

# Now & Then



Issue 1 February 2017

Affiliated with Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc

## Meeting Dates 2017

- March 4
- April 1
- May 6
- June 3
- July 1
- August 5 AGM
- 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 1 February 2017

# Vale Evelyn Tull



*Evelyn Tull standing in front of a photograph of herself when she cut the Lilydale Primary School's 125th cake. The display celebrated the school's 150 birthday last year. Photo courtesy Lilydale Primary school.*

Sadly, late last year the society lost another of our Life Members and our oldest member when Evelyn Tull passed away aged 89 years.

She was a wonderful committee member, always had a smile and often had a different perspective to us all on life and people in general. Evelyn never missed a meeting, committee meeting or her rostered day.

Single-handed she undertook to write up the worksheets for our 400 plus ANZACS including their name, enlistment number and unit from information given to her. Night after night she worked away and when that was finished she

would go into the Old Lilydale Court House to do research on some of our boys who included her own Goodall family. She was the first to the "barricades" in our disagreement with the shire and while she couldn't hear most of what was happening, she always put in her pennyworth to the discussion.

The family graciously asked me to be a part of the service and I was only too happy to oblige as Evelyn and I shared many happy hours doing duty. Sadly, Evelyn did not live to see the Goodall display proudly handing in the court house but her daughter Jenny kindly

unveiled the board on behalf of her mum.

If you would like to read my Eulogy to Evelyn, click on the link below:

[http://www.lilydalehistorical.com.au/events\\_lilydale\\_melba\\_yarra\\_valley.htm](http://www.lilydalehistorical.com.au/events_lilydale_melba_yarra_valley.htm)

Sue Thompson

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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 follow the progress of our ANZACS project, go to:

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

### 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)

## Upcoming Events

Dates to put in your diary.

### Saturday, March 4:

General meeting at 1pm followed by members discussing their first job. The day will finish with afternoon tea.

### Saturday, April 1:

Cliff Hardy will talk on his life while serving with the Kent County Police in England.

Continued page 6.

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# Our new storage shed



- Images clockwise from top left:*
- 1. The site of the society's new storage shed at the rear of the Old Lilydale Court House, January 2017.*
  - 2. Andrew Thompson of Southern Cross Rubbish Removal turns the first sod on the LDHS storage shed on January 3, 2017.*
  - 3. Project manager and builder Les Skate watches Trevor Smith pouring his wheelbarrow load of concrete for the shed floor, January 6, 2017.*
  - 4. The completed storage shed with the existing former toilets on the right.*



During the negotiations over our new Licence Agreement the shire agreed to allow us to erect a small additional shed at the court house to store some of large bulky items such as banners, display boards and non-collection materials.

This dream became a reality when in just four weeks during January a small patch of grass behind the court house was transformed into our new shed lovingly dubbed Les' Shed but everyone involved.

Under the guidance of Life Member and builder Les Skate, 10 members donated 412 hours as they laboured under his firm direction to dig the foundations, lay the concrete, erect the walls and roof, put in the insulation and plaster board and finish with the painting team. It was at committee member John Brown's suggestion that Les's Shed now stands proudly with the other sheds (2 former outdoor loos) on the site.. We were fortunate to have member and plumber Trevor Smith take charge of the roof, guttering and drainage. As project manager, Les Skate some how managed to convince people to dig deep and reduce the costs of materials while his son Tim's building business donated a lot of materials.

The shed has been fully insulated and lined and with the generous donation of a fire proof Bookkeepers cabinet by one of our sponsors Lilydale Locksmiths, our shed will soon be doing great service.

We still have to do the fitout which will include metal, adjustable shelving and once that is done, we will be holding an official opening with a special afternoon tea provided by members. If anyone would like to contribute to the fitout, please call Phil on 9735 3942. Invitations will be sent out next month. To see all the images taken during construction go to our Flickr album:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/87368280@N06/sets/72157676748602664>



*Sue Thompson after receiving her RHSV Award of Merit from RHSV President, Associate Professor Don Garden (second from left). Also with Sue are Yarra Ranges councillors Tony Stephenson (left) Mike Clarke (far right).*

## Sue Thompson receives an RHSV Award of Merit

On Saturday, November 5, Associate Professor Don Garden presented society president Sue Thompson with a Royal Historical Society of Victoria Award of Merit in recognition of her contribution to the society and local community.

He said Sue had been an active member of the Lilydale & District Historical Society Inc. since 1987.

