

# Now & Then



Issue 2, May 2012

Affiliated with Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc

2011

## Meeting Dates

May 5  
June 2  
July 7 AGM  
August 4  
September 1  
October 6  
November 3  
December 1

All meetings are held on the 1st Saturday of the month (except as shown above) and at 1 pm at the Old Lilydale Court House  
61 Castella St.,  
Lilydale.

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website: [www.lilydalehistorical.com.au](http://www.lilydalehistorical.com.au)

Contacts:

President: 9735 1661  
Secretary: 9761 9192

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Issue 2 May 2012

## Our official opening

It may have taken 12 months but finally the society held its official opening on Sunday, March 4 this year.

The invitations were printed and sent out and by 2pm it was standing room only in the court house.

There were former councillors, members from other societies and members we had not seen for a while. Our special guests Yarra Ranges Mayor Cr Graham Warren; Cr Len Cox; Tony Smith MHR for Casey; Chirstine Fyffe MLA for Evelyn and David Hodgett MLA for Kilsyth and former local councillor and Ken Smith local solicitor and former councillor.

Our president Sandy Ross outlined the society's history before handing over to the Mayor Graham Warren who spoke of the value of heritage to the community. It was left to Ken Smith to speak about his time appearing in the court house and of the battle to try and keep it open to continue serving the local people. However, when that was lost he worked tirelessly to have the shire purchase and preserve the building.

To finish the formal proceedings, Tony Smith presented the society's eldest members – Val Sheehan, Evelyn Tull and Ruby Kwijas with an Australian flag which was promptly run up our flag



*Mayor Graham Warren officially "opens" the Old Lilydale Court House under the watchful eye of society president Sandy Ross.*

pole. The final formality was completed when Graham Warren and Sandy Ross "opened the front doors". This is a society tradition and was performed by Pamela, Lady Vestey in 1978 when we opened the museum and again in 1998 when we opened the first stage refurbishment.

Afterwards, everyone enjoyed a traditional society afternoon tea of home-made sandwiches, scones, cakes and of course freshly brewed coffee and tea. Sitting in the marquee outside it was a great time for people to catch up with each other and share their news.

*Anyone who would like to see the video can pop into the court house and the volunteers will put it on for you.*

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## Research

Due to the increasing demand for research and the failure of some people to pay for the information provided, the society's executive has now introduced a new system to ensure any inquiries are handled quickly and efficiently and payment is received.

All inquiries must be in writing and go to our archivist Sandy Ross at [aross35@bigpond.com](mailto:aross35@bigpond.com) Sandy will contact the people involved and provide a written quotation. No research will be done until the quotation is paid.

Our charges are \$20 per hour.

Anyone with any queries can contact Sandy 9735 1661 or Sue Thompson 9761 9192.

## Talks, tours and walks

Anyone looking for a speaker or a different place to go should contact Lorraine Smith as the society has several members willing to give talks about their area of special interest.

These include Melba, aspects of Lilydale township and its history, Lilydale Cemetery, the Lilydale Express newspaper and Lilydale's military history.

Contact Lorraine Smith on 9735 1104.

## Speakers program

Lorraine Smith is presently compiling a list of people to approach as guest speakers at the society meetings or special evenings next year. If you have heard someone - not necessarily related to heritage - who you found interesting and entertaining, please call Lorraine on 9735 1104.

## On the airwaves

Listen to the Radio Station 98.1 FM. The society is on the airwaves on the second Tuesday in the month from 9.30am to 10am. The other societies on other Tuesdays are Ringwood, Knox and Croydon.

## Keep up to date

If you want to find out more information about the society, our local history, its people and places or about Dame Nellie Melba go to:

[www.lilydalehistorical.com.au](http://www.lilydalehistorical.com.au) or

[www.nelliemelbamuseum.com.au](http://www.nelliemelbamuseum.com.au)

## More opening day photos



Top: Member for Casey Tony Smith watches as John Sebire and Phil Garland raise our new flag.

