



Meeting Dates

2016

October 1
November 5
December 3

2017

February 4
March 4

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 2pm.

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Lorraine Smith 9735 1104

Proudly supported by



Society secures a five-year lease on the Old Lilydale Court House

It may have taken months of negotiations but the society has now secured its home for a further five years and hopefully many years beyond 2021.

The new lease agreement sees the society and the U3A who use the facility the same number of days as the society, pay 50/50 on all costs - gas electricity, water and council garbage charges.

In return for the society agreeing to these terms, the shire, recognising the uniqueness of the design of the building with its massive vaulted ceilings, agreed to install at its cost, several energy-reduction devices. These include ceiling fans; blinds on the windows and the removal of the prohibitively expensive electric wall heaters installed throughout the building.

To ensure fairness in the 50/50 split, the shire has upgraded the smart meter and will monitor energy usage.

The shire has also installed a new lock on our front door to increase security; has carried out much needed maintenance of the two outbuildings and given the society permission to erect its own small shed to store items such as tables, chairs and our chair mover.

On behalf of the society I want to specially thank those people from throughout Australia who wrote letters and sent emails to the shire supporting the work we do in the community. As they say in times of crisis you know who your real friends really are.

Thanks must also go to the society committee members who campaigned hard to secure this great outcome.

Sue Thompson



New blinds and ceiling fans in the court house.

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



ANZACS

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

Our dedicated team of researchers are now completing the service records and family stories of our Diggers and each week more are being added to our website.

Sadly, we have ANZACS for which we have no information other than their name which was included on one of our many local honour boards. If you can help us with more information please complete our special

inquiry form.

To follow the progress of our ANZACS project, go to: www.lilydalehistorical.com.au and click on the *They Answered the Call* link on the home page to see the listings.

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 events next year. If you have heard someone - not necessarily related to heritage - who you found interesting and entertaining, 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

Upcoming Events

Dates to put in your diary.

Saturday, October 1:

Meeting at 1pm followed at 2pm by our guest speaker Anthony McAleer who will be talking on *Italians in the Yarra Valley*.

Wednesday, October 12 at 11am from the Court House:

Walk of Castella St with Joy Gothe and Philip Burton for Seniors Week. Bookings: Lorraine Smith 9735 1104.

Continued page 3.

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Yarra Ranges Council contractors have repaired and painted the former toilets behind the court house. They will now last for a long time more.

RULES FOR WOMEN TEACHERS 1915

1. You will not marry during the term of contract.
2. You are not to keep company of men.
3. We must be home between the hours of 8pm and 6am, unless attending a school function.
4. You may not loiter down town in an ice cream parlours.
5. You may not travel beyond the city limits without the permission of the chairman of the board.
6. You may not ride in a carriage or automobile with any man, unless he is your father or brother.
7. You may not smoke cigarettes.
8. You may not dress in bright colours.
9. You may not, under any circumstances, dye your hair.
10. You must wear at least two petticoats and your dresses must not be any shorter than 5cm (two inches) above your ankle.

When Maree Phelan recently put this article from our archives up on Facebook it quickly generated many shares and comments. One hundred years on thankfully, women have much more freedom.

Note: The conversion to metric - 5cm was done when it was re-typed as so many don't know the length 2 inches.

Annual General Meeting

The society's AGM was held on July 2.

John Brown took the chair and read out the President's report. This was followed by the financial and Court House and reports. John then declared all committee positions vacant and the following members were elected:

President – Sue Thompson

Vice President – Jeannette Dodson

Secretary – Joy Gothe

Treasurer - Philip Burton

Committee members are Lorraine Smith, Evelyn Tull, Maree Phelan, John Brown and we welcomed two new members Robin Childs and Margaret Tull. Lynn Wales decided to stand down from the committee and we thank her for all the work she did particularly in regarding looking after our sponsorships.

Court House Manager – Lorraine Smith

Yarra Ranges Heritage Network – Philip Burton to submit society report to network.

Association of Eastern Historical Society's – Lorraine Smith

Acquisition Committee – Sue Thompson, John Brown and Philip Burton

Upcoming Events (cont'd)

Wednesday, October 19 at 10am:

Old Lilydale Cemetery Walk with Lorraine Smith for History Week. Meet at the front gates of the cemetery. Bookings essential: Lorraine Smith 9735 1104.

Saturday, November 5:

Meeting at 1pm followed at 2pm by presentation to Sue Thompson of the RHSV Award of Merit by Professor Don Garden, President Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

Saturday & Sunday 19 & 20 November:

Lilydale Show We will be there with a display so come and say hello and have a look at some of the wonderful images we have in our collection.

Sunday, November 27 at 2pm:

Launch of our ANZAC project *They Answered the Call*.

