

# Now & Then



Issue 4 October 2017

Affiliated with Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc

## Meeting Dates 2017

November 4  
December 2

## 2018

February 3  
March 3  
April 7  
May 5  
June 2  
July 7  
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) at 1pm at the Old Lilydale Court House 61 Castella St., Lilydale. Guest speakers start at 2pm.

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## As It Happened launch November 26

On Sunday, November 26 the society will launch Val Sheehan's fourth and final As It Happened book. The society will also unveil its new display centred on the various themes of Val's books – sport, social, business, family, schools, transport and Melba.

Volume 4 which covers from 1941 to 1960 is by far the biggest volume as the people of Coldstream regularly reported on the social activities and events of the district. Sport reports were published sometimes each week be it football or cricket.

With so many reports, the society had to either leave items out or produce two parts to the book. The society decided on the latter influenced largely by the donation of garden day and Yarra Ranges. These contributions plus that from the society able to sell both means the society will be parts of the book for \$30.00 plus postage and up handling or can be picked up from The Old Lilydale Court House after the launch.

The launch is at 2pm in the afternoon welcome. Afternoon afterwards. To help with catering, Smith on 9735 1104 by Sunday November 19 if you will be attending.

The display will remain until later next year.

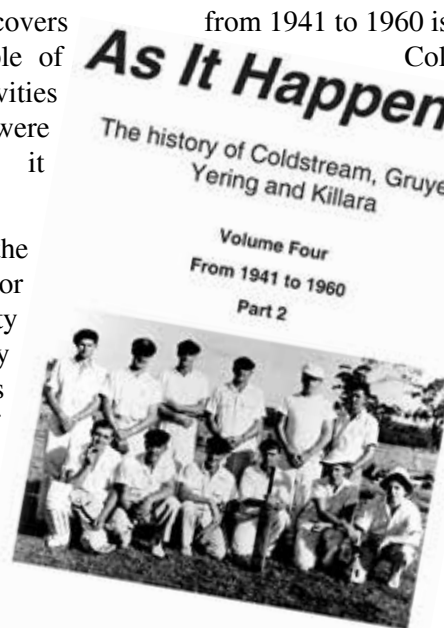
## Have a safe, happy Christmas

This will be our final edition for the year so on behalf of the society committee, I wish all our members, friends, families and sponsors a safe and happy Christmas.

I trust 2018 will be a wonderful year for everyone and I hope to catch up with many of you throughout the year.

The Old Lilydale Court House will close on Friday, December 17 and re-open on Wednesday, January 17.  
**Sue Thompson**  
President

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and everyone is welcome. Afternoon afterwards. To help with catering, please call Lorraine Smith on 9735 1104 by Sunday November 19 if you will be attending.

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/lilydaleandDistrictHistoricalSocietyIncl](http://www.facebook.com/lilydaleandDistrictHistoricalSocietyIncl)

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## 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.

### 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.

### 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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Welcome

## Christmas in the Lilydale district in 1950

Christmas was a time of celebration, gifts and most importantly annual holidays. Below is a highlights from the *Lilydale Express* in 1950.

### Digger Doings

#### LILYDALE R.S.S.A.I.L.A.

The children's Christmas party of the Lilydale R.S.L. will take place tomorrow (Saturday) afternoon, in the Athenaeum Hall, Lilydale. All members who have children should by now have received a Christmas card for each child, and, as explained in the recent sub-branch circular, those who have not received a card for each child should let the R.S.L. secretary know before Saturday.

To date there are 286 R.S.L. members' children enrolled for the party, so one can well imagine the task of preparing for same, and any further help that a member can give will be greatly appreciated. This is the Christmas party for the members' children, and most members would wish it to be something for the children to remember; so to-night, from 7 o'clock, in the Athenaeum Hall, the committee and members will be there to help prepare the hall for the party. Your help will be appreciated, also to-morrow morning and afternoon there will be plenty for all to help with, so don't be backward in coming forward.

*Lilydale Express* December 22, 1950.

**You'll be the hit of your holiday week-end**



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*Lilydale Express* December 15, 1950.

## Refurbishment of Lilydale landmark

Over the years, the society has had many people ask about the history of our most public Main Street landmarks - the War Memorial. In our collection we have various images from the official opening onwards. One of our researchers has compiled a brief time line on the memorial post World War II. If anyone is interested to learn more, please call into the Old Lilydale Court House and the volunteers will provide you with all the relevant and fascinating news items from the *Lilydale Express* and the RSL Minute books.

