



Reunion (August 2002) of early 1940s geology students from the University of Melbourne. Left to right: Maud McBriar, Ian Black, George Thomas (seated), Keith Llewellyn, Nancy Thomas (seated), Owen Singleton, and (all seated) John Knight, Sylvia Whitehead (nee Bosselmann) and Hope Black (nee McPherson). Colour photograph donated by John Knight to the H.gd.P archives.

HISTORY OF THE GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT PROJECT (H.gd.P) School of Earth Sciences, University of Melbourne

Note No. 1 March 2007

E.B. Joyce

Memories of the Old Geology School at Melbourne Uni 1938–1942

*(based on handwritten notes prepared by John Knight in February 2004,
now held in the archives of the H.gd.P)*

Although only reaching Leaving Certificate standard (at Melbourne Boys High School in the 1934–36 period) I had recently received a £2000 legacy from my late father's mother for my upkeep and education, so it seemed logical to obtain a good education as soon as possible. I was accepted for a science course with the possibility of becoming an Analytical Chemist.

In 1937 I began my Science Course but only passed in Physics (Natural Philosophy then) and Science French & German taught by Dorothy Everlid – a very helpful tutor. Before re-enrolling in 1938, Dr. Summers, the Dean of Science, suggested that I should pursue a full four-subject year and recommended Geology 1. This I did and was eager to study with Prof Skeats whom I had met during a Gilbert and Sullivan opera season in Melbourne. I found Skeats a good lecturer to follow and the proposed excursions and practical work appealed to me. Other students struggling with Pure Maths urged me to attend lectures and sit the final exam, as they said that it would help to reduce the marking pass level for them, however three more attempts and I failed yet again.

Our first geological excursion was to Royal Park, when a notice appeared in the Geology Practical Room that the drags (omnibuses) would leave outside the G. School the following Saturday at 9.30 A.M. After inspecting