

# Now & Then



Issue 3, September 2012

Affiliated with Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc

2012

## Meeting Dates

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.

## A time to reminisce



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Contacts:  
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Secretary: 9761 9192

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Issue 3 September 2012

The members of the society again provided a delicious afternoon tea after the local member Christine Fyffe (above) launched our newest publication *Reminiscences of Life Volume 2*.

Held on June 3, about 40 people attended the launch and some were pleased to catch up with people they had not seen for years.

Ruby Kwijas who worked with those featured in the book did a great job collecting photographs and making sure everyone put in their material on time.

The people featured in this volume are:

John Hall; Gwendoline Davies (nee Marven) Margaret Thompson (nee Walker) Ray Oliver; Margaret Oliver (nee McRae); Hazel Ross (nee Hutchinson); Frances Walker (nee Bishop); Keith Lithgow; Ruby Kwijas (nee Humphries); Merle Slattery (nee Goode) and Gwen Miller.

The reminiscences cover every day life of people and their families and take us down memory lane:

The home deliveries by the local baker and grocer;

going to the pictures at the Athenaeum Theatre in the 1940s and hearing Melba sing there in the 1930s; Coolgardie safes and ice chests; listening to Dad and Dave and Blue Hills on the radio; playing by the creek and at the football ground; McRae's milk bar; washing the clothes in the copper in the back yard and baths every Saturday; dunking chooks in the water before plucking them and cooking fresh water crayfish caught in the Olinda Creek. Some people were born the same time at the Lilydale Bush Nursing Hospital and have remained friends for 70 years.

While the reminiscences will bring back memories for older people the book also provides a valuable insight into our local past for the younger generations..

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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)

## Court House Report

The stats for the society for the 12 months from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012 are as follows:

Activity	No.	People
Volunteer hours	1930	
Visitor No.		1223
Cemetery Tours	3	36
Talks in court house	13	407
Car Tours	1	32
Functions at court house	4	164
Talks at other venues	10	336
Average meeting attendance	15	
Research for others	56hrs	
Research by members and others	200hrs	

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped during the year on the roster, doing talks and carrying out research.

## New displays

The theme's for the society's new displays are now in place and will be put up during the coming September school holidays.

The families display will feature photos from the recently donated photo album of the John Hutchinson family. Thanks to help from family members we have now managed to identify quite a few of the people in the album.

The other displays will feature the Coldstream Hill property at the corner of the Warburton and Maroondah highways; Mount Lilydale College; Sgt Waters and his family; Door to door - businesses that home delivered during the 50s and 60s.

## Our Christmas Party

Although it will be almost Christmas, keep Saturday, December 1 free as that is the day of our Christmas party. During the last couple of years, the boys have built an enviable reputation of being able to cook fantastic pork and turkey in the Webber. Couple that with the ladies wonderful desserts and salads, it is a great Christmas party and costs only \$12.50 a person or \$25.00 a couple. Starts at 11.30am BYO drinks.



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# A time to reminisce



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## Society secures two grants

The society is now undertaking two projects thanks to grants of funds from the Shire of Yarra Ranges and The Federal Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities under its Your Community Heritage - Sharing Stories program.

### Faces, places and events

The \$1500 Shire of Yarra Ranges community grant will allow us to enhance our website with images from our large photographic collection through our *Places, Faces and Events* project

Using flickr we will create 15 themed galleries: Gruyere, Yering, Coldstream, Seville, Silvan, Chirnside Park, Melba Walks, talks and tours, views, families, businesses, events, vineyards and agriculture, industries and recreation.

Initially, we will put 10 images into each gallery but can add more in the coming months and years. The society is creating the galleries to generate interest in our history and also encourage income via photo sales.


### Gun Alley

Our \$35,000 Gun Alley project received more than \$21,700 from the Federal Sharing Stories program. *Gun Alley The True Story of Lilydale's Back Streets 1880 to today* traces lives of the working class families who lived in John Street, Lilydale in the section between the Olinda Creek and Hutchinson St which was called Gun Alley.

Using oral histories, videos and photographs the stories of the families will be incorporated into an interactive Google map of Gun Alley using three time lines - 1880 to 1929; 1930 to 1959 and 1960 to today and added to our website. We will be able to add further information and documents as they come to light.

The society will also create a DVD and produce a booklet of the project for those without a computer.

Already we have volunteers working on the project and anyone who wants to be involved should contact Sue Thompson on 9761 9192.



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## From the Past

Motor cars, like aeroplanes, at times act in a most unaccountable and unpleasant manner. On Friday last Dr. Syme left his motor car on the rising ground in front of the court house while he attended the court. The car was perfectly motionless when he left it, and, to all appearances would have remained there till Doomsday. However, something operated on the automatic works—perhaps the weather—and the car, of its own free will and accord, slowly moved down the hill, and, increasing in speed the further it went, until it was brought to a sudden stop by running into one of the street trees, which, as might be expected, did considerable damage to the fore part of the car. It is surmised that the motor, being on the crest of the rise, was forced down the hill by its own weight and increased in velocity the further it went down the hill.

