

# Now & Then



Issue 1 February 2014

Affiliated with Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc

## LILYDALE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY **GUN ALLEY**

# launched

### Meeting Dates

2014

- 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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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

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Issue 1 February 2014

The launch of our Gun Alley project was the largest event we have staged. It was standing room only in the court house while others sat outside the double doors listening to proceedings.

Our local Federal Member and a lover of history, Tony Smith launched our book while the driving force behind the project, Ruby Kwijas, launched the website complete with properties, text, audio and video.

Who can forget Terry Humphries talking about his time as a bookies' runner in the 1950s or Guy Fawkes Night and street games?

After the book launch, descendants of the families uncovered the panels featuring their family. As well as Ruby, there was Julie (Briers) Ockendon, Sue (Briers) Bosua, Bob and Dorothy Holt, Betty (Gilson) Hodges, Elsie (O'Donnell) Barnes, Joan Fisher, the Nation boys and Dorothy Hill.

Everyone joined in a light lunch supplied by the society and spent time catching up with old friends, discussing the panels and recalling memories. There was lots of: "do you remember ....?"

After lunch it was time



Elsie (O'Donnell) Barnes and Betty (Gilson) Hodges discuss the best way to cut the special Gun Alley cake.

to cut the special Gun Alley cake. The two oldest living residents of John Street did the honours - Elsie Barnes and Betty Hodges.

The project would not have been possible without the

wonderful support of the families who willingly shared their stories and photographs. Gun Alley was their story and records what life was like for those families from the 1920s onwards in a way

*Continued page 2*

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

[www.nelliemelbamuseum.com.au](http://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](http://www.lilydalehistorical.com.au) and click on What's New.**

**Ian D. Carswell & Associates**



Accountant & Business Adviser

**Ian Carswell**

0419 382 036

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

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## Gun Alley Launch (continued)

children of today can understand - through words, video, images and audio.

The project was made possible with a grant from the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

The society still has a few copies of the book available. The cost is \$40 and a copy can be purchased from the Old Lilydale Court House or on line via PayPal ([info@lilydalehistorical.com.au](mailto:info@lilydalehistorical.com.au)) postage will be extra.

The display has proved so popular it has been decided to leave it up until October.

**To see Gun Alley on online go to:**

<http://www.lilydalehistorical.com.au/gunalley/>

and click on Discover Gun Alley or enter via the Gun Alley tab on our home page.

## Hear the stories of Gun Alley

**Ruby Kwijas and Elsie Barnes will be special guests of the Eastern Regional Library's Lilydale branch and will talk about their life growing up in Gun Alley. Their talk will be at the Library, Anderson St, Lilydale on Tuesday, April 15 from 2pm. To book a place for the free talk just call the Lilydale library on 9294 3120.**

## Guest Speakers 2014

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

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.

On August 2, Corinne Brewis will give a talk on John Hardy, who surveyed and named Lilydale.

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.



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## Christmas Party



Right: Member Joy Gothe showed her Xmas spirit while above, Lynn Wales' grand-daughter Violet and her friend joined in the festivities.

For a change, we decided to hold our Christmas party at the front of the court house rather than the rear and it proved to be a great success. Phil kindly loaned his two gazebos which were quickly erected and tables and chairs then arranged for the 40 or so members.

Looking out on Castella Street is certainly a better view that looking at the old loo sheds and back fence. After our meeting it was time for good food and great conversation as we all wound down for the Christmas break.

