

Now & Then



Issue 3 November 2014

Affiliated with Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc

Meeting Dates

2014

December 6

2015

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December

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 3 November 2014



Society president Lorraine Smith with Justine Heazlewood, Director and Keeper of Public Records, Public Record Office Victoria. Photo courtesy PROV.

Local history award winner

An excited president Lorraine Smith happily received the Multi-media Award in the 2014 Victorian Community History Awards for our Gun Alley project.

Presenting the award was Justine Heazlewood, Director and Keeper of Public Records, Public Record Office Victoria .

The annual Awards, funded by the Victorian government, and coordinated by the Public Record Office of Victoria recognise the people and projects that helped preserve and share Victoria's history in 2014. The Awards have grown since their conception in 1999 and this year they attracted a record 167 entrants over eight categories.

"Many of these projects utilised local historical collections to help preserve and tell stories. It highlights the importance of local collections in shaping our State's history," said Ms Heazlewood.

"We must thank the volunteers of the society who put in some 1000 hours of research. The Museum of Yarra Ranges for their assistance and guidance, Mental Media and the Commonwealth Government for their grant," Lorraine Smith said when accepting the Award and the \$2000 prize money.

"We must also thank the families of John St who shared their memories and photographs.

"We must also thank Sue Thompson our secretary who is such a driving force."

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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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Judge's comments

Following is the judge's comments on our entry:

"This remarkable website is the result of an ambitious project to capture online the history of the people and buildings in John Street, Lilydale The website is cleverly designed, its various layers enabling the viewer to select a time period and then delve into the history of individual properties and their residents through a combination of maps, images, interviews and other visual and aural presentations.

The interviews featured on the website are particularly valuable in capturing a community from rural to urban."

Footnote: In the Museums Australia Multimedia and Publication Design Awards 2014 mentioned in our last newsletter, we received a Highly Commended Award.

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

The awards were presented as part of the Museums Australia National Conference on Saturday, May 17.

Guest Speakers 2014

The society will continue to have guest speakers every second month during 2015.

February 7:

Luigi Fotia Yarra Valley Italian Group who will be talking on the Italian culture and book "Dreams from a Suitcase" at 2pm.

Saturday April 11:

Gary Taylor speaking on the scrap book of his great Uncle Ronald (Buck) Taylor who went down with RANS "The Yarra" in 1942 at 2pm.

July 4 AGM:

Geoff Arnott, President Croydon Historical Society will talk about his family history book.

If you know someone the society could invite to be a speaker, please call Lorraine Smith on 9735 1104.

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



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Lilydale-made plough restored

The links with Lilydale and the rest of the country seem endless.

Earlier this year we received an email from Jeff Cole, a volunteer at the Churchill Island Heritage Farm. He asked if we had any information or images of the ploughs George Robert White of Lilydale built.

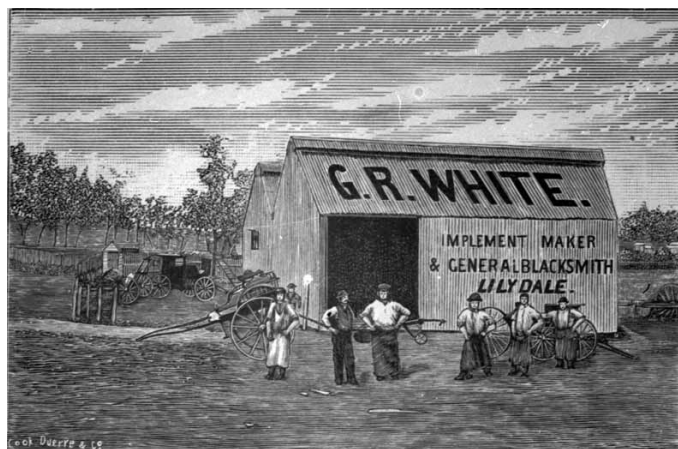
Jeff had painstakingly restored a plough donated to the farm and wanted to find out more and we were able to help him. The double mouldboard plough made in Lilydale.

Sadly, we don't seem to have any images of the ploughs but we have completed research on George White and his family.

George White arrived in Lilydale as a young man in 1881 having completed his training with ploughmakers Hugh Lennon.

In 1883 he married dressmaker Mary Ellen Landor. Mary Ellen's mother Caroline has operated a dressmaking business in Lilydale Main St. Mary Ellen took over the business following her mother Caroline's death aged 33 in 1881.

George and Mary had one recorded child – Ellen Gracie who died of diphtheria in March 1884 aged 7 months.



00022 G.R. White outside his blacksmith shop which was on the south-east corner of Main and William street north. Cook, Duerre & Co sketch 1885 to 1888 publishers Table Talk. (f22)

Implement factory

George White built his new factory on the south-east corner of William St. East and Main St in 1887, became very active in the local community; was elected to Lillydale Shire council in 1886 and served until 1896. He served three terms as shire president and officially laid the foundation stone of the first shire office in Castella St in 1889.

Sadly, his civic commitments led the failure of his business so he resigned from the shire suddenly in April 1897 and his place at the table was taken by Dr Syme who was elected at a by-election.



The double mouldboard plough made in Lilydale by G.R. White which has been restored by Jeff Cole for the Churchill Island Heritage Farm.

George White sold the property to William Wesble who moved from Castella St in August 1897.

He and his wife later left the town though it is not recorded where they went.

Community service

The family's service to the community included:

- 11 years as a councillor;
- He started the Sunday school for the Free United Methodist Church in 1883 at Lilydale;
- A lay preacher and circuit steward for the Free United Methodist Church in Lilydale and Wandin;
- Lilydale Harmonic society; and
- Chairman of the Board of Local Magistrates.

Mrs White was a supporter of the Lilydale tennis and croquet clubs.

Anyone wanting more information on George White should check out our archives where all the research has been placed.

References:

Evelyn Observer August 19, 1887 pg 2; Lilydale Express June 30, 1886 pg 1; November 11, 1888; April 30, 1897 pg2; June 25 1897 pg 1; July 2, 1897 pg2; July 9, 1897 pg 2; July 16, 1897 pg2 and 3; July 23, 1897 pg 2; July 30, 1897; August 27, 1897 pg2;

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Lilydale Express June 30, 1886 pg 1 (first edition)

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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
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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.

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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

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