

Now & Then



Issue 1 February 2019

Affiliated with Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc

Meeting Dates 2019

- March 2
- April 6
- May 4
- June 1
- July 6
- August 3
- September 7
- October 5
- November 2
- December 7

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 2.15pm.

Vale Founding and Life Member Sandy Ross



Sandy receiving his Royal Historical Society of Victoria Award of Merit from RHSV President Don Garden in 2013. A proud Hazel is with Sandy.

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Historical Society
P.O Box 834,
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Issue 1 February 2019

Many members of the society attended Sandy Ross' memorial service held at the Lilydale Baptist Church on January 15. Sandy passed away on January 10.

His lasting legacy to our society is our photographic collection. Sandy Ross spent many of his precious spare hours in his dark room at home to make sure the history of Lilydale and the surrounding district is preserved for future generations.

I wonder if, while sitting in that first

meeting in 1971 to form the Lilydale & District Historical Society, he realised what was ahead of him and the impact his on-going life's work would have in his community.

His first historical photographic assignment was producing images for the Shire of Lillydale's *Billanook Country* book. These were quickly followed by the histories

Continued page 2.

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website: www.lilydalehistorical.com.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/lilydaleandDistrictHistoricalSocietyIncl

Talks, tours and walks

Anyone looking for a speaker or a different place to go should contact us 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.



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Vale Sandy from page 1

of Mooroolbark and Montrose.

Realising the importance of copying and preserving our photographic past, Sandy set about creating what will be his lasting legacy: his photographic and negative collection of more than 4,000 images.

Not only has he preserved the images, but through the sale and reproduction of these images, the society has been able to generate income, ensure our on-going survival and develop fabulous photographic displays.

Sandy was also in demand by other societies and for various publications: Wandin & District, Upper Yarra Historical Society spring to mind while he was involved in the histories of Silvan, Mt Evelyn Primary School, Seville history and the Seville School book.

He also recognised that today's events are tomorrow's history so he began taking photographs of every event in the town be it a demolition of a house or shop, new building or a street parade.

Every few years he went along Lilydale's Main Street and took photographs which form a wonderful snapshot of the changes that have occurred over time. We are now drawing heavily on these images as we trace the story of the shops of Main Street.

During his 48 years membership of our society, he served on the society's committee in various capacities including archivist; vice president and president. But it in was his role as archivist/photographer that Sandy excelled.

Involvement in Heritage

While Sandy was happiest taking and developing photographs, his knowledge was drawn upon when issues of heritage arose.

He served on the Lilydale Museum Board of Management from 1989 until it was wound up in 2010.

Sandy was also instrumental in putting all of the local newspaper – the *Lilydale Express* - since 1886 through to the 1960s on microfilm and later digitises.

Today, with a bequest from the late Jim Sawyer and a donation from Life Member Christine Gray we are now making the Express available on line via the National Library of Australia's Trove so allowing people from around the world with links to our district to access to their family history.

Tours

Sandy spent many hours wandering around Lilydale Cemetery, taking photographs and researching the lives of early district pioneers. He developed our first Lilydale Cemetery booklet and led tours for many years. He also

Cartoon by local WWI ANZAC

Out of the blue Sue Thompson received an email from Michael who is researching the members of the 58th battalion. He attached the cartoon at the right and asked: "Came across this - just in case linked to your George Hastie."

Going back to Hastie's record Sue established it was by our George Hastie who was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1891. His next of kin address was c/o A. Bethune 'Bonny Doon', Seville. After he returned home, in 1919 George married Jessie Catherine Bethune of Wandin Yallock/ Seville.

Under the cartoon is the quote from George Elliot: "The reward of one duty is the power to fulfil another."

Underneath that is: George Hastie 58th Battn Australian Imperial Forces Bermondsey Military Hospital Lewisham 20th April 1917.

Digital image at http://www.lilydalehistorical.com.au/ANZACS_h.htm



Events for the diary

Remembering Dame Nellie Melba

On February 23, 1931, the news of the death of Australian's first international star, Dame Nellie Melba flashed around the world. Newspapers in England, Europe and America dedicated many column centimetres to Melba, tracing her life, her successes and her contribution to the world of opera.

The family received condolence messages from royalty, fellow artists and ordinary people whose life Melba touched in some way.