Saturday 3rd December 3:

Monthly meeting 11.30am followed by our Christmas Lunch at 12.30pm. Cost is \$15.00 per person. For catering purposes, please ring Lorraine Smith 9735 1104 to let her know if you are attending.

Friday, December 16:

Our last day for the year. We close for Christmas and reopen on Wednesday, January 18, 2017.

Poon Kee - the much loved Lilydale green grocer

It is amazing what can be found when you aren't looking for it. Secretary Joy Gothe was doing some personal research when she stumbled across the Alien Registration Application of Poon Kee, one of Lilydale's most popular and well known Chinese residents. And more importantly we now have a photograph of him just a few years before his death.'

Poon Kee became a fixture to the people of Lilydale from early in the 20th century when he arrived at Lilydale in July 1909 and rented his shop from Robert Black.

He set up a green grocer's shop on the south side of Main Street next to the Olinda Creek on the west side. He grew his vegetables behind his shop along John Street and also at other locations such as Gardiner and Anderson streets. Whenever the Olinda Creek flooded which was regularly before the late 1930s, his crops were wiped out.

According to his death certificate he was born in Canton, China the son of Hoong Poon. His mother was unknown. When he was 20, Kee married at Chung War and they had one child Ah Jun Poon who was deceased at the time of Kee's death in 1943. The name of his wife was unknown.

Poon Kee was unwell on Saturday, May 2 and sadly was found dead in his shop by fellow shopkeeper Ern Oliver the following day. Dr McMahon recorded the cause of death as pneumonia which occurred on May 2, 1943. He was 68 years old. He was interred in the Chinese section of the Fawcner Cemetery on May 5.


After his death, his store's produce and worldly goods were gathered up and taken to the Lilydale Police Station where they were auctioned off. The proceeds from the sale paid for his funeral and the rest was sent to his family in China.

(See Reminiscences of Life Volume 1 and Gun Alley book and our website: www.lilydalehistorical.com.au and click on the Gun Alley icon.)

June 19 43

DECEASED
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.
National Security (Aliens Control) Regulations.

Form of Application for Registration
(For Alien Resident in Australia)




This form is to be filled up (except as to signature and fingerprints, and the Alien is to attend in person, with the triplicate forms, before the member of the Police Force in charge of the Police Station nearest to his usual place of abode, and, in his presence, sign the application and allow an impression of his finger prints to be taken if required.)

Name (in full) Poon Kee (Surname to be underlined.)
Nationality Chinese Sex Male
Birthplace Canton Date of Birth 15/5/1875
Place of abode Main Street, Lilydale.
Place of business (if any) as above
Occupation Confectionery Married } (Strike out the term that does not apply)
Single }
Date of entry into Australia December 1899, date not known. passport lost.
Name of Ship Cannot think of name of ship.
Port of Debarkation Melbourne.

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION.

Height 5ft ft. 2' in. Colour of eyes dark
Colour of Hair dark, going grey Build medium
Notable marks scar on side forehead. left side.

REMARKS—
Finger prints— (Impression to be made, if required, in presence of Aliens Registration Officer.)
Date of Application 16/10/1939.
Usual signature of alien Poon Kee (To be signed in presence of Registration Officer.)
(This space for office use only.)
Certificate issued—No. 88
Date 16 / 10 / 1939.
Remarks A very old resident and highly respected.
Signature of Aliens Registration Officer. [Signature]
Senior Constable 6271.
Lilydale.
Police Station.



Poon Kee's photo attached to his Alien Registration form. Courtesy National Archives of Australia: B6531, deceased/1939 - 1945/Kee Poon.

Keep up to date

Catch us on Facebook or

www.lilydalehistorical.com.au or

www.nelliemelbamuseum.com.au

Unveiling of the Lilydale War Memorial

Recently the society was fortunate to receive the donation of the program for the official unveiling of the Lilydale War Memorial in our Main Street in 1922.

This coupled with a photograph from our collection of the actual event is a valuable asset to our collection.

It took many years to raise the funds to build the memorial and of course lots of discussion as to its location.

The memorial was unveiled on Friday, May 19, 1922. On that day, the Lilydale Express wrote:

“Today will be long remembered in Lilydale – as it should be – as it is the day fixed for the unveiling of the memorial table erected to perpetuate the memory of the brave and noble boys who enlisted to help in the defence of our great Empire, in which Australia is included.” The memorial was unveiled by His Excellency the Earl of Stradbroke K.C.M.G, C.B, C.V.O, C.B.E. Governor of Victoria.

