

Now & Then



Issue 2, May 2013

Affiliated with Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc

2013 Meeting Dates

June 1
July 6 (AGM)
August 3
September 7
October 5
November 9
December 7

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 2 May 2013

Montrose collection handed to Lilydale

Our April meeting was mixed with a tinge of sadness and a tinge of excitement as the Montrose Historical Society formally handed over its collection as it was winding up its operations.

For some time, the society had struggled to attract new members willing to take on positions as required under the Incorporations Act. Lilydale was approached to see if they would help and take over the management of the collection.

With sadness the society accepted the offer and a new filing cabinet was purchased to house their research files. Acid free archival material was made available to the society and its collection is now safely housed in The Old Lilydale Court House.

Montrose also wound up its finances and transferred the remaining funds to Lilydale.

For Montrose people it is a new beginning.

From Lilydale's viewpoint, the collection is still within the municipality and rather than being stored in homes it is now readily available to anyone



Lilydale vice president Lorraine Smith receives the Montrose collection list from Jeanette Dodson. Looking on are Tony Smith, Len Cox, Eunice Reidy and John King.

wanting to do research.

At the upcoming AGM Lilydale will amend its Collections Policy and its Aims and Objectives to include Montrose so donations from Montrose can be accepted.

Speaking at the handover, former Montrose President Eunice Reidy said it was appropriate the collection be transferred to Lilydale as it is located in the centre of municipality.

Continued page 4.

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Research

Due to the increasing demand for research and the failure of some people to pay for the information provided, the society's executive has now introduced a new system to ensure any inquiries are handled quickly and efficiently and payment is received.

All inquiries must be in writing and go to either Sue Thompson via info@lilydalehistorical.com.au who will pass it on to the relevant person. 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.

Anyone with any queries can contact Sue Thompson 9761 9192.

Gun Alley project

Our Gun Alley Project has been enormously successful. From having just two photographs of homes and people of Gun Alley (John Street from Hutchinson Street to the Olinda Creek), we now have more than 100, all of which have been scanned and added to our photographic collection. We have also gathered many family stories and documents which will be added to our archive and also included in our publication and or on our website. If your family lived there and you have information or family photos you would like to make available for the project, please call or email Sue Thompson 9761 9192 suethompson50@ozemail.com.au

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

We can advise and arrange insurances on your behalf including Home & Contents, Private & Commercial Motor Vehicle, Farm, Business Insurance, Liability and much more.

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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.

Putting heritage on the tourism map

The Shire of Yarra Ranges' Lilydale Town and Heritage Walks brochure is now with the printers. Donna Donovan of the shire's Economic Development Unit has done a great job gathering the historical information on the town and developing up the walks around Lilydale and the Lillydale Lake. The society has provided a lot of the photos and information for the pamphlet which I'm sure will be updated as time goes along. Look out for the map around the tourist information centres as it will be launched soon.

Changed meeting date

Please note that the society has changed our meeting date in November to November 9 due to the Melbourne Cup weekend.

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.



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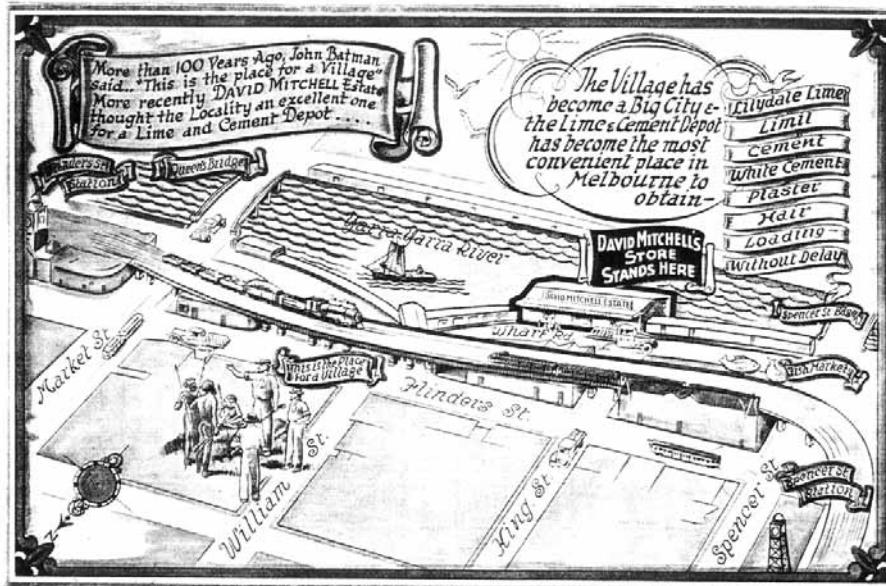
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From the archives



