

# Now & Then



Issue 4 November 2018

Affiliated with Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc

## Meeting Dates

**2018**

December 1

**2019**

February 2

March 2

April 6

May 4

June 1

July 6

August 3

September 7

October 5

November 2

December 7

All meetings are held on the 1st Saturday of the month (except as shown above) at 1pm at the Old Lilydale Court House 61 Castella St., Lilydale. Guest speakers start at 2.15pm.

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Historical Society  
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Issue 4 November 2018



*The former Cave Hill Cricket Club pavilion and oval have been transformed by Kinley Estate. For launch details see page 5.*

## Christine Gray to receive an Award of Merit

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria has endorsed the society's nomination of our Life Member Ms Christine Gray for an Award of Merit.

As Christine is moving out of her unit in Grovedale into 24/7 care, RHSV President Don Garden will present her with the award in the new year.

Recently, Sue Thompson had the privilege of visiting Christine to copy letters and photographs of her uncle Claude A. Atkinson who was killed in World War I aged 19 years. Christine is a spritely 93 year-old and is our society's oldest member. Her memory is phenomenal and she told Sue about the formation of our society which took two public meetings to get off the ground.

The first one called by Lillydale Shire President Cr Maurie Seymour did not have enough people present to form the society but another meeting called shortly afterwards was successful and the Lilydale & District Historical Society was formed in

1971. For some reason, Christine's name did not appear in the minutes although she attended both meetings.

Her contribution from 1971 until she retired and left Lilydale for Grovedale in 1986 was enormous. Her passions for rock collecting and Aboriginal history and artefacts were well known. Christine was appointed a Life Member of the society in 1989.

A great friend of the late Jim Sawyer, Christine wanted to also help the society with its digitization of the *Lilydale Express* project and has generously donated a further \$2000 towards the work.

**For nomination details go to page 7.**

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*Facebook: [www.facebook.com/lilydaleandDistrictHistoricalSocietyIncl](http://www.facebook.com/lilydaleandDistrictHistoricalSocietyIncl)*

## Talks, tours and walks

Anyone looking for a speaker or a different place to go should contact us 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.



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## The many views of Lilydale

Society sponsors Stockdale & Leggo Lilydale recently launched its own promotional video of Lilydale. It highlights, the arts, culture, shopping and sporting facilities of the town and has made wonderful use of a drone to capture the town from the air. The court house and our tour guides are featured along with so many other interesting places. To see for yourselves, go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/stockdaleleggolilydale/videos/319048162186393/>

## Speakers and Walks 2019

After some discussion, the society has decided to have each month either speakers or walks or talks. The year's program will be published in the February edition but the dates for the first three months are:

**Saturday February 23:** Tour of Lilydale Cemetery to reflect on the 88th anniversary of the death of Dame Nellie Melba on February 23. The tour will include visits to the graves of local people and finish at Melba's grave. The tour starts at the Nelson Rd gates at 1.30pm. The cost is \$10 which includes a cemetery booklet and tea and coffee back at the Old Lilydale Court House afterwards. Bookings: Sue Thompson 0475 219 884.

**March:** Join Philip Burton as he tells the stories of the pubs and publicans of Lilydale during his popular Behind the Bar walk.

**Saturday, April 6:** The Postie and the Builder a Q & A session. A society first, it will feature local former postie Ron Norman and builder Ray Oliver answering your questions about their lives growing up in Lilydale. Both in their 80s, they have amazing memories of people, places and events. It will held at the Old Lilydale Court House at 2.30pm after our general meeting at 1pm. Bring along that question you always wanted to know the answer to, and our panel will try and answer it. Gold coin donation for non-members.

If you have anyone you think our members would enjoying hearing from, please email us at [info@lilydalehistorical.com.au](mailto:info@lilydalehistorical.com.au) or call Sue Thompson on 0475 219 884.

