

Now & Then



Issue 3 July 2015

Affiliated with Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc

Meeting Dates

2015

September 5
October 3
November 7
December 5

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.



The Celotti family outside the gardener's cottage at Coombe Cottage in the 1930s. Seated Ida (left) Louisa (right). At rear left to right: Primo, Valentino Jnr and Valentino Snr. (06443). For the Celotti story go to page 7.

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Issue 3 July 2015

Where Do I come From?

While we are called an historical society we receive requests for information from all over the world from people seeking out their ancestors; where they lived and what they did.

With this in mind, the society's committee decided we should look at bringing family history into the The Old Lilydale Court House so the local people could pop in and find out more about their family history and what resources are available to them locally and further afield.

The committee approached the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies at Blackburn and after a meeting, it was decided to hold our first family history weekend - Where Do I Come From? - during August as part of National Family History Month.

Where Do I Come From? will be held at the Old Lilydale Court House on Saturday and Sunday August 15 and 16 from 10am to 2pm.

People with links to Lilydale, the Yarra Valley and other parts of the world will be able to hear special talks and chat with various organisations associated with family history.

Continued page 2.

75 years of funeral care

Robbie and his son Gavan continue the family tradition

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Where Do I Come From? (continued)

This is a chance to find out more about your ancestors be they local pioneers or migrants from England, Ireland, Scotland or Europe.

The weekend will feature two lectures each day:

Saturday:

11am to 12 noon: Starting Your Family History

12.30 to 1.30pm: Scottish Ancestry.

Sunday:

11am to 12 noon: Starting Your Family History

12.30 to 1.30pm: English Ancestry.

Also on hand will be expert researchers from the AIGS, the Eastern Regional Library (Saturday only) and the Descendants of Convicts Group to help you with any family history inquiries.

Society will help people look up their forebears using the Shire of Lilydale rate books, the Lilydale Express newspaper and its own extensive archive.

Admission is \$2 which includes a show bag. Bookings are preferred for the lectures as seating is limited.

To book call Lorraine Smith 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

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.

On the airwaves

Listen to us on Radio Station 98.1 Radio Eastern 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.

We can advise and arrange insurances on your behalf including Home & Contents, Private & Commercial Motor Vehicle, Farm, Business Insurance, Liability and much more.

When your insurances are due for Renewal give us a call.

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Our changing home through the years



Images from top going clockwise:

Go to page 4 for the story

Top left: Interior of Lilydale Court House as seen from the Magistrate's bench looking down to the Clerk of Courts desk, counsel and the public seating. (ARB Conservation Consultants). (06458)

Middle right: Court House prior to the society moving in early February 2011.

Right: Our first meeting in our new home in February 2011.

Above: Some of the participants in the Women on Farms Weekend in March 2015.



One Veteran's War

As our society's contribution to the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, Vietnam in August 2016, veteran Wal Thompson has agreed to show a selection of his 500 plus slides he took while serving as a tank mechanic with the RAME LAD in Vietnam in 1969.

The images include local towns, people, the landscape and life at Nui Dat.

The Vietnam War may have been screened nightly around the world, but surprisingly, very few Veteran's took a camera and captured the world around them.

The talk "One Veteran's War" will be held at our home, the Old Lilydale Court House on Saturday, November 14 from 1pm.

The cost will be \$2 each and include afternoon tea afterwards. The society will donate any funds raised to the Outer Eastern Vietnam Veterans Association for their welfare work with veterans.

New displays

Our new display will be installed in early September so this is your last chance to call in and look at the current displays which feature two great boards on Coldstream, murder and Melba and more.

Our new displays will feature:

- Montrose Post Office and General Store;
- Melba's garden.
- Murder of John Nicholson.

- Families from the cemetery.
- Our social media - Facebook and Google+
- Life of our pioneers featuring kitchen and bathroom memorabilia.

Our changing home through the years

During the almost five years we have been in the Old Lilydale Court House we have had a lot of people pop in to have a look. For some who appeared before the Bench it was time for a trip down memory lane. Each was asked what the building was like as few of us had seen photos.

