



## Meeting Dates 2017

- September 2
- October 7
- November 4
- December 2

All meetings are held on the 1st Saturday of the month (except as shown above) at 1pm at the Old Lilydale Court House 61 Castella St., Lilydale. Guest speakers start at 2pm.

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Issue 2 May 2017

## Another busy year for the society

At the society's Annual General Meeting held on August 6, society president Sue Thompson outlined the many activities of the society during the last 12 months. Secretary Joy Gothe presented the inquiries and internet reports while treasurer Phil Burton reported on the financial health of the society.

No society would exist and work for the community without its wonderful, skilled volunteers and our court house manager Lorraine Smith presented the summary of the volunteer work carried out in the last year.

After receiving all the reports, all positions were declared vacant and the following were elected for the next 12 months:

President - Sue Thompson; Vice President Jeanette Dodson; Secretary Joy Gothe; Treasurer Phil Burton and committee members - Lorraine Smith, Robin Childs, Margaret Tull, Florence Shaw and Jo Pritchard.

All reports are published inside and are also available in full on our society website: [www.lilydalehistorical.com.au](http://www.lilydalehistorical.com.au) under News.

## Exploring Local Family History

As its contribution to Family History Month, the society is holding a special afternoon on Saturday August 26 from 1 to 3pm.

There will be two sessions led by society members who will explore what resources we have to help you with your family research. Members will also be on hand to help you with your own research using our resources. It will be held at our home The Old Lilydale Court House, 61 Castella Street, Lilydale. The cost is \$10 a per person which includes handouts and tea and coffee.

As places are limited, to book phone Lorraine Smith on 9735 1104.



What does a Half Plate Studio Camera have to do with Dame Nellie Melba? Story inside on page 3.

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## ANZACS

The society has now put up on line all the names of the local people who answered the call during World War I.

Our dedicated team of researchers are now completing the service records and family stories of our Diggers and each week more are being added to our website.

Sadly, we have ANZACS for which we have no information other than their name which was included on one of our many local honour boards. If you can

help us with more information please complete our special inquiry form.

To see the ANZACS project, go to: [www.lilydale-historical.com.au](http://www.lilydale-historical.com.au) and click on the *They Answered the Call* link on the home page to see the listings.

### 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 events next year. If you have heard someone - not necessarily related to heritage - who you found interesting and entertaining, call Lorraine on 9735 1104.

### Support our Sponsors

Our sponsors are local people who love their history and support us in every way. Their sponsorship contributes to our rent and court house costs. Without them we would not be able to remain in the Old Lilydale Court House. So please support those who support us.

### 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)

### Book Indexer

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**Contact: Judy Macdonald, mob. 0428263929  
Judy is a highly valued member of our society as our librarian and indexer. Currently, Judy is heading up our book indexing team.**

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## Just smile for the camera

President Sue Thompson spent a day exploring the Herberton Historic Village on the Atherton Tablelands in North Queensland. Naturally she had to go into the music shop and later the camera shop. Imagine her surprise when the sign outside the camera shop mentioned Dame Nellie Melba!

Intrigued, Sue and Wally looked further and discovered the Broothern studio camera on page 1, was used by photographer Jack Cato in the 1920s to photograph celebrities including Dame Nellie Melba and Australian Prime Minister Billy Hughes.

A little bit of research revealed Dame Nellie had met Cato in Tasmania and convinced him to move to Melbourne. Of course no prize for guessing who opened his studio in Melbourne in 1927! With Melba's patronage the doors of Melbournians opened to Cato.

"This is just another example of the support and encouragement Melba gave to Australians working in so many fields of the arts," Sue said.

"And more research is needed on this, another interesting Melba story."

For more details go to the Australian Dictionary of Biography entry on Cato at: <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/cato-john-cyril-jack-9712>

## Donation from Jim Sawyer

Following the passing of Jim Sawyer earlier this year, his Executor Ken Smith has donated many images, documents and personal effects of Jim and his family to our society.

The collection includes photographs; slides; travel diaries; history and paperwork of the family farms; personal documents such as birth certificates; World War I medals and documentation; and invitations and documents relating to Jim time as a Councillor of the Shire of Lillydale.

At last we will be able to record the contribution the Sawyer family made to Lillydale's agricultural development.

Also, this collection when combined with the diaries and documents donated by the former shire engineer and CEO Ken Scott, will provide a valuable record of Lillydale life.

## Lilydale Police station.

The old Lillydale Police Station and lock-up in Castella Street is to be demolished and become an extension of the school grounds for the Lillydale Primary School. The society is working with the school to record and research the history of the building to add to our archives.

# As It Happened

The history of Coldstream, Gruyere, Yering and Killara

Volume Four

From 1941 to 1960

Part 1



## Val Sheehan

## As It Happened Launch

The launch of Val Sheehan's *As It Happened Volume 4* will be held at the Old Lillydale Court House on Sunday, November 22 from 2pm.