## Lilydale Place Plan and township group

The work of the Lilydale Project Reference Group is drawing to a close and when the Place Plan is endorsed by Yarra Ranges Council the township will, for the first time in its long history, have a 20 year vision of what the community wants and the major projects to be completed in that time.

Also, following on the work of Connect Lilydale, a township group has been formed to work towards achieving the many projects and services the Lilydale people identified as needed in the town.

For more information on the Place Plan go to <https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Community/The-Lilydale-Project>

## Open up your photo albums

How many members have recently looked in their old photo albums and found some amazing family and Lilydale images?

Recently the Oliver family brought in one of their many albums to show us photos of the former *Olinda Park* property on Maroondah Highway. The images were great and have been added to our collection. However, tucked away was another couple of very exciting photos.

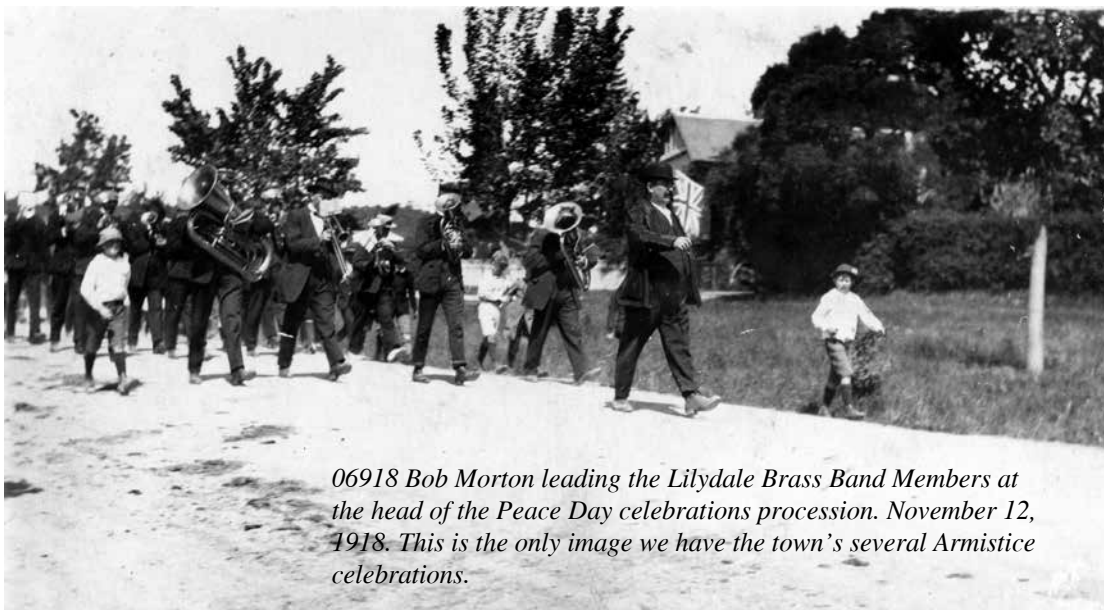
Armistice celebrations have been on people's minds for some months and the Oliver's album had the amazing image published here. On the back were the words: *Peace Day celebrations November 12, 1918 Bob Morton leading procession.*

The celebrations were reported in the *Lilydale Express* on November 15, 1918 pg 2.

The fire bell, school and church bells were first rung on Friday, November 8 by Nellie Melba. Everyone rushed to the centre of town to learn that Germany had signed the Armistice.

Many women wept with joy, and people vented to their pent-up feelings. However, it was soon learned that it was unofficial. Disappointment was expressed but it didn't stop the Lilydale Brass Band from parading, enthusiasm being displayed and the houses and streets being decorated with flags. A large bonfire was lit in the recreation reserve and a dance held in the Athenaeum later.

