

Now & Then



Issue 4 November 2013

Affiliated with Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc

2013
Meeting Dates
December 7

2014
February 1
March 1
April 5
May 3
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 4 November 2013

Society web galleries receives Community History Recognition

The society received a 'Commendation' in the 'Multimedia History Award' section of this year's Community History Awards which are presented by the Royal Historical Society Victoria in conjunction with the Public Record Office Victoria.

Our Commendation was for our 'Faces, Places & Events' Galleries on our web page.

Lorraine Smith and Philip Burton attended the Awards held in 'The Deakin Edge' at Federation Square in the city Monday 21st October to pick up the award on behalf of the Society.

The guest speaker was Professor Geoffrey Blainey AO. who after the awards had a few words with Lorraine & Phil congratulating the Society on having such a vibrant society in Lilydale and the winning of our award.

There were four commendation awards and the winner was 'A Guide to Pioneer Graves in the Mornington Cemetery' by Valerie Wilson.

The Faces, Places & Events galleries were made possible with a Community Development Grant from



Society treasurer Philip Burton (left) on stage at the recent Victorian Community History Awards. (Courtesy PROV)

the Shire of Yarra Ranges. The funding turned the project from a dream to reality.

Special thanks must go to Paula Falovic and the Team at Paradigm4 for their computer programming which made the creation of the galleries

possible.

"Finally, the society members who scanned and selected the images made this project a lot easier to complete."

To see the Faces, Places and Events galleries go to www.lilydalehistorical.com.au/galleries.htm.

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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.

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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Surplus History Sale

Our history surplus sale during History Week attracted a lot of visitors and of course some sales. Due to the success we are planning to hold another sale in the first half of the new year.

Melba letters

During her recent holiday, Sue Thompson spent two days in the National Library in Canberra looking at the large collection of Melba letters held by the library.

There were the Dear Tibs letters Melba wrote to her sister Isabella; a Marchesi collection of 40 letters donated by Marchesi's grandson Baron Leopold Podhragy; another smaller collection of John Lemmone and various individual letters.

In among the letters were some photos, two of which Sue hadn't previously seen. Copies of these have been ordered and will be published in our next Now & Then when Sue has had a chance to do a little research on both.

Same issue different packaging

The local media is a mine of valuable historical information and offers many sobering thoughts. One which quickly comes to mind is: nothing is really new it is just packaged differently:

Correspondence

Respectable Larrikins

To the Editor of the Lilydale Express

Sir – Allow me a small space in your columns to make a complaint with reference to the discussing (disgusting) conduct of several youths, whose names if published, would probably surprise their parents, and who make it a practice to attend the Salvation Army services merely for making sport. The language used by some of these scapegraces within the hearing of ladies is really intolerable, while others make a smoking room of the porch, must to the annoyance of those inside. If remonstrated with for their behavior, insults and abuse if the result. Now, sir, what I should like to know is this. Is it not possible for our esteemed sergeant to step in and protect respectable persons from such heathenish carryings on? If so, then I am sure, once brought under his notice, there will be no need for further complaints. Thanking you in anticipation, - I am, &c., Decency.



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GUN ALLEY



06210 Elsie O'Donnell with her grandfather Melville Maynard in the garden at 53 John St, Lilydale. 1938-39. Elsie was born in 1931. (LDHS)

It has taken society members a hundred or more hours and two years of research, phone calls and interviews but now the Gun Alley project is ready for its debut.

The project which tells the story of a group of homes in John Street, Lilydale, known as Gun Alley.

Each property owner has been traced and recorded; photos found and where possible oral histories and videos made.

With the help of the a Sharing Stories grant from the Australian

Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Gun Alley features three elements: a display; a 160 plus page book with more than 200 images and a Gun Alley addition to our website.

The society employed the Sydney-based Mental Media to create the program to add all the information. The programming design included the ability for us to add more audio, video, images and text when it comes to light. Visitors to the Gun Alley pages simply click on one of the properties to find the names of the owners, images, audio and video content.

Society secretary Sue Thompson said this was only supposed to be small project and seemed simple at the time.

“But it took on a life of its own as we traced the owners and researched their stories. From just two images on Gun Alley in our society’s collection, we have now added 300 plus, all willingly supplied by descendants of families who lived there.”



06330 Some of the Humphries’ children. From back: Eric, Ruby, Terry, Claudia and Olive. Note mouse cage hanging on the outdoor dunny wall. (LDHS)

The launch will be at 11.30am on Saturday, November 23. Federal Member Tony Smith will launch the book and website while the families of John Street will unveil the displays featuring their properties. Many families from John Street will be at the launch. For catering purposes please book by phoning Lorraine Smith on 9735 1104.

Christmas Party

The year has slipped away quickly and Christmas is almost here.

In keeping with tradition, the society is again hosting a Christmas party for members and friends on our final meeting day of the year Saturday,

December 7. Our meeting will start at the earlier time of 11am with the party beginning at 12 noon. Wally Thompson will again be manning the Weber to cook our roast turkey. To go with the turkey the members

will again be providing the sumptuous ham, salads and desserts. The cost will be \$12.50 per person or \$25 a couple. For catering purposes, please call Lorraine Smith on 9735 1104.