“She was made a Life Member in 1995 for her outstanding contribution to researching and recording of local history for the old Shire of Lilydale. She is currently our President and previously held that role from 1990 to 2001 and as Secretary from 2009 to 2015. She is an active volunteer at our current home the Old Lilydale Court House, and previously at the Museum of Lilydale. She also served on the Museum of Lilydale Board of Management, and was very active in fund raising for the extensions to what is now the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum,” Assoc Prof Garden said.

“Sue moved to Kilsyth on Australia day in 1972, with her husband Wal, where they raised two boys, Andrew and Stuart, and are now proud grandparents.

“In her professional life she became a journalist in 1976, and became the News Editor of ‘The Express’ in 1983, and regional Editor in 1988 for Leader Newspapers.

“In her spare time she also ran her own publishing company ‘Roundabout Publishing’ and the society has been very fortunate that the combination of these roles have resulted in Sue writing and/or co-ordinating the

publication of the society’s publication of 30 plus books and school kits.

“Sue has published several other history books, including: Ray Henderson’s book ‘From Jolimont to Yering’ and Pamela Lady Vestey’s book and ‘David Mitchell A Forfar Man’.

“Sue was awarded Citizen of the Year for the Shire of Lilydale in 1989 for her work on numerous community committees, and her work in the establishment and development of library services within the municipality.

“Sue was elected Councillor of the Shire of Lilydale in 1990 and served the South Riding Ward until the Shire was dissolved in December 1994 and combined with others to create the Shire of Yarra Ranges.

“Sue’s two main passions after her family are:

- The Lilydale & District Historical Society, where she is the driving force of the Society, especially in the area of embracing technology. An example is our website [www.lilydalehistorical.com.au](http://www.lilydalehistorical.com.au)
- Dame Nellie Melba on whom she has done extensive research and created and maintains the website Nellie [www.nelliemelbamuseum.com.au](http://www.nelliemelbamuseum.com.au) and is often asked to speak to groups on the life of Dame Nellie.

Sue said she could have achieved nothing without the support of her family - husband Wally and sons Andrew and Stuart - and the wonderful members of the society.

“This award if not for me but for my family and the society,” Sue said.

# A Big Thank You to Our Priceless Volunteers

Our society could not exist without the wonderful work of our volunteers who perform hundreds of hours of work at the court house. They do many things including roster duty, indexing, cataloguing, scanning and research. Each year, to express its thanks, the society holds a volunteers luncheon which this year was on January 17. All but a couple of our volunteers joined the committee for lunch after which president Sue Thompson presented each with an Appreciation Certificate. Sue spoke of the busy 2016 which included the ANZACS project which involved so many of our members. She promised a quieter 2017 the highlights of which will be the building of our new storage shed and the launch later in the year of the final Coldstream book researched by the late Val Sheehan *As It Happened Volume 4*.



*Volunteers enjoy lunch.*



*Society on Show. Ray and Jeanette Dodson and Jo Pritchard at our society's stall at the Lilydale Show November 2016.*

## Lilydale show Display

It was a typical hot Lilydale Show weekend.

Many visitors may have been a little loathe to visit the warm Lilydale Youth Club pavilion but those who did has a lot of fun playing with some of the many old items we have available for everyone young and old to touch, and use.

One hit was the old Brownie box camera which may have been point and click but the challenge was where to look to see what you were taking. Most got it. Some didn't. For others our display bought back many memories and started lots of conversations about "the earlier days".

The younger people were just as fascinated and our members were happy to explain how everything worked and what it was used for. Our free showbags were also a hit with visitors and helps promote who we are and what we do.

## Our New Patron

**The Hon. Saffron Foster has kindly agreed to be our new Patron.**

**Her role will continue a long tradition started in the 1970s when her grandmother Pamela, Lady Vestey agreed to become our society's Patron and helped us with our many Melba exhibitions by providing treasured items from Coombe Cottage for our display**

cases.

**Lady Vestey was Dame Nellie Melba's granddaughter and was a wonderful supporter of the society and Melba until her death in 2011.**

**Members hope to catch up with Ms Foster she is staying at Coombe Cottage this month.**






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**Welcome**



Society vice president Jeanette Dodson receiving her well deserved Casey Community Volunteer Award from local MP Tony Smith on Saturday, December 3, 2016. The award recognises her tireless work for the society and heritage in general over many years.