A little after 9 on Monday evening, the fire bell was again rung continuously and as the news of the signing of the armistice was expected, there was a great rush to the fire bell in Main Street. Hundreds of people gathered and the National Anthem and other songs were sung. The bandsmen lost no time getting together and rendered



*06918 Bob Morton leading the Lilydale Brass Band Members at the head of the Peace Day celebrations procession. November 12, 1918. This is the only image we have the town's several Armistice celebrations.*

several items and paraded Main Street followed by scores of townspeople. Cr John McGhee had the honour of making the official announcement which was followed by loud cheering.

At the school on Tuesday, the children saluted the flag and sang the National Anthem and other patriotic songs.

Also on Tuesday morning a small committee gathered and collected enough money to have a sports meeting in the afternoon. About two o'clock the Lilydale Brass Band headed a procession (many people wore novel costumes), and all marched up Main Street to Deschamp Avenue and then to the recreation reserve. Several races were held for the children, married ladies and returned soldiers. At mid-day a combined church service was held in the Athenaeum and in the evening the band again paraded the streets before marching to the recreation reserve where they played a selection of music.

During the day, workers had been carting brambles from Main Street and built a huge heap from the middle of which protruded a pole about 35ft (10.6m) high and from a cross tree was hung an effigy of the Kaiser. Hundreds gathered and as the Kaiser caught fire, fireworks were lit.

**Continued next page.**

**The society acknowledges the wonderful financial contribution made by the Estate of the Late James Sawyer to the development and promotion of our local heritage.**



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Welcome

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## Can we help? Yes we can

We have often been asked to help groups and businesses research their history. In the past couple of months, we have done research on the present butcher's shop at 333 Main Street, provided images to Lilydale High School for their Armistice video and images for St John's Anglican Church for its 150th celebrations. We have also provided images for the Kinley Estate's sales office – the former Cave Hill Cricket Club pavilion.

*Right: 06944 Prince Charles at St John's Church of England, Lilydale May 1966. (Pat Crellin)*

## Christmas lunch

The year is nearly gone so everyone is now working on the society's Christmas Lunch which will be held after our meeting on Saturday, December 1. Our general meeting will start at 11.30am and lunch will be served at 12.30pm. We will continue our traditional lunch of Webber roasted turkey, ham, salads and desserts. The cost is still only \$15.00 per person. To book call Marg Tull on 9726 4161.

**Please note:** The Court House will close for the Christmas break from Wednesday, December 12 and re-open on Wednesday, January 16. If you have any urgent inquiries, call Sue Thompson on 0475 219 884 or Phil Burton on 0488 403 155.

## Volunteer's Lunch

Volunteer's are such special people because without them and the many skills they bring, our society would not be able to operate and carry out the work we do: the walks, talks, tours, research, cataloguing and indexing just to name a few of our activities. To recognise this valuable work, each year the society executive hosts a volunteer's lunch at the Old Lilydale Court House. Often it is the only time of the year our volunteers meet each other. The lunch will be held on Tuesday, January 15 from 12 noon.

## Support our Sponsors

Our sponsors are local people who love their history and support us in every way. Their sponsorship contributes to our rent and court house costs. Without them we would not be able to remain in the Old Lilydale Court House. So please support those who support us.

## Open up your photo albums (continued)

Afterwards everyone went back to the Athenaeum where dancers tripped the light fantastic until midnight.

Do you have any gems like this tucked away in your albums? Or do you have images of Lilydale you would like identified? If so contact us at [info@lilydalehistorical.com.au](mailto:info@lilydalehistorical.com.au) or call Sue Thompson on 0475 219 884.

## Harvesting Our History

The Lilydale Library invited the society to do a talk about ourselves and how we can help people with their family history.

Titled *Harvesting our History*, society secretary Joy Gothe explained how historical societies were harvesters of history and provide people with the fruit and blossoms for their family trees. She spoke about our resources and showed photographic examples of most including our websites, books, photographs and the work of our volunteers. Afterwards all chatted while enjoying muffins, biscuits and coffee provided by the Library.



*Joy Gothe presenting Harvesting Our History.*

## Want to learn more about your heritage?

If you have an hour or two to spare and want to learn more about your local and or family heritage then contact the society. We have many things volunteers can do depending on their interests and skills, and we have fun doing it.