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Pop Up Museum at Coldstream



Val Sheehan in front of a table setting from Coombe Cottage (see below) which was part of the display for the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum's Pop Up Museum program for its new "Changing Places: The Evolution of Yarra Ranges' Main Streets" exhibition.



Yarra Ranges Heritage Network Open Day

This year's Yarra Ranges Heritage Network History Week event was held on Sunday the 20th October at the Upper Yarra Museum at Yarra Junction which is well worth a visit.

More than 20 heritage, history and cultural groups, the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum, and authors set up displays for the public to view. There were over a 100 volunteers and well over 250 visitors who attended on the day. It was a great day for networking between the various groups and it was Gabby Haynes introduction on mass of the Network group.



Our display at Yarra Junction.

Helping to plan the future of Cave Hill

Sue Thompson has been appointed to the Plan Cave Hill Community Reference Group to represent the interests of the community, particularly in the preservation of the historic elements of the site.

The group has met twice and before the second meeting members went on a tour of the site.

Following extensive community consultation earlier this year, the partnership of Sibelco (owners of Cave Hill) and Places Victoria (formerly the Urban Land Authority) have been working on the Masterplan with the Shire of Yarra Ranges and the community.

"Teams of consultants have been working on the whole range of elements of the site including: the heritage of the site; transport, infrastructure, archaeology, environment, recreation etc.

"The results of this work have been incorporated into the draft Masterplan which will be released this month. Also this month, a series of community meetings will be organised to encourage input and comment on the plan from residents.

"This is an exciting and massive project which will provide a huge boost to Lilydale and the wider community," Sue said.

"The draft does not include the heritage elements at this stage as there is a lot of work still to be done on recording the history and assessing the visual and built heritage of the site."

For more details go to www.plancavehill.com.au after November 11 or look in the local newspapers or in your letter box for more information about the meetings.

Guest Speakers 2014

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

On Saturday, February 1 our president Sandy Ross will talk about old houses of Lilydale.

On Saturday, April 5, member Robert Bethel will speak about his recently published history of the Lilydale CFA and his work on the Coldstream CFA book.

All talks begin at 2pm after our ordinary meeting. Visitors are welcome but the cost for non members is a gold coin donation.

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

The Day it Snowed in Lilydale

The society has just received a valuable collection of photographs showing the day it snowed in Lilydale. The day was July 19, 1951 and it made front page news in the *Lilydale Express* of July 27, 1951 and was photographed by *The Age* as well. Below is one of the photos copied and donated to the society by Gail Van Zeist (nee McNamara) of Shepparton.

Do you have any photos of that day tucked away in your family albums?



Celebrating the tree planting. Society vice president Lorraine Smith plants the jQueen Elizabeth Jubilee tree with the help of local MP Christine Fyffe while Lilydale Primary School students and principal Tom Bege look on.



06374 The day it snowed at Lilydale - Thursday, July 19, 1951. The War Memorial in Main Street with Dr Short's home the south-east corner of Main and Clarke streets in background. On left is R.T Kings' brick shop.



Members searched their cupboards to put on a display of kitchenalia as part of our contribution to the shire's Seniors Week. Sadly, few turned up but that didn't stop members reminiscing about the "olden days".

Photos anyone?

Anyone wanting to look at or order our photos should go to www.lilydalehistorical.com.au and click on galleries on the home page. This is just a small sample of the images we have in our 4000 plus collection.

We now have Paypal so can sell and deliver copies of our images all around the world.

Queen Elizabeth 11 60th Jubilee tree planting

It was a special occasion at Melba Park on September 13.

On that day the Shire of Yarra Ranges, the society and Lilydale State School combined to celebrate the planting of a Queensland Firewheel tree (*Stenocarpus sinuatus*) to mark the Queen Elizabeth 11 60th Jubilee.

The tree was specially recommended by Cr Len Cox.

The children from the Lilydale State School sang and set the scene for the day.

Yarra Ranges Mayor Jim Child welcomed guests who included local member Christine Fyffe MP, Cr Maria McCarthy and society members. After the tree planting everyone enjoyed lunch (courtesy of the shire) at The Old Lilydale Court house.

Special thanks must go to Roxanne Jenkins from the Mayor's office for organising the day.



Society members looked after our special Lilydale Primary School guests at lunch held at our home The Old Lilydale Court House.

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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Books for sale

Reminiscences of Life Volume 2	\$12.00
Reminiscences of Life Volume 1	\$14.50
Prosperity & Progress - The history of the former Shire of Lillydale offices	\$5.00
Lilydale Primary School Register	\$15.00

All are available 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 2013-2014 now due

Membership Subscriptions 2012-2013 were due on the 1st July 2013. (If you are not sure if you are financial, please ring Lorraine on 9735 1104 to check.)

Name of Member: _____

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Family Membership	\$20.00
Single membership	\$15.00
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