

Now & Then



Issue 1 February 2018

Affiliated with Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc

Meeting Dates

2018

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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Issue 1 February 2018

Jo Pritchard our quiet achiever



A proud Jo Pritchard with her Casey Electorate Certificate of Recognition.

Every Wednesday, the diminutive and shy Jo Pritchard catches the train from Croydon to spend the day working as a volunteer at the Old Lilydale Court House. Jo's work at the society and her lifetime of volunteerism was rewarded before Christmas when Tony Smith MP for Casey presented Jo with a Certificate of Recognition. Jo who regularly met our late Life Member Val Sheehan on the bus, was so impressed with the society she became a volunteer in 2015 and joined our committee in 2017.

Her attention to detail makes Jo a valuable part of our indexing and filing team. Jo has been a volunteer for several organisations including the Mooroolbark Salvos Op Shop for 14 years and at the Healesville Sanctuary for 22 years being a guide and also doing gardening.

Uncovering the society's hidden gems

Last year was a busy time for the society so this year will be a time of consolidation and opening up our collections to the wider community through our cataloguing and scanning projects being carried out by our dedicated teams of volunteers. Already, we have discovered some special gems hidden away in our archives and are now cataloguing and indexing them so we can share them with everyone.

Sue Thompson
President

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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.

On Saturday, March 3 at 2pm our guest speaker will be Howard Wallace a voluntary guide at the National Gallery of Victoria. See page 4 for more details.

The society acknowledges the wonderful financial contribution made by the Estate of the Late James Sawyer to the development and promotion of our local heritage.



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Welcome

Donation helps make our heritage more accessible

When the executor of the Estate of the Late James (Jim) Sawyer told us we were to receive \$10,000 the society were determined to use the money as Jim would have wanted: to promote and enhance the heritage of the district in a lasting way.

Jim was a founding member of the society and also a Life Member and was passionate about local history and the society.



Our new copy stand, lights and camera.

Our first priority was to protect our collection and archive so we purchased 10 new, Melbourne-made four-draw filing cabinets. These ensure our archive will be safe for the next 20 or more years.

We also desperately needed to start photographing and cataloguing our small but important, largely paper-based objects. To do this we needed to purchase a copy stand, lights and two cameras and lenses. Now photographing is in full swing and will open up our collection to the public. Thanks must go to the collections staff of the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum and Croydon Camera House who helped us choose the right equipment for our work.

With the remaining \$5,000 the society decided the best tribute we could make to Jim was to use the money to start digitising the Lilydale Express so everyone would be able to search the newspaper via the National Library's Trove. When started in 1886, the Lilydale Express was the only newspaper in the now outer east. The reports covered the areas of Eltham, Queenstown, Warrandyte, Ringwood, Croydon, Yarra Glen, Healesville, Upper Yarra, Woori Yallock, Warburton,

Seville, Wandin, Silvan, Monbulk, Emerald, Olinda, Mt Dandenong, various settlements in the Dandenongs, Montrose and of course Yering, Coldstream and Lilydale.

It is amazing the depth of information published in those newspapers which are a goldmine for history groups, family historians and social historians. The advertising is a treasure trove in itself as are the in depth reports of events and meetings of various organisations," society president Sue Thompson said.

"Through the pages we can read about the issues of the day, celebrations, the deep sense of community in the then quite isolated communities and sadly, read of tragic deaths of the day.

"We have committed \$5,400 to digitise from 1886 to 1897 which is a start and now we are exploring ways of raising money to pay for more years. To complete the project to 1954 (when copyright kicks in) will cost about \$30,000," Sue said.

"Jim Sawyer's donation has launched this project and now we need to work hard to see the project completed."

The Yarra Ranges Heritage Network and the Association of Eastern Historical Societies have already indicated their support for this project. If you would like to contribute to this project, please call Sue Thompson on 0475 219 884.



Our new filing cabinets purchased locally and manufactured in Melbourne. A plaque saying donated by the Estate of James Sawyer will be placed in each cabinet.

Lilydale Project

Society president Sue Thompson has been appointed as one of 12 community representatives to the Lilydale Project Reference Group.

The project aims to bring the community together with Council to develop a vision for the social and built future of Lilydale and to look at ways we can work together to realise this shared vision.

"The Lilydale Project gives us all the chance to have input into the development of Lilydale into the future and I welcome any ideas or input - heritage or otherwise from our members," Sue said.

