

Now & Then



Issue 3 September 2019

Affiliated with Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc

Meeting Dates 2019

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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Issue 3 September 2019

Mysteries solved

Residents often turn to their local historical society for information on their ancestors – be it images of people or places or information about the family to add more than just the bare statistics of birth, marriage and death.

At LDHS we are privileged to have many valuable resources people can access - local newspapers, archives, databases and image collection. However, we often extend our search out into the wider community seeking their help via our own members and social media – Facebook and Instagram. Currently we have 1,199 people like and 1,273 people follow us.

Two recent Facebook posts demonstrate the value of social media to our society's heritage knowledge. We have been helping the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum with some of their collection items about which they have little, if any, knowledge. One was a Young Farmers Trophy presented to



Victorian Railways trolley. Note: the letters VR form the spokes of the wheel.

Noel Cardwell. We put the image and what information we had, up online. Within 24 hours our followers and those on I Grew Up In Lilydale had supplied us with Mr Cardwell's phone number, email and his address in New

Continued page 3.

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/lilydaleandDistrictHistoricalSocietyIncl

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 Radio Eastern FM. The society is on the airwaves on the second Monday in the month from 10.30am to 11am.



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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.

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.

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.

Membership

Thank you to those who have renewed your membership, if you have a red sticker on this newsletter or those who receive it by e-mail you will receive an e-mail from Phil advising your membership is outstanding.

Membership is \$15 for Pensioners, \$20 for Singles and \$25 for families. At the AGM we introduced a business membership of \$30

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.



00001 Looking east toward Castella St along the shops on the north side of Main Str from Thompson & Winnett chemists red building. Main St, Lilydale about 1954.

Stories about living in Lilydale in the 1950s

Alex Risk and Fred Bramich grew up in Lilydale in the 1950s.

Join them at our meeting on Saturday, October 5 from 2.30pm and hear their stories. Alex grew up in Market Street while just over the back fence, Fred grew up in the Crown Hotel. Both went to St Pat's School and Lilydale High School. Life long mates.

They will talk about their lives in the town:

- Going to pictures on Saturday arvo/Tuesday night at the Athenaeum.
- Swimming in the baths fed in and out by the Olinda creek.
- St Pat's and High School at both the Annexe and Cave Hill sites.
- Social activities such as the RSL, St Patrick's Balls, Church functions
- Cracker Nights, Lilydale Show, The circuses, Mushrooming
- The life of a Paper Boy.
- Sports such as the Lilydale Gift Bowls/Croquet/Tennis, Bike riding
- Carnivals, Aquatic Carnivals at night at the pool "The Mayor Of Lilydale".
- Melba Park, The Lending Library in the Hall.

Fred's family took over the Crown Hotel in late 1944 and he will share some of his memories of the locals, visitors and sports stars such as John Coleman, Famechon Bros, singer Tex Morton and jockeys. Many of the telephonists from the exchange boarded at the hotel which then boasted stables and a loose box at the rear.

To help feed the guests, the family kept chooks - for Sunday lunches which were always busy - a house cow and had a vegetable garden.

Mystery solved (continued)

South Wales. We had one follower from the Gold Coast contact us with the same information. Thanks to residents and their willingness to help, the museum staff now have the complete story of the trophy.

Another item the museum was trying to identify was a large, old hand trolley. We checked with our members and established it wasn't from one of our grocery stores, so an image was put up online. Again, thanks to our own Facebook and the I Grew Up in Lilydale super sleuths, one, with railway knowledge, zoomed in to the image and found VR stamped inside a wheel. Another person indicated the trolley could be one loaned to the Lilydale Museum many years ago but hadn't been collected. Yarra Ranges Museum contacted the railway museum at Lilydale Station and they happily donated it to the museum. In both cases unknown objects suddenly had a story to tell.