We have members who, thanks to our support, can now do much needed data entry for us. And age is no barrier. One volunteer is 80 years young but has conquered her fear of the computer and is completing some wonderful small projects for us.

Others are interested in our photographs and just love cataloguing them for us. We also have walkers who are learning to do our township, cemetery and other guided tours.

If you would like to visit and have a chat, please phone our president Sue Thompson on 0475 219 884 and she will arrange a time to show you around.

# Kinley Estate Officially launched

**Sue Thompson**

The weather was appalling but that didn't stop people registering for the ballot of the first blocks of land at the Kinley Estate formerly Cave Hill Quarry. Inside a huge marquee and under the guiding hand of TV presenter Stephen Quartermaine, Intrapac's chief operating officer Max Shifman and then the Deputy Premier James Merlino spoke about the project and how it would enhance the Lilydale community. Mr Merlino had the privilege of drawing out the first ball and an excited couple created history as the site's first buyers. More balls were drawn and more people, mostly young couples chose their block upon which their dream home will be built next year.

I was also invited to attend the lunch and official launch of the Kinley Estate that afternoon and enjoyed a fabulous smorgasbord of Yarra Valley produce ranging from breads, fruit, smallgoods and dips plus a selection of Yarra Valley wines.

The three project partners spoke outlining their roles in the project: David Payes, Managing Director, Intrapac Property, John Crosby, Managing Director, Brencorp Properties and Richard Torossi, Managing Director, Bayport which is in charge of the geotechnic and engineering aspects of the project.

And like Max Shifman and James Merlino, each acknowledged the importance of the history of the site and how it would be embraced in the estate.

Afterwards I spoke with David Payes and John Crosby both of whom were excited about the project and its place in our history.

Our society has supported the development providing much historical research in the early planning stages. We also carried out research on the names of the service men and women who served in World War II and are recorded on the Cave Hill gates. Kinley is now naming streets and roads after those service people.

If members want to learn more, visit the website: [kinley.com.au](http://kinley.com.au) or call in and read the brochures we have in our archive.

## 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](http://www.lilydalehistorical.com.au) or [www.nelliemelbamuseum.com.au](http://www.nelliemelbamuseum.com.au)



*The three dimensional model of the Kinley development of the former Cave Hill site on Saturday, October 20, 2018.*

## First book sale

Society members have been carefully checking our archives files and the collection to ensure we have copies of various local publications in both our collection and library.

At times, we have found several copies of publications and we will be holding our first and only sale of pre-loved books on the weekend on December 8 and 9 from 11am at the Old Lilydale Court House. Most are out of print and have been reasonably priced. We will also be selling some duplicate copies of images collected over the years. So if you are looking for a local history book or a photographic print, be sure to be at our books sale which will be all weekend or until everything is sold.

This is your chance to purchase a quality pre-loved book as a special Christmas present and help us continue our various heritage projects.

Footnote: Thanks to the efforts of Judy Macdonald, our library now boasts more than 450 items and index entries of quite a few of those books now total 26,673.



*A selection of some of pre-loved books which will be for sale on December 8 and 9 from 11am.*

# New display and book

## Lilydale's Public Places Public Lives 1860s to 1970s



Christine Armstrong, John Brown, Ray Dodson,  
Jeanette Dodson, Joy Gothe, Kristyn Jackson,  
Judy Macdonald, Jo Pritchard, Florence Shaw, Sue  
Thompson, Marg Tull

Lilydale & District Historical Society Inc

*Front cover of our society's latest publication*

On October 6 after our general meeting we had the unveiling of our new display and the launch of our latest publication our 56-page *Lilydale's Public Places Public Lives 160 to 1970s*.

Launched by Deputy Mayor Cr Tony Stephenson, the book is the result of research carried out for Yarra Ranges Council which looked at the town's public places and their many uses throughout 110 years.