For more information go to <https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Community/The-Lilydale-Project>

Students learn about more about Dame Nellie Melba



Melba Opera Trust scholars from left to right: Stephen Marsh, Fleuranne Brockway, Jessica Harper, Paull-Anthony Keightley, Cleo Lee-McGowan and Adam McMillan.

As part of their Mentor Program, scholars from the Melba Opera Trust again visited the grave of Dame

Nellie Melba at the Lilydale Lawn Cemetery.

They were given a talk by one of our members John Brown who gave them a brief history of Madame Melba, her connections to Lilydale, plus a brief history of her granddaughter Pamela Lady Vestey and finished off with the connections of Melba and the architect Sir Edwin Lutyens who designed Madame Melba's tomb.

The students and their 2018 scholarships and awards are: Stephen Marsh (Paulette Bisley Opera Scholarship Eleanor Blakemore Opera Society Scholarship), Fleuranne Brockway (Ruskin Opera Scholarship Annie McFarling Opera Scholarship), Jessica Harper (Dame Nellie Melba Scholarship Patrick & Vivian Gordon Award), Paull-Anthony Keightley (Amelia Joscelyne Memorial Scholarship), Cleo Lee-McGowan (Joseph Sambrook Opera Scholarship), Adam McMillan (Margaret Schofield Opera Scholarship Mel & Nina Waters Award).

Going, Going, Gone

For several years, the unoccupied old Lilydale Police Station has been waiting for a new life or demolition. Finally on February 13 the latter happened and the old cream brick police station fell to the giant jaws of an excavator. Working with the Lilydale Primary school the society has recorded the life and demise of the station which will now become valuable additional playground for the school's students. Since the township of Lilydale was first surveyed in 1859, the site was set aside for police purposes. The society has photos of the old police house, original station and cells which coupled with the current images will create the story of law and order in Lilydale.



Guest Speaker

On Saturday, March 3 Volunteer Guide at the National Gallery of Victoria Howard Wallace will talk on A History of Australian Landscape Painting.

Howard worked as a civil engineer before training to become an ordained minister in the Uniting Church.

After post-graduate study at Harvard University in the USA, specialising in Old Testament or Hebrew Bible, he taught for 29 years at the Uniting Church theological colleges in Sydney and Melbourne. He retired from teaching in 2011 and became minister in the Mulgrave Uniting Church Congregation.

He has since fully retired and is heavily involved as a voluntary guide at the National Gallery of Victoria.

Howard's talk will begin at 2pm following the society's general meeting. The cost is free to members and a gold coin for non-members.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria

The society is a member of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria which publishes regular newsletters. Please feel free to download the copy of the February 2018 edition and read about its many activities go to our events page and download your copy. http://www.lilydalehistorical.com.au/events_lilydale_melba_yarra_valley.htm

Book launched in style

About 60 people sat and stood in the Old Lilydale Court House for the launch of the late Val Sheehan's fourth and final volume of *As It Happened* the history of Coldstream, Yering, Gruyere and Killara.

Newly elected Yarra Ranges Mayor Cr Len Cox kindly agreed to perform the launch. He described as a fascinating book, particularly the council sections and remarked the many hours it must have taken to research and compile.

Ward councillor Tim Heenhan also attended. After the book launch, Val's five children and her sister Dot Mitchell each unveiled a themed display panel which included many images from this and Val's past books.

After the launch everyone enjoyed a sumptuous afternoon tea provided by the Sheehan family and society members. For some it was the chance to catch up with old friends and talk about the many people featured in the panels.

Copies of the two part volume four can be obtained from the society or ordered on line for \$35.00 plus



Some of the many people who attended the *As It Happened* Vol 4 book launch.

TIME FOR EVERYTHING.

Concluding his annual report at the H.E. School speech night, Mr. Scott, head teacher, quoted the following delightful excerpt from an old English prayer, as his farewell message to present and past pupils, and which is particularly apt at the dawn of a new year to all who wish to derive a greater satisfaction out of life, to grow, to improve, to accomplish new things:—

Take time to work—it is the price of success.

Take time to play—it is the secret of perpetual youth.

Take time to read—it is the foundation of wisdom.

Take time to be friendly—it is the road to happiness.

Take time to dream—it is hitching your wagon to a star.

Take time to love and be loved—it is the privilege of the gods.

Take time to look around—it is too short a day to be selfish.

Take time to laugh—it is the music of the soul.

— Old English Prayer.

Lilydale Express December 22, 1950.



