



A LONG-TIME AGO: GOOD FRIDAY IN THE MALLEE

By Joan Addinsall

My experience of “life in the Mallee” began in the 1930’s when my Father was appointed as the Methodist Minister to the tiny town of Rainbow. My parents were very familiar with this part of the world as they both grew up on the Mallee farms and father had already served as a Minister in Natimuk and Managatang in his single days. In those days, the new Minister was expected to be in his new pulpit on the third Sunday in April and often that first service was the one held on Good Friday.

In Rainbow, the custom was to hold that service early on Good Friday morning. After that, the congregation made ready to go to the bank of Lank Hindmarsh near the town of Jeparit to continue the Easter celebrations, together with the congregations of the nearby towns and little country churches.

The cavalcade would be led by one of the farmer’s trucks on which the Rainbow Harmonium Organ had been placed and secured. The cars following were packed with people, picnic rugs and food for the rest of the day.

The lake-side service began in the early afternoon. The people gathered around the organ and Good Friday was remembered in the Bible readings, hymns, prayers and talks given by the various Ministers and Home Missionaries of that part of the world.

Finally, a last walk was taken on the bank of the lake if there happened to be any water in the lake, or into the lake bed. Everything was packed up and we all went back to our towns and farms to make ourselves ready for the celebration of Easter Day.