Remember the lasting contribution made to Australia and the world of opera by joining Melba historian Sue Thompson on a walk of Lilydale Cemetery. As well as visiting the graves of Melba and her parents David and Isabella Mitchell, Sue will take you to the graves of other families who were part Melba's Lilydale story.

The tour starts at the Nelson Road gates of Lilydale Cemetery on Saturday, February 23 at 1.30pm and at 2.30pm, everyone is welcome to visit the Old Lilydale Court House for afternoon tea and a chat. The cost is \$10 a person which includes a cemetery booklet. Bookings Lorraine Smith 9735 1104.

Behind the Bar Talk

Lilydale was a stage coach stop for gold seekers heading to Warburton and beyond and as such, it wasn't long before hotels appeared in the Main Street. The town boasted four hotels of which three remain today and two are operating. In his talk *Behind the Bar* society treasurer Philip Burton will talk about each hotel, its role in our history and the various licensees.

His talk will be on Saturday, March 2 from 2pm. It will follow our general meeting. The cost is free to members and a gold coin for visitors.

The Postie and The Builder Q & A

On Saturday, April 6, we will be holding a society first when we host *The Postie and the Builder Q & A session*. The session will feature local former postie Ron Norman and builder Ray Oliver answering your questions about their lives growing up in Lilydale. Both in their 80s, they have amazing memories of people, places and events. It will be held at the Old Lilydale Court House at 2.30pm after our general meeting at 1pm. Bring along that question you always wanted to know the answer to, and our postie and builder will try and answer it. Gold coin donation for non-members.

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

Sandy Ross from page 2.

co-ordinated the erection of 28 markers telling the stories of pioneers buried at the cemetery. The project was jointly funded by the Lilydale Cemetery Trust, Matthews Funerals and the society.

Protecting our history

Not one to shirk a fight, Sandy has been involved in several battles to protect and enhance the heritage of the area including retaining the trees in Main Street; opposing the building of a mausoleum at Lilydale Cemetery which would have destroyed unmarked graves and succeeded in having the Oliver Memorial Gates re-built after a council truck knocked them down. He stopped the removal of our famous street trees and we are continuing his work as we lobby for the renovation of the David Mitchell Gates.

Publications

Sandy has written four books and collaborated in many more drawing from his valuable collection of local photographs gathered over many years.

His books are:

- *Bricks by the Million.*
- *Growing History of Lilydale's Trees.*
- *30 Years of History (1971 – 2001) history of Lilydale & District Historical Society.*
- *What's In a Name? Street Names of Lilydale.*

He has collaborated with other members on the:

- *Lilydale Cemetery Tours – 3 booklets*
- *Our History Our Heritage Walk.*

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

Want to learn more about your heritage?

If you have an hour or two to spare and want to learn more about your local and or family heritage then contact the society. We have many things volunteers can do depending on their interests and skills, and we have fun doing it.

We have members who, thanks to our support, can now do much needed data entry for us. And age is no barrier. One volunteer is 80 years young but has conquered her fear of the computer and is completing some wonderful small projects for us.

Others are interested in our photographs and just love cataloguing them for us. We also have walkers who are learning to do our township, cemetery and other guided tours.

If you would like to visit and have a chat, please phone our president Sue Thompson on 0475 219 884.

Can we help? Yes we can

Since early December the society has completed three research projects:

- Melba memorabilia for the display cases at the new Nellie Melba Retirement Village at Brandon Park.
- Photos for the Lilydale High School centenary in May this year.
- Photos for the Beddoe family.
- On-going research into the businesses of Lilydale Main Street.

Christmas lunch

Yet again, the cooks excelled when they created a wonderful lunch for more than 30 members. Wal Thompson's skill at Webber cooking turkey surpassed his previous efforts while the salads and desserts were a hit with everyone. Although the day was warm, we could accommodate everyone in the Court House so all were kept nice and cool and of course, the chatter never stopped as members caught up with each other.

The society made a \$280.00 profit from the lunch and a further \$45.00 from the raffle.

Volunteer's Lunch

On Tuesday, January 15, 12 of our volunteers attended our annual volunteers lunch which is the society's way of expressing its appreciation of all the hours of work our volunteer team gives to the society.

For some it was also the chance to meet their fellow volunteers for the first time. As usual Lorraine Smith did a fantastic job and Phil Burton thanked all the volunteers for their support as President Sue Thompson was interstate for the week.