However, that has now changed thanks to our wonderful bright-eyed secretary Joy Gothe was recently at a function at the Prahran Mechanics Institute.

After the function, she browsed through their catalogue and turned up a report done by RBA Architects and Conservation Consultants for the Justice Department on our Lilydale Court House back in 1996 when the court was still operating.

A phone call later and we had a copy of the report and two emails later we had a high res copy of the report plus a series of photos from RBA Conservation Consultants from their own files.

We now have a carefully researched history of the building - who built it; when changes were made etc but what is amazing is that for most of us we can now, for the first time, see how the court room was set up because they took interior images. RBA kindly scanned high res copies for us and sent them to us. The report

has been added to our library and the images are now part of our photographic collection and will be added to our display in September.

ANZACS

The society has now put up on line all the names of the local people who answered the call during World War I.

Go to:

www.lilydalehistorical.com.au and click on the *They Answered the Call* link to see the listings.



The new supermarket, butcher shop and the bank adjoining them on the north side of Main Street, down from the TAB have created quite a deal of interest with shoppers.

The staff in these modern appointed businesses have been kept flat out coping with the influx of curious customers which usually accompanies the opening of new premises.



Left: Lilydale was on the move when it opened a new supermarket, butcher's shop and bank on the south side of Main St near Clarke St. Lilydale Express May 20, 1965 pg 9.

Annual General Meeting

The society's AGM was held on Saturday, July 4.

President Lorraine Smith presented her annual report which highlighted the many activities the society had participated in during the last 12 months. As the Manager of the Old Lilydale Court House Manager Lorraine also presented the Court House Report.

Our Treasurer Philip Burton presented our annual financial report which highlighted our income and expenditure for the year and the acquisition of new computer software and audio visual equipment both of which have been a real asset to the society particularly for our many talks and presentations.

Life Member Mrs Dorothy Hill took the chair and declared all positions vacant and announced the following people would lead the society for the next 12 months:

President: Sue Thompson.

Vice Presidents: John Brown and Jeanette Dodson.

Secretary: Joy Gothe.

Treasurer: Philip Burton.

The committee members are: Lorraine Smith, Dorothy Hill, Evelyn Tull, Maree Phelan and Lynn Wales.

Life Member Ruby Kwijas did not nominate for the committee due to ill health and family commitments.

When taking the chair Sue Thompson thanked the outgoing committee, particularly Lorraine Smith who has had a very busy year.

After the AGM, we held our general meeting which was followed by a talk by Croydon Historical Society Vice President Geoff Arnott. Geoff spoke about how he carried out the research for his recently published family history and about the many characters in his family.

President's Report 2014

After 13 years as President, Sandy Ross stood down. He was presented with a photo book starting with the first photo of him at the inaugural meeting through to him receiving a RHSV Merit Award.

New committee elected: Lorraine Smith President, John Brown Vice President, Sue Thompson Secretary and Philip Burton Treasurer. Joy Gothe assistant Secretary, Jeanette Dodson to read out correspondence. Committee: Dot Hill, Maree Phelan, Lynn Wales, Evelyn Tull, Ruby Kwijas and Val Sheehan. It is great to have some new members on board.

Highlights:

- * The Hon. Saffron Foster who is the granddaughter of Pamela Lady Vestey has agreed to be our new Patron.
- * Receiving the Multi-Media Award for Gun Alley Project received a certificate and \$2,000. From PROV and RHSV.
- * Gun Alley also received a special commendation at the National Museum's Australia Awards. We were the only society in the Multi-Media category and were competing

against state museums.

* Maree Phelan received a Community award for her many years of volunteering from Tony Smith MP.

Events:

Our first event held on September 6th was RHSV Award of Merit award presented by Associate Professor Don Garden to Val Sheehan, a tireless worker for the society and has produced many publications. She was called Mrs Coldstream.

Our second event was the launch of *Stories Behind the Headstones* on 28th February by Mayor Cr Marie McCarthy. We received a grant from Yarra Ranges Council via the Community Art and Heritage Development. Thank you to Sandy Ross who had the foresight to photograph all the headstones many years ago. A big thank you to all volunteers who did the research and to Sue Thompson for checking and uploading all the information on to the website.