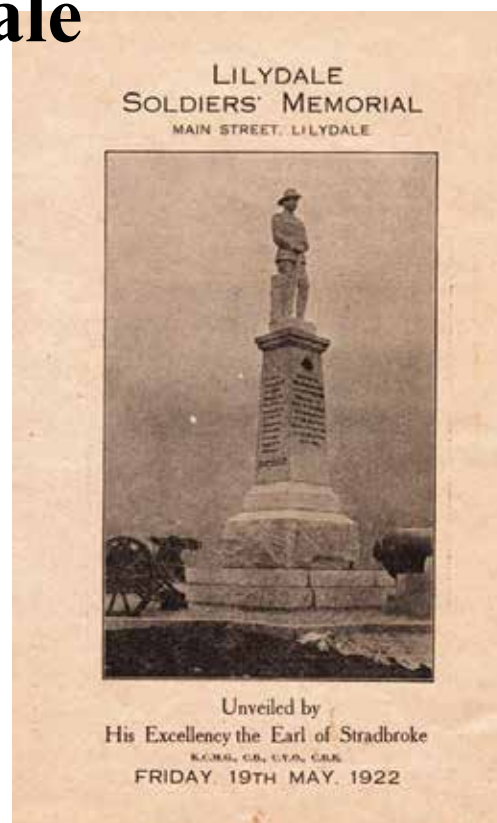
The monument consists of a beautiful granite block, mounted on the top of which is the life-sized figure of a soldier standing at ease holding a rifle. The figure is pure white and contrasts very suitably with the four-sided granite block on which the names of the fallen heroes are inscribed. The names were: G. Allen, E. Atkinson, D. Briers, J.D. Burns, R.J. Chauvin, E.A. Duncan, T.W. Eales, H. Holland, R and S. Lawler, G. Wilson, T. Morton, Be Mortomore, A. Niblett, E.R. Poyner, M.A. Rankin, S. Robinson, W. Shell, W. Thurrowgood, A. Wilson, T. Goodall, H. Comans, J.E. Fraser.

On the west side of the monument was the following inscription:

“Erected by the residents of the North-West Riding of the Shire of Lillydale in remembrance of the men who enlisted to take part in the great war, 1914-18”

On the east side of the square is a bronze coat of arms bearing the following inscription: “labor omnia vincet” and below are the figures of a horse, and a ram, a plough and a cluster of grapes.

Before the ceremony at 3.30pm, the band played before the arrival of the Governor and the official party which included the Lillydale Shire President Cr Burgi, the chairman of the Memorial Committee Cr Harry Hughes and local member Mr Everard MLA. Rev. T. Tinniswood officiated with the prayers, Thanksgiving and singing of the hymn “Oh God our Help in Ages Past”.



Above: The front cover of the unveiling program.

Below: The unveiling on May 19, 1922.



After the unveiling, the Governor presented the town with war trophies – one machine gun and two light trench mortars as the soldiers who captured them mostly enlisted from the Lilydale area. The Governor handed over the guns on behalf of the Defence Department.

After the handover the Governor presented a large number of Victory Medals to local soldiers. Following the singing of the National Anthem local school children covered the base of the memorial with wreaths of flowers.

Today, despite attempts by various people and groups, the memorial still holds pride of place in Lilydale. Those who erected it wanted everyone to never forget the sacrifices made by the men and women of our district.

President's Report 2015-2016

The past 12 months have been very a very busy time for our society and its members on many different fronts.

It is said that only from adversity do you find strength and that was the case with our society this year. When we were seemingly at our lowest ebb during the licence agreement negotiations, everyone rallied around.

Negotiations started in August but weren't finalised until May this year.

The shire had its policies for licencing its buildings but failed to recognise the uniqueness of the court house building – the only building of its kind in this shire.

The result of the changes for us was the costs of being in the building were going from about \$1200 a year to more than \$3,000 to cover 75% of all operating costs such as gas, electricity and water.

Two silent protests at council meetings; countless emails and massive public support from other societies including the RHSV and the national Federation of Historical Societies, finally made an impression on the council.

The range of suggestions the society put forward to minimise utility costs was accepted as were security issues. These will be implemented this year. Also as the society uses the building the same number of hours as U3A we now pay 50 per cent each of all on-costs.

Other projects

Our headstones project was completed and launched and we started on the ANZACS project.

The response for the ANZACS project was amazing with a team of about 12 people working solidly on it for almost 12 months.

After an initial training workshop, under the co-ordinator by Jeanette Dodson, members set about researching the service records and personal stories of almost 400 servicemen and women in our collection area.

For everyone involved it became a personal project wanting to make sure Our Boys received the recognition they deserved. This project will be completed in August and an exhibition launched in November.

Passing of members

Sadly in the last 12 months the society lost two of its valuable members. In August members attended the funeral of Life Member Dot Hill. Dot's business acumen and her work on our committee was priceless and is sadly missed.

Brenda Crawshaw was another long-time member who always attended our talks and Christmas parties and helped whenever her busy schedule allowed.

Remembered

Last year we lost Val Sheehan and John Brown was invited to speak on our behalf at the unveiling in April of a memorial stone at the Margaret Lewis Reserve at Coldstream by the Friends of Margaret Lewis Reserve.