As volunteers led by Beth Taws work on indexing our archives they are learning a lot about the material they hold. Our files which date back to the formation of the society in 1971 hold a wealth of information and some very interesting items as shown above.

This sketch was in our David Mitchell file. Sadly, we don't know much about it except it must be after 1935 as the advert says: "More than 100 years ago John Batman said this is the place for a village...." Can anyone help us identify where the sketch came from?

Suffragists

For a couple of years now the society has had the list of all the local women who signed the Suffragists Petition of 1891 up on line with biographies of the women where known.

During the past month, we have received information from descendants of three families listed and each has been able to provide further information or asked us to do research on their families.

One was Collin Udell a lawyer from Hartford Connecticut who is descended from the Beresford family - more particularly Florence Annie Beresford who married JCC Jones who became a Chemist in Lilydale from 1884 until 1895. Florence's brother then took over the business. We are now doing more research for her as her family moved to America and had no information about the Beresford side of the family.

Faces, Places and Events

We have also had numerous inquiries about photos and have generated sales from our Faces, Places and Events pages.

What's Happening at the Court House

Every month the society volunteers contribute at least 140 hours at the court house and while helping the public with their inquiries they are also working on several projects. These include:

- * Indexing of the society's collection of over 4000 negatives which is almost completed;
- * Indexing all our archive files and contents;
- * Indexing the Lilydale Cemetery burial register;
- * Indexing the Lilydale Re-union book which will be included in a reprint of the publication;
- * Working on the collection;
- * Doing research for our displays;
- * Carrying our research for people around the world; and
- * Cataloguing our library books.

When completed these projects will increase our capacity to help people seeking information about the district and its people and generate income to expand our heritage services and activities.

Anyone who wants to help with these projects should call Lorraine Smith on 9735 1104

Anyone wanting to look at or order our photos should go to www.lilydalehistorical.com.au and click on galleries on the home page. We now have Paypal so can sell photos all around the world.

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MELBA RIDES THE WHEEL
HER MYSTERIOUS COSTUME
HER OPERATIC RIVALS WATCH HER FALL
(FROM THE CHICAGO CHRONICLE)

Madame Melba, the singer is the latest candidate for bicycle honours. The favourite singer had determined to learn to ride a cycle some day, and wisely chose to achieve the accomplishment in Michigan avenue, and in the very teeth of Calve and Nordica, and the De Reszkes and other members of the grand opera company, who, since they learned from Melba her intention to become a bicycle rider, twitted her constantly about her ability to get within reach of the knack of riding the wheel.

But Melba was not to be discouraged. It was 8 o'clock in the morning with the prima donna, accompanied by Willie Schutz, the Pooh-Bah of the Abbey Grau organisation, a bell boy in charge of the wheel, her maid, and the bicycle instructor, reached the smooth pavement of the avenue. Few people were about, the morning was quite suitable for the practice. When all was in readiness for the scorch, and the bell boy had planted the handsome wheel in the middle of the level and wide roadway, at a safe distance from the stone kerbing – opera stars like Melba take no chances on the kerbs – the maid by the swinger's side drew the long robe from the shoulders, and there stood revealed an early morning picture seldom seen in the doorway of a big hostelry.

Truly, Melba's was an up-to-date cycling costume. Willie Schutz's 200lb frame was thrilled through its every square inch with amazement. He had never seen such habiliments before. Neither had the bell boy and the instructor, but the maid had, for had she not spent half the day previous in dressing and redressing her talented mistress? As Willie Schutz said:- "they were not bloomers. They were not skirts, but sort of half and half. The material at the waist, &c , was dark brown with large grotesque figures. She wore a cap, leggings, or what appeared to be leggings, and tan shoes. There you are!"