Book sale success

The society's first book sale proved to be a great success with more than \$460 being raised. Of this \$345 was for our surplus secondhand books and \$115 was spent on our current publications. The committee will consider holding another book sale next year 2020.

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.

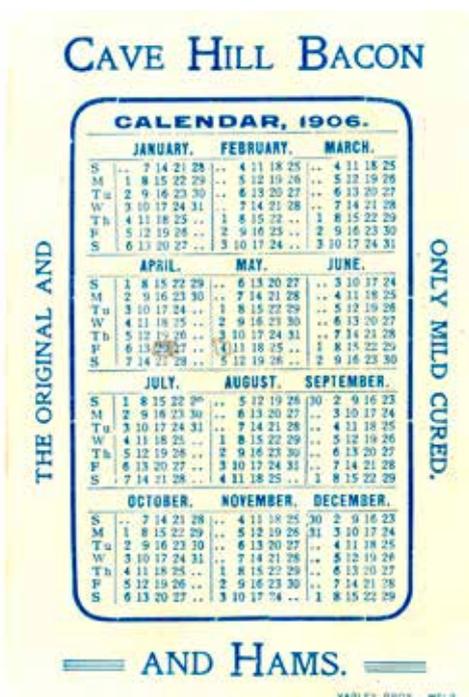
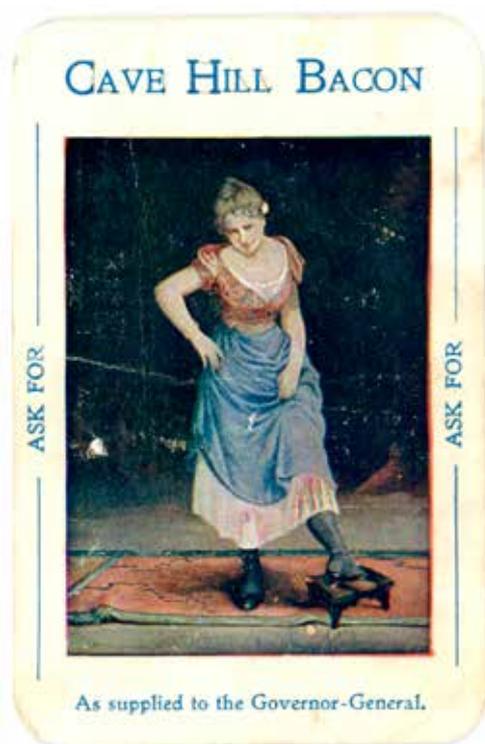
On the airwaves

Listen to us on Radio Station 98.1 Radio Eastern FM. The society is on the airwaves on the second Monday in the month from 10.30am to 11am.

Rare Cave Hill Bacon advertisement

After learning that the George Hastie cartoon featured on page 3 was on ebay, Sue Thompson decided to a bit of exploring and turned up the rare Cave Hill bacon advertisement /calendar shown on this page. This is advertising David Mitchell style in 1906: advertise the product one side of the card and then put a very useful pocket calendar on the back. The card was found in Victor Harbour South Australia and is now proudly in the society's own collection.

Note: April 20 and May 4 have been circled in pencil.



Cr Len Cox OAM

For many years Cr Len Cox has actively supported and promoted the society and we are pleased his service to the community has now been recognised.

He was awarded the OAM Order of Australia in the General Division for service to local government and the community of Yarra Ranges.

His is a commendable service record:

- Mayor, Yarra Ranges Shire Council, 2009, 2012, 2013 and 2017.
- Deputy Mayor, Yarra Ranges Shire Council.
- Councillor, Yarra Ranges Shire Council, since 1997.
- Councillor, Lillydale Council, 1982-1993.
- Board Member, Eastern Regional Libraries Corporation, since 2006.
- Member, Upper Yarra and Dandenong Ranges Planning Authority.
- Member, Yarra Ranges Environment Advisory Committee.
- Member, Yarra Ranges Disability Advisory Committee, since 2012.

Awards and recognition includes:

- Recipient, Municipal Association of Victoria 30 Year Service Award, 2014.
- Recipient, Municipal Association of Victoria Mayor Emeritus Award, 2008.

Future Speakers

Port Campbell of the past

Anyone with links to the Great Ocean Road either for holidays or just passing through, should make sure they come along and listen to Gus Ward speak about Port Campbell and life there from the 1930s and 1950s.