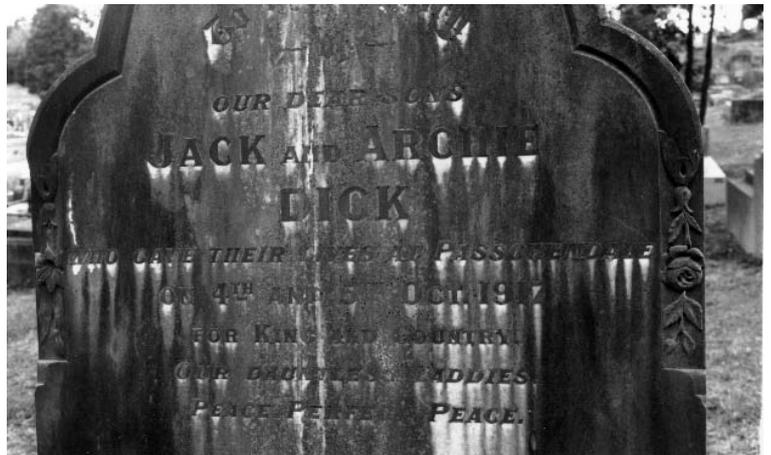


## Stories behind the headstones

The society successfully applied to the Shire of Yarra Ranges for a grant to research the stories of the early burials at Lilydale Cemetery. The project is based on photographs taken by Sandy Ross of all headstones at the cemetery from its establishment in the early 1860s through to 1931.

All the families and a brief story about them will be added to our website as well as creating on-going living stories so we can add information as it comes to hand. The headstones tell the story of the people of the district - the typhoid and diphtheria outbreaks, accidents, tragedies and of life in general.

The society is also working with the Greater Metropolitan Cemetery Trust which controls the cemetery on the project.



With our attention turning to the World War I centenary the above is one of the most moving headstones at Lilydale Cemetery.

Inscription: To the memory of our dear sons Jack and Archie Dick who gave their lives at Passchendal on 4th and 5th Oct. 1917 for king and country our daughters & laddies peace perfect peace.

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## Volunteers lunch

No organisation such as ours could exist and do the work we do without the help of a wonderful band of volunteers who help week in week out in so many different ways.

We are so fortunate to have a lot of people with valuable skills that they are willing to share with us.

As the committee's way of saying thank you, we again held our annual volunteers lunch which was attended by 17 or so volunteers. Wal Thompson and Trevor Smith cooked up the sausages while a couple of ladies made the salads.

After the lunch it was time for the handing out of the Annual Awards something appreciated by all who were present.

Those not able to attend will receive their certificates later.

## Militia Camp Centenary

The first event of the local World War I celebrations will be the centenary of the militia camp lead by Sir John Monash at the site of the now Lillydale Lake.

At 2pm on Sunday, February 9 the Rotary Club of Lilydale will be unveiling a memorial to the mark the centenary of the camp, home to 3000 soldiers lead by John Monash.

The plaque will be unveiled by Michael Bennett, great grandson of Sir John Monash.

The day will also feature guest speakers, a military band, the Australian Great War Association, a bi-plane flyover and the launch of a book about the camp.

On Thursday, February 13 at 11 am a second memorial will be unveiled at Mt Mary (corner of Maroondah Highway, Coldstream opposite Boundary Rd), where a mock battle took place.

## Monash Militia Camp talk

On Thursday, February 6 from 11am to 12 noon historian and author Anthony McAleer will give a free public talk about John Monash and the militia camp at Lilydale at the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum, Castella St, Lilydale.

Places are limited. Book on line at [www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/museum](http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/museum) or call 9294 6313.

## Research

Due to the increasing demand for research, all inquiries must be in writing and go to Sue Thompson via [info@lilydalehistorical.com.au](mailto:info@lilydalehistorical.com.au). A quote for the cost of the research will be provided and no research will be done until the quotation is paid. Our charges are \$20 per hour. Contact Sue Thompson 9761 9192.

**For the latest news on the society, its projects and activities go to: [www.lilydalehistorical.com.au](http://www.lilydalehistorical.com.au) and click on What's New.**

## Lost in the Bush

**Back in 1909, a little boy Frank Adam, spent 60 hours lost in the ranges around Mansfield. The Argus and other newspapers reported the event, which thankfully didn't result in tragedy.**

**The family lived next door to Dueran a property owned by David Mitchell.**

**The accuracy of the event published in the newspapers varied greatly so, thanks to Val Sheehan we are able to publish Ivy Peter Budge's (nee Adam) eye witness account which is reproduced as she typed it.**

### Ivy's Eyewitness Account

My father (P. T. Adam) and mother were married, early in 1898, and lived at a little place called Kurling, where my eldest sister was born.

Dad then selected 1000 acres of land, 9 miles from Mansfield. He cleared a site and with the help of a neighbour he built a house. The view of Mount Buller, from the front, was glorious and from the back the vista of the Strathbogie Ranges was as beautiful.

