

Now & Then



Issue 2 May 2014

Affiliated with Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc

Meeting Dates

2014

June 7

July 5

August 2

September 6

October 4

November 8

December 6

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.



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Issue 2 May 2014

Learning about life in the earlier days

Society volunteers were on hand at the Old Lilydale Court House to meet and talk with 60 primary school children from Years Prep to 1 and 2 at Lilydale Primary School.

At various tables our volunteers had set up various activities and objects used in the home in the past. The children learnt about the objects and had the chance to play with them. Most had a go at typing on a very early portable typewriter and on another used by a journalist to type stories for the local newspaper.

Cooking utensils and their uses, drawing and playing games were also hits with the children.

After a couple of hours, the volunteers were left with a great appreciation for the dedicated teachers who have the children every

weekday.

Turn to page 3 from more photos and ways you can help us.

Finalist in national museum awards

The society is a finalist in the Museums Australia Multimedia and Publication Design Awards 2014.

See page 2 for more details.

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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.

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

On the airwaves

Listen to us on 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.

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Multi Media Awards

At the suggestion of Gabby Haynes, Heritage Officer with the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum, the society entered our Gun Alley project in the annual Museums Australia Multimedia and Publication Design Awards 2014.

We have been short listed for the Multimedia Award also with several of the nation's leading institutions: Museum of Brisbane; Maitland Regional Art Gallery; National Museum of Australia and Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art.

We are the only historical society listed and also the only Victorian entrant in the Multimedia category.

The awards will be presented as part of the Museums Australia National Conference on Saturday, May 17 at the Tramsheds Function Centre, Launceston, Tasmania, from 5.30pm.

As the society will not be present, we have asked Megan Sheehy from the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum to represent us at the function.

In our eyes, we are already winners and the recognition shows what can be achieved with our member's knowledge and contacts when they are linked with experts and the project receives adequate funding.

Guest Speakers 2014

The society will continue to have guest speakers every second month during 2014.

Our next speaker on June 7 is Ian Douglas. In 1951 Ian travelled with the Sun Youth Travel for three months as a representative of The Shire of Lillydale. He will talk about his travels and also present the society with a book he wrote about.

On August 2 Corinne Breivis will give a talk on the surveyor of Lilydale John Hardy.

On October 4 John Glenn a bottle collector will share some of the stories behind the bottles in his collection. If you know someone the society could invite to be a speaker, please call Lorraine Smith on 9735 1104.



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Lilydale Primary School at the Old Lilydale Court House



Lilydale Primary School children at the Old Lilydale Court House.

Donations Welcomed

Young school children of today haven't seen a dial up phone; used a typewriter, a fountain pen, worked a butter churn or played simple games such as jacks.

If you have any items from the kitchen or home from the 1950s or 1960s that you would be happy to donate to our school boxes we would love to hear from you.

Please call Lorraine Smith on 9735 1104

How we contact you

Like all small organisations we are always looking and needing to reduce our expenses. From the 31st March 2014 postage went to 70 cents per letter. A large number of our members receive our 'Now & Then' via e-mail and if you currently receive a mailed copy and would be happy to receive a copy via e-mail please send an e-mail to info@lilydalehistorical.com.au and we will add you to the online mailing list.

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Forming partnerships with developers

Many people in heritage organisations have had bad experiences with developers wanting to demolish homes and buildings.

At Lilydale, we have had great success working with developers on two significant homes in the township. In each case, they appreciated the value of the property and wanted to know more to enhance their property's future.

The Manor House

For many months the society has been quietly working with the owners of the Manor House on Maroondah Highway near the Warburton Trail.

There has been some misinformation circulating about

After some discussion the former slate roof has been replaced with iron so the interior is now protected and work on the interior can start.

While a slate roof would have been ideal, that used on the roof was from Wales and used as ballast from ships so was not a good quality and couldn't be sourced as the quarry is closed.

Eva and Jeff have also had the many layers of exterior paint from the building to reveal the original handmade bricks. One layer included a pink colour.

The society's research has supported the couple in their restoration plans and is a great example of developers, historical societies and councils working closely together.