This was an exciting project as it was the first time our society had combined so much research from so many groups and facilities in one theme – our open spaces which are a key part of Lilydale both today and in the past.

We relished the opportunity to highlight what happened in each area so people today could understand why it still exists. By providing the heritage background, the community and the council can make future decisions and look at ensuring that past is valued and where possible, included. If you like our research provides either a reason to keep and enhance or a reason to change.

Every day council makes decisions which impact on the future and our display highlights this point. John Hardy laid out the Lilydale township in 1859 and included our wide thoroughfare we call Main Street. This was to allow bullock drays to pass each other on the way to the Upper Yarra Goldfields and avoid the muddy and/or dusty craters along the way. This is captured so well in Carl Water's 1865 image on the front page of our book. This was taken just 5 years after the first Lilydale land sales.

The book and display encompasses 10 elements: Melba Park, the Athenaeum Theatre; Lilydale Recreation Reserve: the old Market Site; Olinda Creek; Lillydale Lake; Lilydale Main Street; Lilydale Industries and Lilydale Railway Station. Nine members carried out the research: Christine Armstrong, John Brown, Ray Dodson, Jeanette Dodson, Joy Gothe, Kristyn Jackson, Judy Macdonald, Jo Pritchard, Florence Shaw, Sue Thompson and Marg Tull.

The display will remain for most of next year and the book is available from the Old Lilydale Court House for \$25.00.

## David Mitchell talk

It was wonderful to see so many people turn up for our David Mitchell talk. Janet Ferris (Eugenia Procko) and her husband travelled by train from Williamstown for the talk. Under her arm were some wonderful images of her family who in the 1950s lived in on site. The images fill a real gap in our collection as 1950s images are hard to find. The family group images taken in and around Cave Hill are simply magical and show the human face of the industrial site.

The Procko family arrived in Australia as refugees from Ukraine in 1949 and in 1950 the Commonwealth Government organised employment for her father Pawel (Paul) at David Mitchell Estate Quarries. They lived in the former Manager's home on site for five years. When they had saved enough money for a deposit on a home, they moved to the western suburbs to be near other Ukrainian friends. Janet said their time in Lilydale was wonderful and the people helped them learn English and the Australian way of life.

Footnote: Janet's story is published in our book *Reminiscences of Life Volume 2*.

## On the airwaves

Listen to us on Radio Station 98.1 Radio Eastern FM. The society is on the airwaves on the second Monday in the month from 9.30am to 10am.

## Heritage Guide launched

Last year the Yarra Ranges Council gave the Yarra Ranges Heritage Network funding to produce a 44-page book about various historic features of the shire's 33 towns.

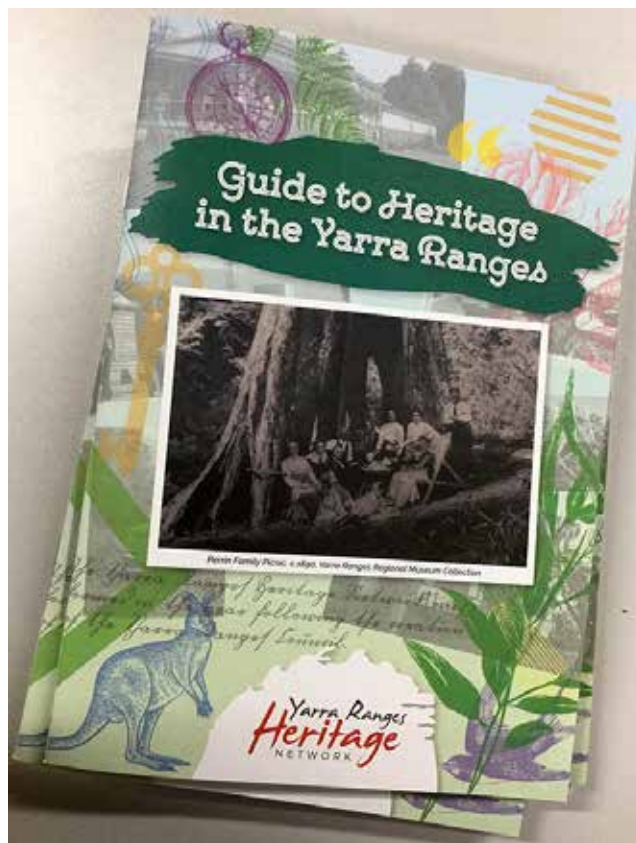
The guide was recently launched at Mont de Lancey by Associate Professor Don Garden, President of the Royal Historical Society of Victorian and the Federation of Historical Societies.