Gazing from the windows of the Auditorium and Annex were Calve, Nordica, the De Reszkes, and ... members of the hit company who had been let in the secret of Melba's early morning engagements by Schutz. Early churchgoers stopped to take in the spectacle, and, though a bit nervous, Melba, who was to either break her bones, the wheel, or the pavement, did not appear to notice the strangers, though she had an idea of the presence of Calve, Nordica et al., engaging in hilarity in the windows of the hotel.

All being ready, the instructor assisted his student to the wheel. Willie Schutz and the bell boy flew for safety, and the tragedy was on. When allowed to shift on its own account – the instructor having dropped his hands at the given signal from the rider – the wheel dived straight for the roadside. When it stopped it was astride Melba. She quickly arose, and, raising her wheel, limped back to the middle of the avenue. Then Mme Melba happened to

glance up at the windows of the Auditorium and Annex, and there was the entire grand opera company, Mme Calve, Nordica, Manager Grau, the De Reszkes, and down to every member of the chorus. A smile of pity was on the face of Mme Calve, while Manager Grau wore an anxious expression. "Willie, this is all your doing," said Mme Melba, "but I will spoil your fun by riding. Put me on again, and then you will see." Every one of the spectators was watching from the widows, laughing loud and long, and the crowd who gathered on the avenue joined in.

After the third attempt, the bicycle was under control, and for three blocks nothing happened. Suddenly the bicycle took a notion to go lakeward, and it went. No amount of pulling would stop it, but the fence did. Willie Schutz says the madam fell off 40 times, the instructor says six times, and the madam says twice, while Mme Calve and Nordica say they counted 61 times. It is a fact however that the bicycle was conquered, and from Twelfth to Jackson street Mme Melba rode the bicycle without a fall, much to the disappointment of Mme Calve and Nordica.

Just after one hour and 30 minutes Mme Melba returned to her room covered with mud and cinders, but still she wore the look of confidence, and now Mme Calve and Nordica say they will make a try, and that they say that they will not have as many falls.

(The Argus, Saturday May 30, 1896 pg 11)

Our thanks to one of our members who spotted this article.



Ray McMinn a volunteer at the Healesville Sanctuary for many years during his talk on Saturday, May 4, 2013

Montrose collection handed to Lilydale for safe keeping



Left: Tony Smith and Len Cox with Dorothy Hill.

Above: Members of the Montrose Historical Society.

Continued from page 1

The afternoon was attended by several Montrose members; Cr Len Cox and Tony Smith MHR for Casey. Cr Cox and Mr Smith spoke of the need to preserve our history as it is a reflection of who we are; is a record of our past and can be accessed by future generations.

Society's AGM

At our AGM on July 6, the society's guest speaker will be Brian Churchill from the Model A Ford Club. He will speak about his recent trip to Detroit, the home of the automobile and highlight the changes caused by the GFC. The AGM starts at 1pm and Brian will be speaking from 2.30pm.

The cost is free to members but a gold coin donation is payable by non-members

For more details, call Lorraine Smith on 9735 1104.

Montrose residents are welcome to join our society and if anyone has anything they would like to donate, they should contact Lilydale at info@lilydalehistorical.com.au or phone Lorraine Smith on 9735 1104.

Nomination Forms

AGM Lilydale & District Historical Society Inc.

Saturday July 6 at 1pm.

People nominating for positions and those moving or seconding the nomination must be financial members of the society.

Positions: President, Senior Vice President; Junior Vice President; Secretary; Treasurer and 6 committee members.

Position Person nominated

Signature

Mover of nomination Signature of Mover

Seconder of nomination Signature of Seconder

Nominations must be lodged with the secretary at the Old Lilydale Court House by 5pm on Friday, June 28.

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.

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 Lillydale Court House, 61 Castella St, Lillydale. 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 2012-2013 now due

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

Name of Member: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

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