Our society has regular weekly posts and we are constantly amazed at the comments and information given to us. It shows no one owns our past and history, we each have our own story, but we also have shared history which we should always be willing to share with others. If you want more information about our online presence, find us on Facebook or Instagram, our website at www.lilydalehistorical.com.au or email: info@lilydalehistorical.com.au

Remember: Yesterday is now part of our history.

October walks

Cemetery Walk

As part of Seniors Month, we will be holding a Cemetery Walk on Wednesday, October 2, at 10.30am. The cost is \$5 and for bookings, call Lorraine Smith 9735 1104.

Behind the Bar Walk

Back by popular demand, another activity during Seniors Month will be our Library Walk – *Behind the Bar*. Visit each of Lilydale's historic pubs and learn about their owners, and characters of the past.

It will be held on Wednesday, October 16 from 10am. Start is at the Old Lilydale Court House, 61 Castella St, Lilydale. Cost \$5. Ring Lilydale Library on 9800 6457.






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Welcome*

Removal of the Main St Level Crossing

The Level crossing Authority has announced the railway line at Lilydale will go overhead with a new station located between William Street East and West.

The proposal raises many issues for the society - both the adverse visual impact on the town and the endangerment of our Queen's Jubilee Avenue of trees which stretches from Cave Hill Road to the Warburton Trail bridge. Your committee discussed the issue at length and passed the resolution below which was endorsed at our general meeting on September 7.

Consultation was minimal and the authority will build to its proven formula and disregard the impact on the local community. It's concern is only the engineering aspects of removing the trains from the level crossing. The Shire of Yarra Ranges has been consulting with the authority for 18 months but has been unable to influence its predetermined position.

Also below is the submission I put in on behalf of the society. We only had a week to make submissions. We have a meeting with the authority later in September but I can't see that anything will change and we could loose all of our 100+ year old trees.

Resolution:

That the LDHS is extremely concerned that the proposed Lilydale Level Crossing Project will destroy the town's historic Queen Jubilee Avenue of trees. Further that LDHS seek evidence and a guarantee from both the LXA and the Yarra Ranges Council that the new Lilydale Station, the proposed pylons and solid concrete walls into the flood plain of the Olinda Creek will not harm the healthy survival of our trees which were planted in 1897 by Lilydale residents, councillors and business people.

Further, that the continual increase in traffic will have a long-term impact on Lilydale, the civic centre of our municipality. The traffic will threaten our town's heritage including our famous street trees.

Our society's submission

Destruction of our Heritage listed trees

The Lilydale & District Historical Society has spent decades fighting for the retention and survival of the Queen's Jubilee Avenue of trees planted by the residents of the then Shire of Lillydale in 1897 and progressively added to each year via Arbor Days. The Avenue extends along Main Street from Cave Hill Road in the west to the Warburton Walking Trail bridge to the east of Lilydale.

The new skyrail station as proposed will send pylons to bedrock beneath the flood plain of the Olinda Creek. This will completely alter the course of the underground streams flowing along and under the present railway line to our Duck Swamp – the area bounded by Cave Hill

and Beresford Road and Main Street. The proposed solid concrete wall on the north side to the stabling yards will completely block the underground water flow.

I understand the underground stormwater will also be altered and that too will impact on our heritage trees.

Our society seeks your written guarantee that the proposed sykrail will not in any way interfere with our trees to the west and east of the present railway line. We further request that you supply to us detailed independent hydrology reports to back up your written guarantee and that you also furnish us with a detailed arborist report of the present condition of the trees so we can use that as our benchmark on the health of our trees during the various stages of construction.

Members fear the trees will die through lack of water, the government will remove them and widen our Main Street to four or five lanes all the way from Cave Hill Road to the Warburton Rail Trail Bridge.

Other heritage listed trees run right along the eastern boundary of railway land from Main Street to Beresford Road. The solid concrete walls will certainly impact on them and those in the adjoining football ground.