The final volume has been a mammoth project due to the enormous number of reports and articles on Coldstream, Yering, Gruyere and Killara published in the *Lillydale Express*. There are more than 100 pages of sport but still some have sadly had to be left out.

Due to the number of pages the book will be published in two parts and totals more than 430 pages. This volume will include a comprehensive index compiled by librarian and member Judy Macdonald. Judy is also working on comprehensive indexes of the three earlier volumes. These will be available later next year.

As part of the launch the society will also unveil a special display featuring highlights from all four volumes.






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Welcome

## **2016 – 2017 President's Report**

Another year has passed and again, it has been a busy one and one in which the society has again showed that history can be fun and an opportunity to learn more about our community and develop new skills as well. As president I have the easiest role but nothing could be achieved week in week out without our fantastic team of volunteers and the committee.

We have several new volunteers this year and each has brought their own skills to help us. Our philosophy is simple: we value our volunteers and ask them what they would like to do or learn about – be it cataloguing, research, indexing, typing, data entry, displays, scanning etc.

Phil Burton and Joy Gothe have been further developing our training manual so everyone understands what we do and why we do it.

### **Walks and Tours**

Lorraine Smith, our Court House Manager will give her report on the various speakers, walks and tours we have organised during the year. But special thanks must go to Lorraine for her cemetery tours and the work of our new tour guides Phil Burton, Joy Gothe and Jo Pritchard who have conducted several township walks.

When residents who have lived all their lives in Lilydale tell our guides they thought they knew everything about Lilydale, it means we are enhancing their experiences as Lilydale residents.

### **ANZAC project**

Vice president Jeanette Dodson and husband Ray Dodson have been fantastic in their co-ordination of the ANZAC project which involved so many members quietly researching our 400+ servicemen and women. We now have a wonderful resource on line and digitally on so many of our areas families.

It was standing room only at the launch of the ANZAC website, our display and small booklet by our local member Tony Smith, himself a passionate history buff. Everyone was impressed at the work the members had done during the 2-year project and everyone was amazed at the depth of information Jeanette and the team had gathered.

### **RHSV Award of Merit**

I was humbled when it was announced the Royal Historical Society had awarded me their Award of Merit. RHSV President Don Garden attended and spoke about the value of heritage and the work I had done throughout the years. Again, it was standing room only followed by a wonderful afternoon tea.

### **Court House**

The new Licence Agreement was finalised in early 2016 and included an agreement that the shire would install ceiling fans and removed electric wall heaters to help reduce the spiralling energy costs. Through these measures and the 50/50 basis share with the U3A, our

costs have reduced and remained within our budget.

The shire also re-sealed the Court House floor as part of its regular maintenance.

### **Les's Shed**

A new addition this year was the construction of Les's Shed, named after Life Member and project builder Les Skate who turned a colourbond garden storage shed into John Brown's vision of a building compatible with our existing buildings. Built over 3 weeks in January by a group of volunteer members, the shed is a credit to Les and the workers and shows what can be achieved when the skills of members are utilised. Special mention must go to plumber Trevor Smith who supervised the roof, spouting, downpipes etc. Its addition has allowed us to free up collection storage space in the Court House.

### **Meeting with our Patron**

During her visit to Coombe Cottage in February, the Honourable Saffron Foster, her daughter and a friend visited the Court House and met the committee. It is wonderful we have been able to continue the Melba family relationship started by Pamela, Lady Vestey Saffron's grandmother.

### **Vale Evelyn Tull and Jim Sawyer**

Last but not the least, we have again sadly lost members. Life Members Evelyn Tull and Jim Sawyer passed away in October 2016 and May 2017 respectively. Evelyn's great knowledge, wit and down-to-earth approach is sorely missed while Jim Sawyer was one of the two remaining foundation members of our society. It was my privilege to speak at both funerals on behalf of the society.

### **Library**

The society determined several years ago to establish a comprehensive library based on our collecting area. Under the guidance of librarian Judy Macdonald all our books have now been listed under title, author and subject. Working with a small team, all books not indexed are gradually being indexed which will be a huge time saver for members and researchers.

### **Regular activities**

- a. Our online presence continues to generate inquiries and interest across the globe. Special thanks must go to Maree Phelan and John Brown who have overseen the expansion of Facebook which has a growing number of hits and people following what we do and providing information on our images.
- b. Each month, members spend a half hour talking about our history and activities on Eastern Radio and promote our work to the wider community.
- c. A small team of Kristin Jackson and Wayne Gray continue to digitise Sandy's negative collection and along the way are unlocking some rarely seen images.
- d. Others are busy cataloguing our small but important photographic and paper based collection.
- e. The other valuable society asset is our archives.