The Manor House, Lilydale today.

the property. It's time to set the record straight.

Initially, the society worked closely with shire of Yarra Ranges staff to stop the former owner getting a demolition order from the Building Appeals Board. On September 25, 2012, the board dismissed the owners application to demolish the home based largely on the society's report on the property and information supplied by the shire's own heritage advisor.

The owner quickly sold the property to a developer who then sold the portion containing the Manor House and a block fronting Warburton Highway to the current owners.

This couple live in Sunshine and fell in love with the place which was in a shocking state.

They have spent weekend after weekend working on the home and getting council approval for their plans to restore it to its former glory.

They came to the Court House during their first weekend as owners and we provided them with all the information and images we could find. In return, they have been providing us with lots of photos of the interior and exterior and various changes as work is done. These images have been donated to our collection.

Deschamp

Earlier last year another developer walked through the court house doors and contracted us to research the history and source any photos we could find on the Deschamp's property in Pine Street. It was amazing how many scenes of Lilydale included the home in the background. He was rapt with our work and the images we produced. He has now retained the home on site and the shire has allowed development of the other part of the large site.

Coombe Cottage

Society member Sue Thompson has just completed a detailed report on Coombe Cottage for the council to use for the listing of the home on the State Register. Carried out in consultation with the Vestey family, Sue's report traces the owners of the property via the property titles; images throughout the years; descriptions of the home from the time Melba purchased it in 1909 and some of the leading citizens of the country who visited and stayed at Coombe. We were able to draw on our own collection of images gathered by Sandy Ross over the years.

RHSV Seminar

John Brown and Philip Burton attended the RHSV Seminar on Current & Future Challenges in Information Technology and How to build and maintain memberships held in the city in March.

Our own Sue Thompson was one of the speakers and spoke about the Gun Alley project which included showing them how the interactive website worked and the video interview with society member Ruby and her brother on the SP Bookie.

Sue's talk was very well received and congratulations to all those who spend many hours researching the information.

The city seminar is one of four being held in Victoria by the RHSV and The History Support Group.

Sue whose talk was Digitise Your Photographic Collection and reap the Rewards traced the history of our society and its journey along the digital pathway and its financial possibilities. Sue stressed that knowledge, information and images were valuable and societies should not be frightened to charge for them. Without



Sue Thompson speaking at the RHSV seminar.

funds the societies would not exist and therefore all those resources would be lost.

Sue also spoke at Warrnambool and at the end of the month will go to St Arnaud for the third seminar. The final seminar will be held in Sale later in the year.



Ruby Kwijas.

The story of Lilydale's Gun Alley



Elsie Barnes.

More than 20 people spent a couple of hours entranced with the stories of Lilydale's Gun Alley at a special talk hosted by the Eastern Regional Library's Lilydale branch

Two residents who grew up in Gun Alley - Ruby Kwijas and Elsie Barnes - spoke of their families, friends, schooling, games and the struggle their family's faced every day to put food on the table for their large families.

Not content to talk they also took along some of



The table with some of the Gun Alley memorabilia.

their own memorabilia - photographs, rent book and other documents. Each had a story to tell which Ruby and Elsie happily shared with everyone.

To hear their stories go to our society's website and

click on the Gun Alley tab:

<http://www.lilydalehistorical.com.au/gunalley/>

For the latest news on the society, its projects and activities go to: www.lilydalehistorical.com.au and click on What's New.

Open Day at the Lilydale Memorial Park

As part of our activities, the society regularly holds tours of the Lilydale Cemetery.

Recently, the Greater Metropolitan Cemetery Trust which now operates the Lilydale Cemetery held two events in which the society participated.

One was to take 100 or so people on a tour of the cemetery and the other an open day at Lilydale Memorial Park on Saturday, April 11.

The society set up a gazebo, our RHSV banner and table and members handed our brochures and displayed the publications we have on the families buried at the cemetery.

Activities on the day included tours of the workings of the Park and what services were available. There were representatives from the various Funeral Directors.