### Workshops

Following requests from our members wanting to gain new skills and learn more about the society's collection, we are holding cataloguing workshops once a month. This is an ideal way to meet other members, learn how to catalogue and make a valuable contribution to the society and the wider community. The workshop will be held once a month from 1 to 4pm on the following Fridays for the rest of the year:

- Friday, March 17
- Friday, April 21
- Friday, May 19.
- Friday, June 16.
- Friday, July 21.
- Friday, August 18.
- Friday, September 15.
- Friday, October 20..
- Friday, December 17.

Note: no cataloguing in November as we will be preparing for the Lilydale Show.

If you would like to join the group or want more information, call Phil Burton on 9735 3942.

## Upcoming society events

continued from Page 2

### Saturday, May 6:

Sue Thompson will give a presentation on the impact Dame Nellie Melba and her touring party had on the people of country New South Wales and Queensland during her 1909 Back Blocks Tour and conversely, the

impact her fellow Australians had on her life.

### Saturday, June 3:

Brenda Cawte will talk about her experiences while working as a district nurse.

### Saturday, July 1:

General meeting at 1pm followed by members talking about their favourite holiday destination. Afternoon tea will be provided.

### Saturday, August 5:

General meeting followed by afternoon tea.

### Saturday, August 19: Exploring Family History.

The society will again be holding a family history day as part of family History month. The one day event will be held at our home The Old Lilydale Court House 61 Castella Street, Lilydale. There will be two sessions 10am to 12pm and 1.30 to 3.30pm. The cost is \$5 a per person with tea and coffee provided.

Participants can either bring their own lunch or take a short walk to Lilydale's Main Street and purchase lunch from one of the many eateries. The presenters for each session will be announced closer to the date. As places are limited to book please phone Lorraine Smith on 9735 1104.

### Saturday, September 2:

General meeting followed by afternoon tea.

**Continued on Page 8.**

## *From the pages of the Lilydale Express*

### **Lilydale and the Mitchells**

by Montague Grover

It was during the period when old David (Mitchell) was at the height of his fame in building that he met a young friend on the Lilydale station and talked to him till the train came in.

The boy for a first class carriage. "I travel second," observed the older man. "Why?" Asked the other. "You've plenty of money now and you're getting on in years. Why don't you make yourself comfortable?"

Old David looked on the youngster with a pitying eye. "Second class was good enough for me when I was hard up my boy," he replied, "and I'm thinking it'll be good enough for me till I die."

*(Lilydale Express September 14, 1937 pg 1)*

## 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.



*Jenny and Paul Walker in front of their Goodall ancestors ANZAC board at the launch.*

# They Answered the Call ANZACS Launch



*ANZAC project co-ordinator with the bunch of flowers presented during the launch. At rear is treasurer Philip Burton.*

Like so many projects at the society, it all started as an idea which just grew and grew, Our aim was to tell the stories of the men and women who fought in World War I and came from the towns listed in our Collecting Policy.

Little did we know how many it would be as we uncovered people not listed on the local honour boards or memorials.

They Answered the Call which received funding from the Federal Government's ANZAC Centenary Fund became a project which involved many of our members in many, many hours of research of more than 400 local people and their families. The driving force and co-ordinator for the project was Jeanette Dodson who kept meticulous records of who was doing what and made sure all were finished on time.

Drawing on our experience with our Stories Behind the Headstones project, special worksheets were drawn up for each person and this meant we achieved great consistency in information, particularly from the service records and researchers were able to quickly access all of our resources.

By our launch of the project on November 26, 2016, every one of the soldiers are now up on our website and already people have contacted us wanting to add to the family story or conversely use the information for their own research.

Today, their spirit of ANZAC lives on in a small way on our website and in our archive. Go to:

[http://www.lilydalehistorical.com.au/they\\_answered\\_the\\_call\\_WWI.htm](http://www.lilydalehistorical.com.au/they_answered_the_call_WWI.htm)

If undeliverable return to:  
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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.

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

**Upcoming society events** continued from Page 6

**Saturday, October 7:**

General Meeting followed by afternoon tea.

**Saturday, November 4:**

General meeting at 1pm followed by the launch of As It Happened Volume 4 and the society's new associated display on

Coldstream, Yering, Gruyere and Killara.

**Saturday, December 2:**

General meeting at 12 noon followed by our traditional Christmas luncheon at 1pm.

**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 2016-2017 now due**

**Membership Subscriptions 2016-2017 were due on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016.** (If you are not sure if you are financial, please ring Lorraine on 9735 1104 to check.)

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

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

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

Amount enclosed: \$ .....

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