Our meetings are held on the 1st Saturday of the month at 1pm and we had speakers bi-monthly: This year they were:

* Kieran Cox a solicitor spoke of his time working at the Court House some humorous encounters.

* Corinne Brewis president of Berwick Mechanics Institute gave an overview on Mechanics Institutes and talked on John Hardy Lilydale 1st surveyor.

* John Glenn a bottle collector talked on his passion and researching the history of his bottles.

* Maria McCarthy spoke about book "Dreams from a Suitcase" stories of the Italian settlers to Lilydale area.

* Gary Taylor's Great Uncle Ronald (Buck) who went down with the RANS "The Yarra" in 1942.

* Viewed the DVD called "A Change of Pace" the 1980s story of Lilydale narrated by Tommy Mitchell.

Sponsors: LDHS are very appreciative of our Sponsors for their ongoing financial support.

Our sponsors are: Heritage and Heritage Funerals, Wilkinson Insurance Brokers, Ian D Carswell and Associates Accountants and Business Adviser, Trevor Dudleys Classic Menswear Formalwear and Hire, Statewide Locksmiths, Paradigm 4 website design.

Other activities:

* The society has signed Memorandum of Understanding with The Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust and Yarra Ranges Heritage Network.

* As part of the Association of Eastern Region Historical Societies, LDHS was pleased to host the February meeting.

* During History Week in October with the Heritage Network we had a stall at Mont De Lancey, Philip Burton and John Brown looked after it. Jeanette Dodson put a photo display at Montrose Library and conducted a town walk.

* Display at the Lilydale Agricultural and Horticultural

Continued next page

President's Report 2014 (continued)

Show in November for two days with members on duty to answer questions and hear their stories.

* Val Sheehan had a display of 100 years of Red Cross displayed at Coldstream Newsagent.

* The society continues to have a history segment on the radio 98.1FM Community Radio on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

* We hosted a visit of 50 women from the Women on Farms Gathering at Healesville. Sue did a talk on Melba and technology and Melba's funeral followed a visit to the cemetery to see Melba's grave.

* Our Christmas breakup has become a tradition now with 46 members attending.

* Our Thank You lunch for the volunteers in January just before we open after the Christmas break was a great day with 22 of the 25 volunteers attending and receiving a certificate.

* We had a display of Melba's operatic roles for the *Bells of Peace* wonderful production.

* We continue to give talks on Melba, communication in the 50s, conduct town walks and cemetery tours.

Research:

* Tudor village naming rooms for their new community centre.

* Coombe Cottage for the Shire of Yarra Ranges Heritage listing application.

Continue to give talks on Melba, communication in the 50s, conduct town walks and cemetery tours.

Display:

We continue to develop and erect displays in the Court House for visitors to enjoy.

The Lilydale Lions Club grew too big for the Court House so they have moved to Chirnside Club Country Club. Two yoga classes are held at the Court House each week. U3A use the building other times.

We can be proud of what LDHS has achieved this year, thank you to all the volunteers who have been on duty 3 ½ days a week.

For the many hours of research for the Headstone Project and the other jobs that are ongoing. Special thanks to Sue, Philip and John for their support and expertise.

It was a sad day when we lost Val Sheehan but many members joined her family to celebrate her life on the day she would have been 88.

Purchases:

In-magic, up-dated website and have Facebook and Google+ operating.

Lorraine Smith President
Lilydale & District Historical Society.

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

Annual Court House Report

1st July 2014 – 30th June 2015

Compiled by Court House Manager Lorraine Smith

Volunteers duty		2220 hours	
Visitors to the court house			328 people
Activity	No.	Hours	People
Town walks:	3	6 hours	79 people
Cemetery tours:	1	2 hours	8 people
Talks at court house	2	4 hours	32 people
Talks at other venues:	8	20 hours	279 people
Christmas party:	1		46 people
Headstone Launch:	1		34 people
Thank you volunteers luncheon:	1		22 people
Merit Award -Val Sheehan	1		50 people
Association of Outer Eastern Historical Societies meeting:	1		22 people
Women on Farms :	1		50 people
Lilydale Show display:	1	16 hours	
Heritage Day			
Mont De Lancey:	1	14 hours	
Research requests:		55 hours	
Research done at court house		15 hours	
Headstone Project research:		747 hours	
ANZAC project research:		275 hours	
Indexing, library, proof reading, newsletter:		193 hours	
Website, training, workshops etc:		187 hours	
Average attendance at monthly meetings:			19 people
Totals:	22	3754 hours	950 people

A big thank you to all the volunteers who happily do duty to make this all possible.