The guide aims to give locals and visitors alike an overview of sites of heritage significance within the Yarra Ranges. People can pick an area, read about the sites in that area and then go to them by following the map using either the Melway or GPS co-ordinates. This a first in this format for Yarra Ranges.

For Lilydale seven sites are featured. Also valuable is the listing at the back of the book of the various Yarra Ranges heritage groups.

The guide is free and copies can be picked up from the Old Lilydale Court House, the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum or the Lilydale Library.

*Right: front cover of the new Guide to Heritage in the Yarra Ranges.*



## Christine Gray's Award of Merit Citation

Christine Gray was present at the meeting which formed the Lilydale & District Historical Society on March 11, 1971 and in June of that year she was appointed Assistant Secretary to Harley Brown. Later, Christine became secretary serving in that role for many years.

The society was formed to help the then Shire of Lilydale plan the shire's centenary celebrations in February the following year. Christine was a member of the book committee which supported Dr Marion Aveling who was writing the shire's first major history: *Lilydale The Billanook Country*.

Also, a committee of management was formed for the centenary celebrations of which Christine was a member. She was also the convenor of the society's own Centenary Sub-Committee which organized the displays. Christine organized the flora and fauna of the shire and Aboriginal artefacts display.

A primary school teacher, Christine started writing at an early age and never stopped. The society gave her the perfect environment and outlet. She researched and wrote the society's first publication: *Lilydale Historical Notes on the Township and Environs* which was the basis for the society's walks around the town and talks for many years.

Her next publication for the society was the first history of the Lilydale Baptist Church: *One Hundred Years of Witness – Lilydale Baptist Church Centenary*.

At the time of the opening of the society's museum in 1976, it was Christine who wanted to make sure everything was recorded. She organized the printing of special receipt books which recorded all the details of any items donated or loaned to the society. These books remain the basis of our collection and subsequently that of the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum when the collection was given to it in 1989.

Christine's love of the outdoors led to her deep interest in gems and rocks and Aboriginal artefacts. In fact, it was Christine who discovered an Aboriginal camp on the site of a new housing development. She gathered as many stone implements as she could before the site was bulldozed. These implements are still in the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum's collection.

Christine was a driving force in the society and gave years of valuable, unstinting service to the society and the Eastern Region. At state level Christine served as an RHSV Councillor from 1985 to 1990 and Vice President 1989-90.

In 1989, Christine received a Life Membership of the society but sadly soon after she left Lilydale to live at Grovedale near Geelong.

This meant she could no longer provide a steady, guiding hand to the society and its members. However, her interest in the society has continued throughout her life.

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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Lilydale Vic 3140  
email:  
info@lilydalehistorical.com.au  
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**Please help us**

A vital source of income for the society is its membership subscriptions. If you are yet to pay your membership renewal for the 2017-2018 which was due of July 1, Please renew by using the form below or by emailing our treasurer Philip Burton who will provide you with banking details for your renewal. We value your support and your membership by offering a range of services and discounts as listed below.

Philip's email is: philip.burton6@bigpond.com

**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 2018-2019 now due**

**Membership Subscriptions 2018-2019 was due on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018.** (If you are not sure if you are financial, please ring Phil on 0488 403 155 to check.)

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