Poppy Tiles

As its contribution to the ANZAC celebrations trust has produced a Poppy Tile which can be fixed to headstones for those who served in war. These tiles can be purchased by descendants



Phil Burton, Lorraine Smith and John Brown looked after our display at Memorial Park.



Hearses from yesteryear of WW1 veterans and be affixed to their graves.

Did you see the article in the *Lilydale Leader* on the April 22?

Can you help?

Every weekend volunteers open the Old Lilydale Court House doors for those members of the community who work during the week so are only able to carry out research on the weekends.

We are open Saturdays and Sundays 11am to 4pm and would welcome any members wanting to give us a hand by doing duty for either all or part of the day.

There are two members rostered on each day and those new to roster duty would be teamed up with an

experienced member.

Volunteers find the time valuable as they learn about our extensive resources, meet interesting people and gain insights into the history of the district. They also help with our on-going projects such as our headstones project or are free to do their own research. If you are interested please speak to Lorraine Smith at our monthly meeting or contact her on 9735 1104.

Headstone Project Research

It is amazing to research the stories behind the headstones.

Currently we are doing a project funded by the Shire of Yarra Ranges based on those people with headstones buried at Lilydale Cemetery between 1861 and 1931.

Already members are learning a lot about life, and at times, the sad past, of the Lilydale district.

Through the headstones project our volunteers are learning about the outbreak of disease such as typhoid and scarlet fever; the high infant mortality rate and death through drowning, farm accidents and murder.

If one of your ancestors is buried at the cemetery between the project dates and has a headstone, we would love to hear from you so we can include your family history on our website.

To check the names or to help with the project, call Lorraine on 9735 1104 or pop in and see her between 1pm and 4pm on a Fridays at the Court House and she will run you through the project.

The images of the headstones and the family information will be added to our website.

Follow us on Facebook

The society’s Facebook page already has a lot of followers and is the perfect place to go to regularly to see what is happening throughout the year.

At the beginning of each month, we will be putting up one of the images from our collection and asking if anyone has information about it.

If you are already a Facebook friend, you will receive notification when the image or any event is listed.

If you are not on Facebook but want to keep in touch, check out our page regularly at

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lilydale-Historical-Society-Inc/377527205605292>

or simply go to our website and click on the Facebook icon on the our home page.

Society’s AGM

Our Annual General Meeting this year is on Saturday, July 5, 2014 starting at 1pm where we will be electing a new committee for the next 12 months. The committee meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month and new committee members are most welcome, so if you want more information please speak to one of the current committee members. Below is a Nomination form which must be lodged with the secretary at the Old Lilydale Court House by 4pm on Friday, June 27

Membership Subscriptions are now due for the 2014 – 2015 year. To be able to vote at the AGM your subscription must be paid on or before the AGM meeting. Please complete the section on the last page of the newsletter and send your renewal to the Treasurer.



Nomination Forms

AGM Lilydale & District Historical Society Inc.

Saturday July 5 at 1pm.

People nominating for positions and those moving or seconding the nomination must be financial members of the society.

Positions: President, Senior Vice President;; Secretary; Treasurer and 6 committee members.

Position Person nominated.....

Signature

Mover of nomination Signature of Mover

Seconder of nomination Signature of Seconder

Nominations must be lodged with the secretary at the Old Lilydale Court House by 4pm on Friday, June 27.

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

Special Introductory Offer

The society has just received copies of the National Film & Sound Archives' double CD *Nellie Melba Aria & Song 1904 -1921*. The CD includes explanatory notes on how it was recorded in Old Parliament House, a brief Melba biography and many interesting images.

For a limited time, we will be selling the CD for just \$30.00.

Copies can be purchased 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 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 2014-2015 now due

Membership Subscriptions 2013-2014 are due on July 1 2014. (If you are not sure if you are financial, please ring Lorraine on 9735 1104 to check.) PLEASE PRINT

Name of Member: _____

Address: _____

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Email address for newsletters _____

Family Membership	\$20.00
Single membership	\$15.00
Pensioners	\$10.00
Students (under 16 years)	\$5.00

Amount enclosed: \$

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