- March 1949 - Alteration to Soldier's Memorial: The marble statue of the Soldier on the Lilydale Soldier's Memorial is crumbling and no longer represented a soldier at ease, his rifle had also long disappeared. It was no longer a fitting tribute, so was removed. A decision was then made to replace it with a beacon in the shape of a vertical torch in which a perpetual light was to be placed. (*Lilydale Express* March 4, 1949)
- August 1949 - Alterations to Begin: Plans were in the hands of masons to begin work on the memorial, soldier to be replaced with red perspex in the shape of a torch with a surrounding of protective iron work which will be illuminated at nightfall. Names of the fallen to be inscribed on the monument. (*Lilydale Express* August 26, 1949)
- April 1950 - Unveiling of New Memorial: Soldiers names had been inscribed who died in both wars, and a torch fixture had been added to the monument. (*Lilydale Express* April 28, 1950)
- May 1950 - Tribute to the Fallen: Photo of the of torch on top of monument. (*Lilydale Express* May 19, 1950)
- June 1950 - War Monument Appeal: Permission had been granted by the State Electricity Commission for the Wiring of the torch, but lack of funds had prevented further work from proceeding. The RSL was now asking for donations from the public to complete the work. It was estimated that at least 150 pounds would be needed. Some small donations had already been received. (*Lilydale Express* June 2, 1950)
- February 1951- Lilydale Dad's Annual Meeting: The Annual meeting of the Lilydale branch of the Soldiers' and Sailors' fathers Association the fact was brought up that the alterations the Soldiers memorial had been completed with the exception of installing the light in the torch. Every effort was being made to expedite the matter which they stated rested entirely with the State Electricity Commission. (*Lilydale Express* February 9, 1951)

Note: The torch was never lit because no trader would agree to have the power for it connected to their shop. It is not known when the torch was removed.

# Don't Take Risks on Your Holidays

## Heed these Safety Suggestions

A Christmas celebration, either in the home or elsewhere, may be turned into a tragedy by lack of forethought. The main danger to avoid is fire with inflammable decorations or with fancy costumes.

Decorations and trimmings should not be made of cotton wool, but of scoured wool. Scoured wool will burn, but it won't flare up in a flash like cotton wool.

See that Christmas trees are securely mounted so that they will not tip over, even if smaller children pull on the branches.

Candles should not be used to light Christmas trees, but suitable approved strings of miniature electric lamps may be used. See that these are in good order, and that the insulation is not worn. Be sure that decorations are not hung too close to light bulbs. Paper or other material may be ignited by the heat given off by the globes.

When decorating, use a step ladder to reach heights. The use of boxes, stools, chairs, etc., have resulted in many accidents.

Don't risk your holiday by taking risks.

### Beware of Snakes.

Snake-bite fatalities, fortunately, are rare, possibly because many Australians have been instructed in first-aid treatment. However, it is important to know the need both for such preventive precautions as boots and covering on the legs in bush walking, and for immediate medical treatment after prompt first-aid measures.

Regard every Australian snake as poisonous. Snake-bite shows as two punctures in the skin, and feels like being pricked with hot needles.

**Important**—For bites on the arms or legs, a ligature must be applied within two minutes. **Act quickly and keep calm.**

**Safe Holiday Swimming and Bating.** Almost every week-end during the

summer months one picks up the newspaper to read of deaths by drowning. After each warm week-end, this kind of sorrowful news is particularly heavy.

A small party, unable to swim, goes out in a boat. Owing to an unexpected squall or to someone's ignorance of safety rules, it overturns, leaving the occupants to the mercy of an element they have never learned to conquer. A bather, unable to swim, steps into a hole, sudden panic ensues, and another life is lost. A recounting of such episodes could go on indefinitely.

The saddest element in this tragic loss of life is that it is all so unnecessary. A little time and a little practice beforehand could prevent these heart-breaks.

First, and most important, learn to swim, and see that your children learn to swim at an early age. There is little excuse for lack of this knowledge to-day with so many excellent learn to swim campaigns under way. Once you have been taught to swim, learn and practise the principles of life saving and artificial respiration. Acquiring the ability to save the lives of those in danger is not difficult. In learning to swim, you are taking out insurance on your own life. In mastering the methods of life saving and resuscitation, you are preparing to save the life of another—perhaps one who is dear to you!

Once you feel at home in the water it is wise to remember a few extra points:—

- (1) Never enter the water until two hours after a meal.
- (2) Never swim far from the shore unless accompanied by a boat.
- (3) If in trouble, keep your head and float, then signal for help.
- (4) When diving, make sure that the depth of the water is at least six feet.

Dangers exist for the unwary on the water as well as in it. This summer holiday season, take heed of these suggestions, and, above all else, learn to swim. This knowledge, with a little common sense would make the holiday season happier, healthier, and safer for all.

### SUNBURN.

People should become gradually used to the rays of the sun. Many people who become badly sunburnt suffer severely afterwards. Always remember that a cloudy day is a day on which a person is just as likely to become severely sunburnt as on a bright day.

The beneficial effects of sunlight are generally recognised. Sunburn sometimes has serious consequences—shock, prostration, high fever, the possibility of dangerous infection through broken blisters and occasionally death. Sun baths should be of short duration at the start, the length of exposure being increased if no ill effects are observed.

Tannic acid solution has been recognised as an ideal remedy for sunburn. Dissolve sufficient tannic acid in 10 per cent. alcohol to give a 5 per cent. solution. This solution can be either dabbed or sprayed on the affected part or used as a precautionary measure against sunburn.