Importance of Lilydale's trees

The early settlers were concerned about the dust and heat caused by the wide trees of Lilydale's Main street 22 yards wide – and the adjoining wide streets. Their solution was simple: plant English trees with wide canopies to provide shade for the horses and suppress the dust.

In today's climate these trees continue to provide valuable, welcoming shade for residents and visitors and help with our push to reduce green house warming.

Carparking

It is amazing that you can just wipe out 120 carparking spaces and not give a thought to providing them elsewhere. With the increasing population in the Healesville, Warburton, Coldstream and Yarra Glen corridors, we need more carparking not less.

Already as a ratepayer I am paying for commuters to park their cars on my land every day for nothing.

LXA removes carparking spaces they have a responsibility to replace them at their own cost.

Melba Avenue

You are a level crossing removal authority yet you aren't going to remove the level crossing at Melba Avenue. Why not? The same number of trains pass over Melba Avenue as Main Street and as your objective to allow trains to travel safely along the line this crossing also has to be removed.

Hull Road Replacement

This is dangerous underpass and should be widened and replaced, particularly as the Kinley Estate will have about 8,000 residents in the next few years.

Cave Hill Station

The line from Mooroolbark to Lilydale should be duplicated and a station should be built at the Kinley Estate which will be home to 8,000 plus people. This will provide easy public transport access and complete the project rather than build the present proposed piecemeal project.

Other issues:

One lane each way in Main Street

Done properly and in consultation with the community in a timely, not rushed manner, we could reduce Lilydale Main Street to one lane each way and widen the foot-

paths, increase the green space around our trees and create small squares or plazas with seating and lighting right along the main commercial area. Create a living heart for residents and retailers to enjoy.

Lilydale Bypass

Build the Lilydale Bypass as part of the skyrail project. This will give you the chance to easily divert traffic around town when major construction work is underway. The land reservation is there, the project was approved by both the then Shire of Lilydale and Vic Roads in the 1970s. Long term this would remove most traffic from our Main Street and give it back to the community.

Council to repair historic Melba Park entrance and David Mitchell Gates



02569 Melba and Pamela Armstrong laying the foundation stone for the David Mitchell gates on November 5, 1928. Left to right is: John Lemmone, Shire President Cr John McGhee, Melba and Pamela.

Starting in October restoration work will commence on the stone entrance to Melba Park followed by the gates.

Stage one will see the side walk on the left demolished and rebuilt. Some years ago, this was accidentally knocked down and badly rebuilt.

The second stage will see part of the left tower which houses the Melba Park sign where the clock was originally demolished and rebuilt due to a large crack in the mortar. It will be rebuilt and the missing slate on both towers added.

The third stage will be the repainting of the gates in a gloss black and the 'D' & 'M' together with the 'Melba Park' will be repainted in antique gold paint which is being used at the Princess Theatre in the city. The Yarra Ranges Council will supply us with details of the paint for our files.

The Melba Park Story

In the late 1860s the area surrounding the Athenaeum Hall and the old Council Chambers was set apart for

the use of the people of the Shire as a reserve. It was variously called Garden Reserve, Lilydale Reserve and Lilydale Park. It was not until 1927, in recognition of the great contribution made by Dame Nellie Melba, the area was re-named Melba Park. Until the 1990's when Melba Highway was gazetted, this was the only acknowledgement of Melba's name and her contribution to the district. (*Castella Street Precinct Walk 2015*)

When Dame Nellie Melba officiated at the naming of Melba Park on October 29, 1927, she remarked that Lilydale was growing and growing, and with this beautiful park they had something very great, and she hoped the people would learn to use it as a club and make it a kind of home. She was very proud and flattered that it was to be called Melba Park. She loved Lilydale more than any place in the world and was always delighted to hear of its progress. She thanked all concerned for what they had done, and expressed great pleasure in declaring the park open. Melba was then taken to the bowling rink where she cast the first jack on the new greens. A garden fete followed and raised much needed funds for the park committee. (*Lilydale Express November 4, 1927*)

Under the guidance of Dr Short, work on the Melba Park began two years earlier when a veritable wilderness had to be transformed into the home for the club house, pavilion, three tennis courts, six-rink bowling green and two croquet courts.