Middle Left to right: Ruby Kwijas, Val Sheehan and Evelyn Tull after the flag presentation

Above: It was full house on opening day.

(Photos Maree Phelan)



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## Memorial Service for Pamela, Lady Vestey

On Tuesday, February 21, 2012, at 2pm a large crowd of family and friends gathered to remember and pay their respects to Lady Vestey in Scot's Church, Melbourne. This was the church that her great grandfather, David Mitchell, had built, and at which her grandmother, Dame Nellie Melba's funeral took place.

A number of people from the Lilydale & District Historical Society attended. Lady Vestey had been Patron of the society for many years.

The service was conducted by the Rev Douglas Robertson and a prelude was played on the magnificent pipe organ by the organist, Mr Douglas Lawrence, OAM.

After the call to worship and the Lord's Prayer, the first hymn "Morning Has Broken" was sung.

The first scripture reading, Psalm 121, was read by Mrs Ann Blainey, followed by the Choir singing "Jesu, word of God Incarnate".

The second scripture reading, Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 was read by Lord Vestey.

Lord Vestey, his brother Mark, and family members had flown to Melbourne for the special occasion.

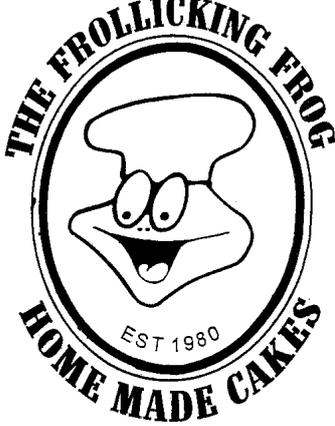
A prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi was then read by Mrs Tamara Fox, granddaughter of Lady Vestey.

The Choir sang the hymn "Saviour, again to thy dear name we raise".

The address was then given by Rev Douglas Robertson, and the service finished with the second hymn "Abide with me" and the benediction.

Afterwards all were invited to partake of light refreshments with the family, kindly provided by the ladies of Scots' Church, in the Werner Brodbeck Hall on the ground floor at 156 Collins Street.

*A. (Sandy) Ross.*



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## *From the Past*

1. Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys.
2. Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session.
3. Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nib to the individual taste of the pupils.
4. Men teachers may take one evening each week for the courting purposes, or two evenings per week if they go to church regularly.
5. After ten hours in school the teacher may be spared the remaining time reading the bible or other good books.
6. Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
7. Every teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in barber shop we will have good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity and honesty.
8. Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society.

The teacher who performs his labour faithfully and without fault for five years shall be given an increase of twenty-five cents per week in his pay, provided the Board of Education approves.

*(From Rules of Teachers 1872 issued by M Wagner Superintendent September 15, 1886)*

## New displays

The society's new displays are now in place and are already generating a lot of comment. We don't really know what we have on our own back door until you start doing the research.

Did you know that every day trucks leave Olex Cables carrying a million dollars worth of cabling for all parts of Australia and the company is our shire's second largest employer after the Shire of Yarra Ranges?

The Olex display features never-before-seen photos of work inside the factory which was established as Moulded Products in the 1950s.

The White Dog display lists all the publicans - thanks to Fred Bramich - and also tells the story behind the name.

Members are already planning and researching the next displays which will be erected in the September. If you have any ideas for a display, call Lorraine Smith.

We can advise and arrange insurances on your behalf including Home & Contents, Private & Commercial Motor Vehicle, Farm, Business Insurance, Liability and much more.

When your insurances are due for Renewal give us a call.

**Wilkinson Insurance Brokers**  
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## Court House Report

At each meeting Lorraine Smith tables the statistics for the court house during the past month.

The stats since the start of the year are:

Month	Jan	Feb	March	Total
Visitor No.	32	89	132	253
Volunteer hours	137	165	215.5	517.5
No. Talks /Tours	2	3	-	5
No. People	15	60	-	75

Note: 85 people attended our opening in March.

