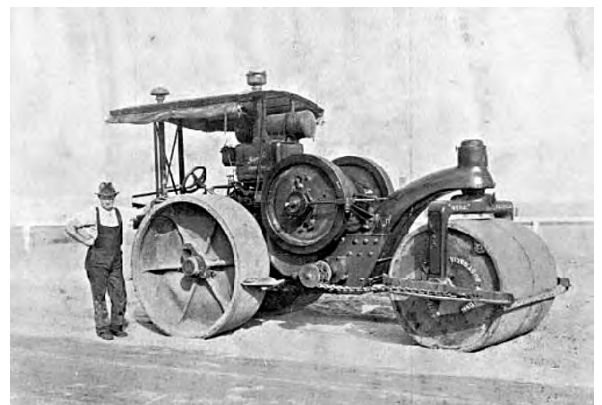
A Newspaper article on the death of John Hewish...

"The Death of Mr John H Hewish of Main Road Doncaster".

"In the Melbourne hospital, on June 5th removes a well-known and highly respected resident from our midst. When only five years old he lost both of his parents. Most of his youthful days were spent in Templestowe where he was born. Deceased married Mr H Crouch's eldest daughter and settled in Doncaster, devoting his energies to fruit growing. With the advent of cool stores he took an active part in establishing them in the district and finally held the position of chief engineer at the Central Cool Stores, Doncaster. Having been advised to get more outside work, he gave up his position at the cool stores and for some time was in charge of the Shire road roller. The late Mr Hewish was esteemed by all who knew him and beloved by those who knew him most intimately. His integrity and devotion to duty gained for him the fullest confidence of those in whose service he was placed. He was a useful member of the Doncaster I.O.R Tent and had filled the position of treasurer for a long period. He was a prominent member of the Doncaster Rifle Club and took an interest in sport. The great gathering around his grave in the Box Hill cemetery was a striking testimony to the respect in which he was held. Mr C. Lang of the Church of Christ Doncaster conducted the burial service and Mr John Tully V.D.C.R. read the I.O.R.** service. Mr Hewish leaves a widow and three children to mourn their loss and for whom sincere sympathy is felt and expressed. "*

* Victorian District Chief Ruler

** Independent Order of Rechabites



Jack's last years were spent driving a road roller for the Shire. (typical photo)

John and May rest together
at the Box Hill cemetery.



The Argus, Melbourne, Monday 6 June 1927 Deaths

HEWISH. - On the 5th June, at the Melbourne Hospital, John Henry (Doncaster), dearly loved husband of May, and loving father of Maisie, Allan, and Ronald, aged 49 years.

Funerals

HEWISH. - The Friends of the late JOHN HENRY HEWISH are respectfully informed that his remains will be interred in the Box Hill Cemetery. The Funeral is appointed to leave his late residence, Doncaster road, Doncaster, To-morrow (Tuesday), at 3 p.m. A. W. PADBURY and Co., Funeral Director, Kew, Auburn, and Box Hill. 'Phones Haw. 31, 1551; Box Hill 146.

HEWISH. - Doncaster Tent, I.O.R., No. 129. - The Members of the above Tent and the Order generally are respectfully invited to follow the remains of our Brother JOHN HEWISH to the place of interment, the Box Hill Cemetery, To-morrow (Tuesday), at 3 p.m. A. F. MILLAR, Secretary. A. W. PADBURY and Co., Funeral Director.

The Argus, Melbourne, Thursday 20 October 1927

Wills and Estates

John Henry Hewish, of Doncaster, orchardist, who died on June 5, left by will dated July 16, 1915, real estate of a gross value of £1,023 and personal property of a gross value of £1,371 to his wife.

Additional Hewish images...



John & May Hewish's house "Coo-ee" Main Rd Doncaster abt. 1920 – it appears to be shortly after it was built.
Note: - the very small Palm tree in the front, a feature in later photos



John & May Hewish's house "Coo-ee" Main Rd. Doncaster – (on the right – the other house belong to the Darcy family)
Photo: - possibly taken from the Central Coolstore roof where John worked as chief engineer.



"Hillcrest" Williamson's Road, Doncaster.

The home of May's parents' Henry & Marion Crouch, where May & John's wedding was celebrated.



Ron and "Jack" at Graceburn Weir, Healesville abt.1922



May, Ron and May's sister Hazel at Graceburn Weir, Healesville abt.1922



May Crouch abt.1881



John & May Hewish with Ella Maisie and Allan Henry abt.1917



May Crouch abt.1898



Allan Henry, May, John and Ella Maisie "Hillcrest" abt.1916

The Family photographed in front of "Coo-ee" in Doncaster Road.

May sold "Coo-ee" to her brother Stanley early in 1939, before moving to 226 Union Road Surrey Hills, where May lived on her own until unable to cope in her ageing years.



This photo was taken at Barbara's 21st Birthday. (May's granddaughter) May spent time living with both her children Allan and Maisie, during the 1950s'.

After spending a few days with Maisie, Vern waits anxiously to take May back to her home at 226 Union Road Surrey Hills.

Photo: taken at the Clay's orchard property in Doncaster Rd - Aug 1950.