David Mitchell gates 2013.

Society's AGM August 5, 2019

Society member John Brown presided over our annual elections and we were all pleased to add new members Kristyn Jackson who joined the committee during the year and Brian Duvoisin, a descendant of a Swiss family that settled in Lilydale as 2nd vice president.

President: Sue Thompson.

First Vice President: Florence Shaw.

Second Vice President: Brian Duvoisin.

Secretary: Joy Gothe.

Treasurer: Philip Burton.

Committee: Lorraine Smith, Robin Childs, Margaret Tull, Jo Pritchard, Kristyn Jackson,

Courthouse Manager: Lorraine Smith

Deputy Courthouse Manager: Margaret Tull

Acquisitions Committee: Philip Burton, John Brown, Sue Thompson

Society Representatives:

Yarra Ranges Heritage Network: Sue Thompson and Philip Burton (Philip Reporting)

Association of Eastern Historical Societies Lorraine Smith & Margaret Tull.

President's Report 2018-2019

Our society has again completed another busy and successful year thanks to our army of skilled and dedicated volunteers and committee members.

I think the year should be labelled as the year Lilydale's New Beginning. It all started in January 2018 with the commissioning by Yarra ranges of research on the town's open spaces. This led to our current display and publication. This recognized the importance of our history, explained the town we have today and why it should, where possible be preserved.

It was the first time our members have pulled together the stories of places and more importantly the significance of each to the town's history. This work has now been recognized and embedded in the Lilydale Place Plan and is a key element in any developments in the town.

For us it was important for another reason: various members took on the research of various elements and they learned how to do research, how to use the many and varied resources we have and how to document their work. It may be a cliché but it was a team effort.

During the year we have been approached by several societies wanting to know the "secrets" of our success. They think that they can replicate it and magically turn their societies around.

There is no magic formula as each society is different but I think several key ingredients must be present to make a society thrive and grow as Lilydale is.

1. Strong and dedicated leadership – people prepared to put in hours of their own time.
2. An inclusive leadership – encouraging and inspiring members to help in whatever way they can.
3. Empowerment – the committee works alongside members wanting to learn new skills which benefit themselves and the society.
4. Appreciation – I'm sick and tired of peoples saying: "we are only volunteers" as this implies their contribution is somehow not worth much. Every volunteer and every hour they put in is so valuable to our society and appreciated by the committee. This is demonstrated by our hosing of our annual volunteers lunch.
5. Public presence – The days of sitting back and waiting for people to walk in the door looking for information has long gone. To survive society's have to be where the people go for their information and that is the internet. The work we have done with Facebook, Instagram and on our soon-to-be-launched new LDHS website has created awareness, generated information and photographs and built our public profile. However, this has been achieved at a price as our policy is to respond within 24 hours. This has put a lot of workload on John Brown with his weekly Facebook and Instagram posts and myself via our website. Conversely, this work has generated appreciation, income through research and valuable acquisitions into our collection.
6. Wonderful committee – Our society is only as good as its people and I'm proud to say our committee is the best. Nothing is too much trouble and a willingness to help is amazing. And, I must add we all have a lot of fun along the way.
7. Supportive members – we exist to serve the community and our members and year in year out our members generously support our work through their membership and donations. As more and more are opting for their newsletter via email, this is generating a further saving for us.
8. Sponsors – every year, our Treasurer Phil Burton pounds the pavement talking with and generating sponsorship for our newsletter. Some have increased their sponsorship and this has helped us meet all our financial obligations to the council for rent, power etc. This secures our long term residence at the Old Lilydale Court House.
9. Income – to survive we must generate income. I have already mentioned two sources: membership and sponsorship.