His talk will follow our general meeting on May 4 and begin at 2.30pm. Donation is a gold coin for non members.

Norfolk Island stories

Our June speaker also has links with the sea but in a different part of the world. Joy Olney will speak on her Norfolk Island relatives from her own family and those of her late husband Peter. After a lot of research Joy and her family went to Norfolk Island to walk in their ancestors' foot steps.

The talk will be on June 1 at 2.30pm following our general meeting which starts at 1pm.

Check out her blog

<http://norfolkislandfirstfleetersandfamilies.blogspot.com/>

Tour our heritage sites

Anyone looking after visitors to Yarra Ranges should think about downloading or picking up a copy of the *Yarra Ranges Heritage Network's Heritage Guide*. Each society in the shire has contributed two or three points of historical interest in their area and given a short story about each. A detailed map is also included. Copies are available at libraries, museums and societies or can be downloaded at http://ach.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Connect/Research_Local_History

Digitisation of the Lilydale Express newspaper

Thanks to a donation of Jim Sawyer's estate and another from Life Member Christine Gray, the society has now been able to pay the National Library of Australia to digitise and make available to the world via Trove the *Lilydale Express* from its first edition in 1886 to 1897.

The society has also recently applied for a grant from the Public Records Office of Victoria for a grant to digitise the newspaper from 1900 to 1913 and 1919 to 1920 as the years of World War I (1914-1918) have already been digitised.

We won't know if we have been successful until June this year.

If we receive the grant we will be well on the way to digitising the newspaper through to the 1940s which are our ultimate target.

In the meantime, we still have the years 1898 and 1899 to have digitised. There are 450 pages in these 2 years and at \$2.10 a page, it will cost us \$945 to do.

If anyone would like to make a donation towards this, please contact either Philip Burton on 0488 403 155 or Sue Thompson 0475 219 884.

Court House repainted then the vandals struck

For several months before Christmas, Yarra Ranges' painting contractors and the society committee had been working together to organise the re-painting of the Old Lilydale Court House inside and out.

The painting crew arrived in early December and painted the outside including the sheds, noticeboard and front fencing.

When the U3A and the society closed for the Christmas break, committee members spent a day taking down our display boards and paintings, packing up boxes and shelving so the painters could get to work on the interior. They moved in just after new year finished the inside.

Then the volunteers spent a day putting everything back into its place ready for our first open day of the new year.

The painters were fantastic and it was wonderful to see the old building looking nice, fresh and clean.

The society has been in the Old Lilydale Court House since 2011 and never suffered any graffiti. Yet within three weeks of opening for the year, the vandals stuck tagging our notice board, the front double doors and the talking magpie sign.

Now the council has to spend our ratepayers money removing the tags and repainting where necessary. It is all such a waste of money and resources. We hope someone saw them at work and have reported the vandals to the police.



RSL World War I website

As its contribution to the centenary of World War I, Lilydale RSL has launched a new website:

<http://www.lillydalewardiary.com/>

The site looks at what the various soldiers from the district were doing throughout the war.

Please note: Lilydale is the double ll.

New Acquisitions

Some of the society's new acquisitions of scanned photographs. We thank the generous donors Harley Brown, Barrie Marr and Elizabeth Harvey.



07007 Left to right: Harley Brown, Edna Hawkey and Ken Hawkey outside their Brown & Hawkey supermarket at the corner of Anderson and Main streets, Lilydale. The business closed in 1989. The grocers was started by Arthur J Brown in 1928



07010 The check out area of Brown & Hawkey's Supermarket.



07076 Addis family outside their butcher's shop in Castella Street, Lilydale, ca 1897. In the photo is Thomas Addis, his wife Annie (nee Goodall) and their grandson little boy George Chandler (son of Florence and Thomas Chandler nee Addis b. 1894).



07057 Bootmaker William Scott siting outside his shop with his wife Mary and young daughter Mary. The family home and business was between the two branches of the Olinda Creek on the south side of Main St.

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.

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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 2018-2019 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.burton6@bigpond.com

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 2018-2019 now due

Membership Subscriptions 2018-2019 were due on the 1st July 2018. (If you are not sure if you are financial, please ring Phil on 0488 403 155 to check.)

Name of Member: _____

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| | |
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