Catching up over a sumptuous afternoon tea after the book launch.

postage and packaging. See for details. http://www.lilydalehistorical.com.au/sales_at_lilydale_historical_yarra_valley.htm

RHSV HVSG Lilydale Seminar

Our society will be hosting one of three seminars to be organised by the RHSV's History Victoria Support Group. The seminar will be held on Saturday, April 28 at the Old Lilydale Court House, 61 Castella Street Lilydale and the Lilydale Primary School next door. The seminar is a must for those looking to ensuring the future of their group through succession planning, collections management and development of additional activities such as guided walks.

The cost is \$20 which includes registration, morning tea and lunch. See page 7 for the program and on line booking details.

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 or
www.nelliemelbamuseum.com.au

Activities Wrap-up

The end of 2017 was a busy time for all members who were kept busy doing what they do best: promoting our history to the community and sharing time together as shown below.



Sue Thompson during her talk about Dame Nellie Melba's Back Blocks Tour at Yarra Ranges Regional Museum.



Philip Burton and Florence Shaw at our stand and heritage display at the Lilydale Show.



Tour Guides Philip Burton and Joy Gothe practise their guided township tour talk on fellow members Trevor Smith, Ray Dodson, Jacquie Duvoisin, Kristyn Jackson and Brian Duvoisin.

Christmas LDHS style



Wally Thompson and Trevor Smith carving our Webber-cooked roast turkeys.



Members and guests chat over their Christmas dinner.



History Victoria Support Group

Please join us for a Seminar Day

28

SATURDAY
APRIL 2018

9am – 3pm

Hosted by
Lilydale & District
Historical Society Inc

Succession Planning – embracing the future

Location Lilydale Primary School

63 Castella Street, Lilydale (corner
of Castella & Jones Streets)

- 9.00am** **Arrival, registration and a cuppa.**
(Old Lilydale Court House, next door to the school)
- 9.30am** **Introduction**
- 9.45am** **Christine Worthington, RHSV Collections Manager** – Digitisation and Historical Societies. This topic will cover a range of things (outreach, capacity building, access, streamlining) and emphasize the need to digitise for preservation.
- 10.20am** **Lisa Clausen**, joint winner of the Judges' Special Prize in the Victorian Community History Awards 2017 for *Garden Diaries*. Cruden Farm, 56km south-east of Melbourne, was the cherished home of Dame Elisabeth Murdoch for more than 80 years before her death in 2012. Working alongside her for four decades was Cruden's head gardener, Michael Morrison, and this book traces the history of their deep friendship and creative partnership. Lisa will discuss how she drew on Morrison's diaries to write this intimate insight into one of Australia's foremost private gardens and the extraordinary pair behind it.
- 11.00am** **Morning tea** with opportunity to network (old Lilydale Court House)
- 11.30am** **Key note speaker: Dr Bernadette Flynn, Federation of Australian Historical Societies Outreach Officer** (by Skype). Succession Planning: ever wondered where you are going? Who you are as an organisation and where you want to be? Bernadette introduces the newly published FAHS Succession Planning Guide, <http://www.history.org.au/SuccessionPlanning.html>, and the 7 steps that can help you survive and thrive into the future. The

step-by-step process helps you evaluate your situation, whether you are facing the challenge of diminishing membership, considering who will be the next President or how you can find that special person to photograph the collection. Follow up consultations from the presentation will be available through the FAHS History Clinic.

- 12.30pm** **Panel of three:** Jane Nigro (Stonnington History Committee), Alleyne Hockley (Income streams for societies) and Russ Haines (Classic flubs)
- 1.00pm** **Lunch** (old Lilydale Court House)
- 1.45pm** **Rosemary Cameron**, EO RHSV, will highlight how societies can run successful, engaging and memorable walks. Rosemary was previously with the Professional Tour Guide Association of Australia and is highly qualified to enlighten us on how to improve our walks.
- 2.30pm** **Question and answers.** Opportunity for attendees to share their concerns.
- 3.00pm** **Finish**

BOOKINGS

Bookings

<https://www.trybooking.com/TTGG>

Cost

\$20 per person
(includes morning tea and lunch)

Contact

office@historyvictoria.org.au or 9326 9288

Bookings Close

26th April, 2018

Come and join us for a day full of tips, inspiration & useful ideas to help your historical society

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
email:
info@lilydalehistorical.com.au
website:
www.lilydalehistorical.com.au

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 was due on the 1st July 2017. (If you are not sure if you are financial, please ring Lorraine on 9735 1104 to check.)

Name of Member: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

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

Family Membership	\$25.00
Single membership	\$20.00
Pensioners	\$15.00
Students (under 16 years)	\$5.00

Amount enclosed: \$

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