On a clear day looking down the valley you could see the Melbourne train puffing around the hills to Mansfield.

The property adjoining us was a station "Dueran". It was owned by David Mitchell, Dame Madam Melba's father.

Our house was enlarged when the family grew to six, Jessie, Ivy (me), Alex, Frank, Olive and Helen.

Early in the morning of October 17th, 1909, Dad awakened us with the news that we had twin sisters. "Where are they?" we asked. He explained that the stork had arrived earlier than expected and that they were at our neighbours, Mrs. O'Halloron. We wanted to see them, of course, so it was decided Frank, then 5 years old and I, aged 7, would visit them. Dad took us down to the gate, telling us to wait at the neighbours until he came for us after tea.

As we looked down, the valley we noticed a patch of wild flowers so we decided to pick a bunch for Mum. After picking the flowers we found we could no longer see the house. After walking around for hours I decided we should go home, back up the hill, but Frank, a very determined little chap, argued that home was in the opposite direction.

After walking for what seemed hours Frank was exhausted and crying so I carried him up the hill until I too was exhausted. When I saw the oat crop I sat him on a blackened log, which had been struck by lightning. He promised to "stay put" whilst I went for Dad.

Dad was just finishing a late cup of tea. He could not understand how we could get lost. He took me back to where I had left Frank but he was gone.

Dad was shocked but catching sight of a boundary rider, from the station, he asked him to get help.

All the station hands and shearers, who were to start

shearing the next day, joined in the search. Early next morning the people of Mansfield and a black tracker joined the search.

After searching for two days the blacktracker found the wrapper from a bottle of oil which I had been carrying. This confirmed the story I had told for no one but Dad would believe that I could have carried my brother so far. The search was then confined to within a mile of home.

Late in the afternoon of the third day a group of riders had decided to finish up. As he saw them pass the little chap staggered from his hiding place, only to be spotted by the next group of searchers. He admitted that he hid every time he saw anyone because he had not done as he had promised.

All my life I shall remember the wonderful joy of hearing the cheering, cowbells ringing and the cooeing which signalled that Frank had been found still alive.

During those dreadful days, my eldest sister Jessie, only 10 years of age, had cooked and cared for 5 of us.

There was a happy note later. Madam Melba had arrived at "The Station" for a rest, and she asked if she might meet the family who had made the headlines "Found Little Laddie Adam Lost For Three Days".

Dad took us all to visit and we were entertained to afternoon tea. Madam Melba asked if we would like to hear her sing. Dad asked if we might hear "Annie Laurie" and "Home Sweet Home". I can't begin to describe the wonder of her voice, remembering this was

1909 when she was at her best. None of her records could really capture her marvellous quality.

My father had been writing to the Victorian Education Department for over two years. When he wrote again saying we were now numbering 8 they agreed to send a teacher if he built a school. He found a carpenter, who with Dad's help, build one big room.

In January 1912, a Miss Ellen Foster, a dear dainty little lass arrived and opened the school with 11 pupils, who ranged in age from 5 to 15 years. The cold climate proved too much for her so she was transferred. Mr. Hume, a Scot, with two teen-aged daughters was appointed. He and his girls walked three miles to and from school each day.

When World War 1 broke out he had to teach us part time with another school because that school's teacher had enlisted.

Dad had a serious accident which kept him immobile for a year. With a family, which included seven girls, he decided farming was impossible, so we sold and moved to this district in 1916 (Vermont).

References:

To read more about Frank Adam, courtesy of Trove see: *The Argus* Friday, October 22, 1909 pg 8 and Saturday 23rd October 1909 pg 20.

*Bendigo Advertiser* October 23, 1909 pg 10.

*Riverine Herald*, October 23, 1909 pg 2.



## More Gun Alley Photos



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](mailto:suethompson50@ozemail.com.au) and I will email a copy to you. Back copies are also available electronically.

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[info@lilydalehistorical.com.au](mailto:info@lilydalehistorical.com.au)  
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## Special Introductory Offer

The society has just received copies of the National Film & Sound Archives' double CD *Nellie Melba Aria & sSong 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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013.** (If you are not sure if you are financial, please ring Lorraine on 9735 1104 to check.)

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