*Lilydale Express December 27, 1950*

### FOR HIKERS.

Walk against the oncoming traffic, i.e., on the right-hand side of the road. This is a world-wide safety precaution, and should always be followed, particularly at night.

If the traffic is heavy, don't walk in groups but in twos, and if in a group don't scatter in all directions should a motorist approach. Move quickly off to give him a clear run on his journey.

Always remain on main trails in mountainous or unknown country, to minimise the danger of becoming lost. People who take risks in unknown country put others to great inconvenience and perhaps danger when they have to go out to look for them.

Always avoid touching unknown plants. They may be poisonous.

Give the courtesy on a road that you would expect from motorists.

Heed all warning signs, signals and directions. They are intended for your protection.

Beware of snakes! Watch your step in high grass, particularly in marshy ground. Never put your hand down rabbit burrows or into logs. Carry a snake-bite outfit, and know how to treat snakebite.

### SPORTSMEN.

It is the "unloaded" gun that often kills, so handle any gun with caution. Never carry a loaded gun in a motor car or other vehicle.

Never fire at movement — it may be a cow or horse, or even a human being. When firing with a rifle at a target, think what may happen if bullets miss or glance off.

Never pull your gun through fences. Carry it over the fence with you, keeping the muzzle away from yourself and others. If it be a barbed wire fence or one difficult to negotiate, unload the gun first.

Never lay your loaded gun down in the bottom of a boat or lean it against a tree where it may be knocked down. Never use a firearm as a club to kill a wounded rabbit, snake or other creature.

Never shoot at game until you have assured yourself that no other living creature or anything liable to come to harm is in the line of fire. Keep your finger off the trigger except at the moment of firing.

Always carry your gun at such an angle that if it did accidentally explode, it would not injure yourself or anyone else. If you have slipped or

'stumbled, watch that the barrel or your gun is not choked up.

**Don't risk your holidays by taking risks.**

### SAFER HOLIDAY CYCLING.

You cannot be certain of the movements of pedestrians. Be ready for children who may suddenly run on to the road and for people who may step from the refuge of a footpath.

Avoid riding close behind fast moving vehicles. Always leave enough space to allow for their slowing down or stopping suddenly. Never hold on to another vehicle.

Keep a straight course and always ride in single file whenever road or traffic conditions require it, and never more than two abreast.

Keep as near to the left as practicable unless overtaking other traffic.

Keep a good lookout, especially when riding with dropped handlebars. Always remember that the faster you are travelling, the smaller is the margin of safety should an emergency arise, and the more serious then must be the result of any accident.

See that your bicycle is fitted with efficient front and rear lights.

Lastly, don't risk your holiday by taking risks.

# Like us on Facebook

The Lilydale Historical Society Facebook page is promoting our ongoing activities plus sharing photos from our amazing collection. We are trying to build an appreciation and create an interest in our local history, heritage and built environment. Each photo that is posted has a small story which try's to cover what the photo represents.

Some of our followers comment on their memories or personal history connected to the image. Followers consist of local people, organisations, people from around the world and general history buffs.

By telling stories about our history, Facebook helps us to connect with the broader community and society, explaining our social development and how our community was built through the broader landscape of time. It also allows us to promote our society on a platform that is shared with the many other historical societies, museums and institutions which foster history here in Melbourne and Australia.

Below is one of our recent posts about the naming of the Olive Tree Shopping Centre.

Post text: Following last weeks post on the site of Woolworths Shopping Complex in Main Street, the site was renamed The Olive Tree shopping centre around 1977.

This picture of the tree *Olea europaea subsp europaea* Olive Tree situated in the carpark (now Bunnings) is

what gave the shopping centre its name. In the old days the carpark area was part of a vineyard. Olive trees were used among the vines then as windbreaks. This land was originally owned by John Hutchinson.

This tree is Heritage Listed with the Yarra Ranges Council and the National Trust of Australia ( Victoria ).

The tree can be found on the edge of the carpark facing John Street. This tree is approximately 140 years old.

Please visit Facebook and search for Lilydale & District Historical Society Inc.

Link:

[www.facebook.com/LilydaleandDistrictHistoricalSocietyInc/](http://www.facebook.com/LilydaleandDistrictHistoricalSocietyInc/)

## Seniors Week Walk

We had 10 people for the walk all enjoyed morning tea before we set off, there was a few drops of rain to begin with but cleared up and rest of walk was fine. Outside the Shire Offices Phil sat them all down and dazzled them all with his Technology wizardry in producing Melba singing *Home Sweet Home* from his iPad to a small round Bluetooth speaker. Every one loved.

So an enjoyable morning for all.



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  
P.O. Box 834,  
Lilydale Vic 3140  
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info@lilydalehistorical.com.au  
website:  
www.lilydalehistorical.com.au

**Please help us**

A vital source of income for the society is its 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 was 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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