*Lilydale Express December 10, 1920*

### TOWN CLOCK FOR LILYDALE.

#### SOON TO BE ERECTED.

At the Lilydale Shire Council meeting on Monday permission was sought by the Lilydale Progress Association to erect a town clock on the bandstand in Main street, Lilydale. The clock would be of English manufacture, with a dial of 18 to 20 inches, and would fill a long felt want in the town. On the motion of Crs. McGhee and Paul the council unhesitatingly granted the permission sought.

Since then Mr. Goode (secretary of the progress association) has purchased a reliable clock, the face measurements of which are slightly in excess of those mentioned above, which should be all the better for legibility and vision. The donor who is providing almost the whole of the cost has consented to the clock being erected on the bandstand, and on its arrival, perhaps next week, steps will be taken to provide Lilydale with a most useful facility.

*Lilydale Express July 27, 1928*

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# Annual Report of the Lilydale and District Historical Society Inc. (June 2nd 2012)

We have now seen the first full year in our new location, the Lilydale Court House. Everything seems to have worked out very well for us, and we are feeling settled and really appreciate our new home. The sharing situation seems to be working well with U3A.

On the 2nd September 2011 our Patron, Pamela, Lady Vestey passed away. She was a great and compassionate lady who was so much appreciated for her contribution and hospitality over many years. The Lilydale Historical Society was well represented, at the memorial service held at Scots Church in Melbourne. This was the church built by her great grandfather, and in which her grandmother Dame Nellie Melba's funeral service was held. Lady Vestey will be greatly missed by us all.

Sadly, we have lost three other members of our Society in the last few months: Cath Hill, Keith Lithgow and June Richardson. We pass on our sympathy to members of each family and again, they will be sadly missed by our Society,

On Sunday, 4th March 2012, the Society held the official opening of our new home. It was standing room only in the Court House. Our special guests were, Yarra Ranges Mayor Cr. Graham Warren, Cr. Len Cox, Tony Smith MHR for Casey; Christine Fyffe MLA for Evelyn, David Hodgett MLA for Kilsyth and former local councillor and solicitor, Ken Smith. 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 pole,

We have already put up two photographic and information displays on the walls of our new building which have been well read and studied, and we have plans underway to replace them again in the September school holidays.

We have enjoyed a good number of people at our monthly meetings and have decided to have a speaker at every second meeting. So far we have had some very interesting talks: Phil Garland spoke on Australian

coins and notes since the first day of settlement; Senior Constable Linda Hancock spoke on safety for older residents; Liz Downes spoke on the wreck of the American Whaler Trinity on Heard Island in 1880 and at our last meeting we had Rob Simpson speaking on the Mahogany Ship. These meetings were well attended and the informative talks appreciated by all.

At the annual Lilydale Show held in November we decided to put on a photographic display and sell some books, instead of looking after the lost children's tent. This has proved to be very successful with much interest from the public.

We have updated our Mission Statement, Aims and Objectives and Collection Policy. We needed to do this so that we can apply for funding and accept donations in keeping with our collecting policy.

In the minutes of our August meeting our treasurer proposed that "The end of the financial year annual statement of the Lilydale & District Historical Society be changed from 31st May to 30 June that the Society's rules be changed to reflect this". This motion was passed, by members.

We, as a historical society, would like to again thank all of our sponsors for their continued throughout the year. Also many thanks to Les Skate, who has greatly assisted in setting up the Court House for use, and now keeps it going with his energetic capabilities.

I would also like to thank, each member of our Society for the support I have been given throughout the year. The tireless work of each one is greatly appreciated. A special thanks also to Sue, our Secretary, who so capably manages all our affairs, organizes our displays etc and to Phil and Lorraine who also so capably handle all the financial work. Please remember we cannot have too many volunteers, with the walks, talks, research etc, that we do we look forward to another year of providing the valuable services of local history to the community.

**A. (Sandy) Ross, President.**

## Speaker program

October	6	Meeting	1pm	free	free
		Shirley & David Williams - Art and history around Victoria	2pm	free	free
November	3	Meeting	1pm	free	free
December	1	Meeting	11.30am	free	
		Christmas party with Webber roast	12.30	\$12.50 per person	

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.

## Books for Sale

Reminiscences of Life Volume 2	\$12.00
Reminiscences of Life Volume 1	\$14.50
Prosperity & Progress - The history of the former Shire of Lillydale offices	\$5.00
Lilydale Primary School Register	\$15.00

All are available from the Old Lilydale Court House, 61 Castella St, Lilydale. For a complete list of our publications visit our website at [www.lilydalehistorical.com.au](http://www.lilydalehistorical.com.au) and place an order.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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Students (under 16 years) .....	\$5.00

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