## Donations

This year, the society has been the recipient of several collections from some of the district's oldest settlers.

The John Hutchinson family photo album was donated by a local collector; a Hill family member has donated a wealth of information and photographs and the YRRM has returned the Jack Lundy Clark collection.

The most recent donation is from Raymond Henderson who wrote *From Jolimont to Yering* on the history of the Swiss and their role in developing the Yarra Valley wine industry. The book took 15 years to complete and we now have all the material he collected.

Members are starting to catalogue the collection and digitising all the photographs.

If you have any photographs of your family, Lilydale or the surrounding area taken in the last 50 years and you would like to donate them or allow us to digitise them to add to our collection, please call Lorraine Smith 9735 1104 or Sue Thompson 9761 9192.



*This photo of a very distinctive house was with a collection of Syme family photos. Does anyone recognise the home? If so, please call Val Sheehan on 9739 1940.*



*Lilydale Station ran a highly popular sausage sizzle for their commuting customers recently - with the goodies supplied by the local Safeway Supermarket. Pictured third from left is Group SM Alex Deans. Behind the counter, third from the right is guard Frits Groehhuizen and second from right is SM Greg Stevenson. (Changing Times September 26, 1991)*

## Speaker program

Meetings, Events and Speakers					
Month	Date	Event	Time	Members	Non Members
May	5	Meeting	1pm	free	free
		Rob Simpson speaking on the hunt for the Mahogany Ship	2pm	free	\$2.00
June	2	Meeting	1pm	free	free
July	7	Annual General Meeting	1pm	free	free
		Catherine Turnbull will talk about the Laour men buried at Coburg Cemetery	2pm	free	\$2.00
August	4	Meeting	1pm	free	free
September	1	Meeting	1pm	free	free
		Christine Fyffe	2pm	free	free
October	6	Meeting	1pm	free	free
		Shirley & David Williams - Art and history around Victoria	2pm	free	free

If undeliverable return to:  
Lilydale & District Historical Society  
P.O. Box 834, Lilydale Vic 3140

**Now & Then by email**

With the rising costs of paper and postage, the society is inviting members who are happy to receive their newsletter by email to contact Sue Thompson at [suethompson50@ozemail.com.au](mailto:suethompson50@ozemail.com.au) and I will email a copy to you. Back copies are also available electronically.

## Support your society - buy mum a book for Mothers' Day

Throughout the years, the society has continued its publishing program. Our program has always been aimed at promoting and preserving our history and also providing income so we can continue our many heritage activities.

You can help us by simply purchasing our books and adding them to your book shelf or giving them away as gifts to relatives and friends.

Our website [www.lilydalehistorical.com.au](http://www.lilydalehistorical.com.au) has a complete list of our publications or alternatively, call into the court house where we have a display of all our publications.

- Melba A Family Memoir*, Pamela Vestey      \$20.00
- Reminiscences Volume 1                              \$14.50

## Your Membership

Members are the life blood of any organisation and that includes your society.

As a member you receive many benefits:

- Free access to our extensive archive of families, places and events in our community;
- Free access to our digital archives such as the Lillydale Express and rate books;
- Four issues each year of our newsletter

Now & Then by either mail or email

- Invitations to all our special events, talks and tours;
- Discounts on all our publications; and
- Opportunity to learn more about our local history.

Renew your membership or invite a friend to join our society today by filling out the form below.

## Membership Subscription 2012-2013 now due

**Membership Subscriptions 2012-2013 are due on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012.** (If you are not sure if you are financial, please ring Lorraine on 9735 1104 to check.)

Name of Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

- Family Membership ..... \$20.00
- Single membership ..... \$15.00
- Pensioners ..... \$10.00
- Students (under 16 years) ..... \$5.00

Amount enclosed: \$ .....

**SEND TO:**  
The Treasurer  
Lilydale & District  
Historical Society  
P.O. Box 834,  
LILYDALE 3140

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