

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.

Inside this issue

Christmas Party3

Headstones3

Local History Week4

Bottles talk4

G.R. White 6

Lilydale & District Historical Society
P.O Box 834,
Lilydale Vic 3140
email:
info@lilydalehistorical.com.au
or
suethompson50@ozemail.com.au

website: www.lilydalehistorical.com.au

Contacts:

Sue Thompson 9761 9192

Lorraine Smith 9735 1104

Proudly supported by



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."

75 years of funeral care

Robbie and his son Gavan continue the family tradition

For a fixed price funeral plan and brochures

Phone: 9800 3000

733 Boronia Rd, Wantirna

Phone: 9739 7799 Lilydale

www.heritagefunerals.com.au



**HERITAGE
&
HERITAGE
FUNERALS**

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.

Ian D. Carswell  **& Associates**

Accountant & Business Adviser
Ian Carswell
 0419 382 036

P.O. Box 152 Chirnside Park 3116 Vic Phone: (03) 9735 1451
 47 Rolling Hills Road, Fax: (03) 9739 4220
 Chirnside Park 3116 Vic Email: iancarsy@optusnet.com.au

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.

Wilkinson Insurance Brokers
 286 Main Street, Lilydale
 Telephone: 9735 6333 Fax: 9735 3544



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.



established 1962

Classic Menswear Formalwear & Hire

Peter Ruscitti

166 - 168 Main Street, Lilydale Victoria 3140
 Ph: 03 9735 1136 Fax: 03 9735 0668



Heritage Week display at Mont de Lancey

Lilydale's display in the grounds of Mont de Lancey.

Philip Burton, John Brown and Lorraine Smith represented the Lilydale & District Historical Society on October 19 for Heritage Week at Mont de Lancey.

The Society had four panels of photos one showing the original Lilydale Township plan of 1860 other panels showed the Main street through the ages from 1880s to 1970. Plus there was a range of books, publications, cards for sale.

It was a great day meeting people plus catching up with other representatives of other History groups from the Yarra Ranges in the grounds of Mont de Lancey.

At these events it is amazing who turns up. The society was approached by a couple which resulted in the donation of an oil painting, catalogues and information about international artist and sculptor Helen Lempriere a grand-daughter of David Mitchell who grew up in Lilydale.



Philip Burton was on hand to answer any questions.

For more information about Helen Lempriere go to: http://www.nelliemelbamuseum.com.au/dora_elizabeth.htm



Lilydale bottles

An excellent and informative talk was presented by John Glen (left) on Saturday, October 4. He had with him a fascinating display of old bottles from the Lilydale area (above).

John talked about the many places he has visited in search of bottles the methods of discovery plus the joy of the discovery of old dumps in landfill and creeks and rivers.

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.

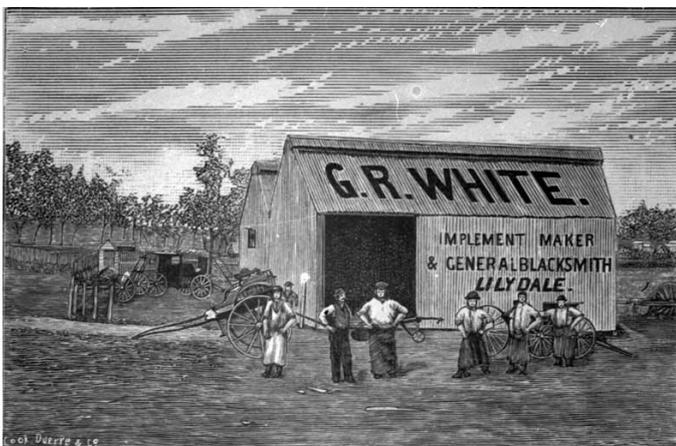
Jeff had painstakingly restored a plough donated to the farm and wanted to find out more and we were able to help him. The double mouldboard plough made in Lilydale.

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;

Important to Farmers and Others.

GEORGE R. WHITE,

WHEELWRIGHT, BLACKSMITH, and
AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT MAKER.

Main Road, near Railway Station, Lilydale.

(Formerly with Hugh Lennon, Prize Ploughmaker, Melbourne.)

DESIRES to draw attention to the fact, that having acquired new and improved machinery, and employing only competent workmen, he is enabled to turn out really good and enduring work at strictly moderate rates. The Ploughs and Harrows, together with the horse drays and bullock waggons manufactured by George R. White have already earned for themselves a name as regards usefulness, durability, general finish and price.

Repairing in all its branches economically and speedily effected.

The horse shoeing is in the hands of an experienced practical man.

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

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: _____

Telephone: _____

Email address for newsletters _____

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

Amount enclosed: \$

SEND TO:
The Treasurer
Lilydale & District
Historical Society
P.O. Box 834,
LILYDALE 3140