Life Membership

Since our inception in 1971, the society has given Life Memberships to many members all of whom have made a very valuable contribution to our work in various ways.

This year, Life Membership was presented to Jim Sawyer. Jim joined the society in our foundation year – 1971 – when he was a councillor of the Riding of the Shire of Lillydale. His support since that time has been invaluable and appreciated by the society.

Members recognised

Several society members have received much deserved recognition this year. In December, Tony Smith the federal member for Casey presented Evelyn Tull and Phil Burton with Casey Community Volunteer Awards at a special morning.

Recently, the Royal Historical Society awarded me an Award of Merit which will be officially presented later this year.

Society Recognition

In the annual Victorian Community History Awards announced in October, the society received two Commendations. In the Multimedia History Award we entered our Stories Behind the Headstones project.

Research

Our research requests from people both locally and internationally continued this year. Two to three inquiries each week. Two of the larger projects were for Cave Hill and Chirnside Park Shopping Centre.

Community partnerships

-The society continues to develop its walks and talks with community organisations and members are now training to help with this growing part of our work.

-In August we joined forces with the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies to stage our first family history weekend - Where Do I Come From? during August as part of National Family History Month. It was a great success and attracted people from all parts of Melbourne. This will be held again next year and be combined into one day.

- With the Lillydale Primary School celebrating its 150th birthday, the society will be mounting a special display to make this very special occasion.

- As part of its mentor program the scholars from the Melba Opera Trust made a Melba Pilgrimage and spent

President's Report 2015-2016 from previous page

time with our own John Brown at Melba's grave learning about the diva's life and the significance of the design of her grave.

Donations

Through our website the society has received some valuable donations.

The Celotti family donated scans of a collection of images taken during their time as gardeners at Coombe Cottage in the 1930s.

Lilydale Primary School has donated more than 700 scanned images to the society for safe keeping.

The Oliver family allowed us to scan their family photos which span three generations who lived and worked in Lilydale.

Alan West from Ballarat found some early Mitchell images in his family album and was happy to let us scan them. With a little research we have now established the photo date from the 1870s in Melbourne.

Early photos of the Deschamp family were found in Western Australia and kindly donated to our society.

Talks

Lorraine Smith organised several successful talks during the year and all were well attended. Details will be published in her annual report.

Cataloguing

With the handing over of Sandy's photo albums and other memorabilia members have been busy cataloguing these and also indexing our archive files to make accessing them much easier.

Volunteers

The volunteers are the backbone of our society and provide an assistance which cannot be easily quantified. While professionals are judged on their skills and pay packets our volunteers cost nothing but bring with them the skills they have learned while working and also bring a love of history and helping. The qualifications of our members is amazing and we are so pleased they are sharing them with us.

Finally, I must thank our committee which has worked so hard this year and achieved so much. I might be president but it is the committee and the members working for the society that make our society operate so well.

Thank you are just two words which seem so inadequate for all the work, effort and support members have given this last 12 months, but to me they say it all.

Sue Thompson July 2, 2016.

Annual Court House Report

July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

Volunteers on duty at the court house:		2128 hours	
Visitors to the court house:			374 people
Town walks	6	29 hours	113 people
Cemetery tours	2	7 ½ hours	21 people
Talks at court house	6	21 hours	121 people
Talk on Vietnam	1	1 ½ hours	26 people
Talks other venues	8	15½ hours	309 people
Bus Tours/ Talk	5	41½ hours	122 people
Christmas party	1		38 people
Family History Wkend	1		70 people
Thank you volunteers	1		19 people
Lilydale Show exhib.	1	19 hours	
Research requests		34 hours	
Research done at court house		36 hours	
ANZAC project research		477 hours	
Indexing, library, filing, cataloguing, scanning	5	50 hours	
Meetings, Displays, Grant writing, Newsletter			299 hours
Average attendance at monthly meetings			19 people
Totals	32 events	3659 hrs	1213 people

For the first time have had two work experience students one from Luther College and one from Yarra Hills SC.

They did a week each and it was a very positive experience for the students and for those who supervising. Total of 39 hours.

Talks at monthly meetings were given by Evelyn Tull, Lorraine Smith, Jeanette Dodson, John Brown and Lynn Wales talking on their display boards that they researched.

Thank you to the Volunteers who are on duty weekly, fortnightly and monthly. Really appreciate all of you and your expertise.

Lorraine Smith

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.

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

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 2016-2017 now due

Membership Subscriptions 2016-2017 were due on the 1st July 2016. (If you are not sure if you are financial, please ring Lorraine on 9735 1104 to check.)

Name of Member: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

If a red dot appears on your address label your membership is due.

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

Amount enclosed: \$

SEND TO:
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Lilydale & District
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