Hire of venue: Healthy Being Yoga: Monday and Thursday evenings.

Cave Hill Research

The team of Sue Thompson, John Brown and Lynn Wales have just completed a contract researching the history and varying uses of the old buildings at Cave Hill. The work has greatly increased our knowledge about this extensive site, the genius of David Mitchell and its evolution to keep up with changing demands.

Research

Due to the increasing demand for research, all inquiries must be in writing and go to Sue Thompson via info@lilydalehistorical.com.au. A quote for the cost of the research will be provided and no research will be done until the quotation is paid. Our charges are \$20 per hour. Contact Sue Thompson 9761 9192.

The Celotti family at Coombe Cottage

After a recent Melba talk Sue Thompson gave at Croydon she was approached by Teresa Cant who was holding a small photo album belonging to her family - the Celotti family. Inside was a wonderful collection of 13 happy snaps of their time

as gardeners at Coombe Cottage in the 1930s and 1940s.

Her grandfather Valentino Snr was the gardener and the family lived in the gardeners cottage on the property. Her father also worked at Coombe. The photos include members of the Celotti family and were taken in different parts of the Coombe Cottage garden during spring and summer.



Primo and Louise Celotti by the gates leading to the swimming pool at Coombe Cottage in the 1930s.

We are now on the search for the definite location of the gardeners cottage which is no longer standing. Teresa's father Valentino Jnr was so influenced by growing up at Coombe that he recreated Melba's garden at his home in Croydon. She explained that her father was so inspired he even replicated the idea of music speakers in the garden so he could listen to music while working.

Copies of the images will be featured in our upcoming display on the garden at Coombe Cottage.

Immigration records show that head of the family, Valentino Celotti Snr arrived in Melbourne in July 1927 on the *Caprera*. His eldest son Primo arrived on December 10, 1929 on the *Orama* while the rest of the family Ida, Luicia (Louise) and youngest son Valentino Jnr arrived on the *Viminaie* in 1934. On the passenger list they gave their destination as Coldstream.

Red Dots

For those who receive the newsletter by post there is a red sticker on the address label if your renewal is outstanding. Members who receive the newsletter by e-mail and their subs are overdue, our treasurer will be emailing you.

Please check the back page and note that at our AGM this year, we increased membership fees for the first time in more than 10 years.



Where Do I Come From?



Lilydale & District Historical Society and Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies have combined to present a

Family History Weekend

at The Old Lilydale Courthouse
61 Castella St, Lilydale on

**Saturday & Sunday August 15 and 16,
10am to 2pm**

Experienced genealogists and researchers will be available to help anyone tracing their family history.

Lectures:

Saturday:

11am to 12 noon Starting Your Family History
12.30 to 1.30pm: Scottish Ancestry

Sunday:

11am to 12 noon Starting Your Family History
12.30 to 1.30pm English Ancestry.

On hand during the weekend will be representatives from

* AIGS * Eastern Regional Libraries (Saturday only)
* Descendants of Convicts * LDHS

Admission \$2 incl. showbag

Bookings for talks: Lorraine Smith 9735 1104

www.lilydalehistorical.com.au

www.aigs.org.au



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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For the latest news, listing of events and our publications, go to our website at www.lilydalehistorical.com.au Google+ or Facebook and type in Lilydale Historical Society

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 2015-2016 now due

Membership Subscriptions 2015-2016 were due on the 1st July 2015. (If you are not sure if you are financial, please ring Lorraine on 9735 1104 to check.)

Name of Member: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

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

Amount enclosed: \$

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