All files now have been indexed with their own unique number and members are working through each file indexing the contents. When added to our Inmagic database program we will be able to search names, places and events across our archives, image collection, paper-based collection and our library.

- f. Our traditional Christmas Party and our Volunteers' Luncheon were again a great success and provided everyone with the chance to sit down and chat.
- g. Each year members take themselves, some objects and showbags to the two-day Lilydale Show. It is always an interesting time and we have the chance to promote ourselves to showgoers.

In conclusion, I want to thank all the society members for their support during the past 12 months and more particularly the committee which has willingly worked so hard for our society.

Two committee members are stepping down for a break and I specially want to thank both Maree Phelan and John Brown for their valuable contributions. John has quietly carried out research on several projects while Maree spends many hours just keeping our doors open on the weekend. I welcome two new committee members: Jo Pritchard and Florence Shaw both of whom will bring their knowledge and experience to the new committee.

**Sue Thompson President, August 6, 2017**

## Dates for the Diary

### Saturday, August 26: Exploring Local Family History

The society will again be holding a family history day as part of Family History Month. Phone Lorraine Smith on 9735 1104.

### Saturday, September 2:

General meeting followed by afternoon tea.

### Saturday, October 7:

General Meeting followed by long time jeweller and resident Henry Decrue speaking on Lilydale and how it has grown..

### Wednesday 11th October:

As part of the Yarra Ranges Seniors Festival we will be conducting a leisurely walk of Castella St.

### Friday, October 27:

Explore Lilydale's history as part of the Yarra Ranges Seniors Festival. People can bring along their own family photos and stories and share them with the society over a cuppa. 1 to 4pm

### Saturday, November 4:

General meeting at 1pm.

### Sunday, November 22:

Launch of Val Sheehan's fourth and final As It Happened Volume 4 1941 to 1960 along with the society's new associated display on Coldstream, Yering, Gruyere and Killara.

### Saturday, December 2:

Christmas party. General meeting at 12 noon followed by lunch at 1pm.

## Financial Report for 12 months to 30/6/17

Cash at Bank Australia	\$2,001.99
Term Deposit Bank Australia	\$10,254.96
Membership	\$1,429.62
Books and merchandise	\$2,106.05
Other income'	\$5,945.59
Total income	\$9,481.26
Cost of sales	\$1,202.67
Gross profit	\$8,278.59
Expenses	\$8,922.40*
Net Profit	-\$643.81
Total Equity	\$36,922.44#

\* Includes stock adjustment \$1,399.24; Les's Shed \$3,635.00 and Court House rent and utility costs \$1263.00.

# Includes merchandise

**Phil Burton, Treasurer**

## LDHS Annual Court House Report

1st July 2016 – 30th June 2017

Volunteers on duty at CH	1812 hours	
Visitors to the court house		228 people
Town walks	4	13 hours 45 people
Cemetery tours	1	3 hours 33 people
School Groups	3	45 hours 322 children
Talks at other venues	5	20 hours 104 people
Christmas party		29 people
ANZAC Launch		37 people
Volunteers lunch		17 people
Sue Thompson Merit Award		48 people
Les Shed Launch	425 hours	35 people
Lilydale Show table	33 hours	12 people
Vol. 4 As It Happened research	138 hours	
Research requests/Research in Court House	150 hours	
ANZAC project research, burial register & garden	244 hours	
Indexing, library, filing, cataloguing, scanning	1055 hours	
Meetings, displays, newsletter, collection	540 hours	
Facebook, computer, admin, workshops, and moving files	177 hours	
Av. meeting attendance		15 people
<b>Totals</b>	<b>20 events</b>	<b>4655 hours 898 people</b>

Meeting speakers: Yvonne Bethel - Convict Ancestors, Anthony McAleer - Italians in Yarra Valley, Sue Thompson - overview Melba Out back Tour and complete talk, Brenda Cawte - District nursing. Topics: First job, where did I go to school and favourite holiday.

Thank you to the 21 Volunteers who are on duty weekly, fortnightly and monthly. Really appreciate all of you and your dedication.

**Lorraine Smith, Court House Manager**

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 and I will email a copy to you. Back copies are also available electronically.

Lilydale & District Historical Society Inc  
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Lilydale Vic 3140  
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**Please help us**

A vital source of income for the society is it membership subscriptions. If you are yet to pay your membership renewal for the 2017-2018 which was due of July 1, Please renew by using the form below or by emailing our treasurer Philip Burton who will provide you with banking details for your renewal. We value your support and your membership by offering a range of services and discounts as listed below.

Philip’s email is: philip.burton@rbia.com.au

**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 2017-2018 now due**

**Membership Subscriptions 2017-2018 are due on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017.** (If you are not sure if you are financial, please ring Lorraine on 9735 1104 to check.)

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**If a red dot appears on your address label your membership is due.**

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