We have several other income streams: talks, walks and tours; research and book sales.

Thanks to training and enthusiasm several members are now sharing the workload with

walks, talks and tours for various groups. We are developing more and varied walks as volunteers are trained.

Research work carried out by members is starting to generate a lot of income as is research people carry out at the Old Lilydale Court House.

Our 30 plus publications, promoted on our website, generate valuable income and we are grateful to our Patron the Hon Saffron Foster who has organized Coombe Cottage to continue to supply us at no cost, copies of Pamela Vestey's Melba a Family Memoir.

Again, thank you to the committee and members for a wonderful and exciting year. I'm proud to be president of such a dynamic and committed group of people.

Sue Thompson, President. August 3, 2019.

Multimedia Report August 2018 to July 2019

SUMMARY

During the past 12 months we have put up **187** posts onto our Facebook page. Most of these were also put onto Instagram.

Total Likes as of 1 Aug 2018 were **850**

Total Likes as of 31 July 2019 were **1198**

Total Followers as of 1 Aug 2018 were **861**

Total Followers 31 July 2019 were **1272**

MOST POPULAR POSTS OF THE YEAR

8 August 2018

Why Lillydale Lake was Created.

Likes 69. Reach 4,597. Comments 35. Shares 20. [Instagram 24 Likes.](#)

22 August 2018

00354 Cashin's Mill showing water wheel and family home up the hill. Pre 1915 when the mill was destroyed by fire.

Likes 68. Reach 1,941. Comments 7. Shares 7. [Instagram 32.](#)

26 September 2018

We are looking for photos of Main Street Lilydale 60s to 70s.

05020 taken from verandah of the Lilydale Hotel looking North-West across Main Street 1975.

Likes 52. Reach 1,460. Comments 6. Shares 16. [Instagram 30.](#)

14 October 2018

On this day 100yrs ago: The War Tank arrived in Lilydale on Monday 14 October 1918.

Likes 53. Reach 2,100. Comments 12. Shares 13. [Instagram 21.](#)

11 November 2018

This bell that sits outside the Lilydale Urban Fire Brigade Station was rung for peace 100 years ago.

Likes 59. Reach 2,800 Comments 3. Shares 16. [Instagram 26.](#)

8 February 2019

Scan: 05031 Do you have memories of this part of Lilydale 1970-1980.

Likes 68. Reach 7,400. Comments 20. Shares 30. [Instagram 26.](#)

11 February 2019

Photo of Melba 1924 as Mimi, to dear Charlie from Nellie.

88th Anniversary passing of Dame Nellie Melba Talk and Walk of Cemetery.

Likes 39. Reach 2,800 Comments 3. Shares 25. [Instagram 23.](#)

6 March 2019

Who remembers the time when it was exciting to receive a delivery as a kid.

06047 Clarrie Oliver Lilydale Bakery Van. [Instagram 53.](#)

Likes 90. Reach 1,600. Shares 20

18 March 2019

The Postie and the Builder Q & A.

Likes 32. Reach 1,100. Shares 12. [Instagram 34.](#)

9 May 2019

As the weather is getting colder we are lucky not to be spending times in huts like this. Log Splitters Hut near Lilydale.

Likes 83. Reach 2,000. Comments 3. Shares 14. [Instagram 45.](#)

15 May 2019

Here is Main Street, Lilydale looking across to Castella Street in 1888. Main Street Lilydale hand drawing 1888.

Likes 84. Reach 1,138. Comments 11. Shares 12. [Instagram 36.](#)

25 July 2019

Here we have a trolley. It is part of the Yarra Ranges regional

Likes 17. Reached 1,757, Comments 13, Shares 13. [Instagram 29.](#)

LDHS Annual Court House Report for July 1, 2018 to June30, 2019.

The total number of hours for the year 2018 - 2019 was 4161, of these 2811 hours, were Duties at the Court House, those Duties totalled 598, done by our Duty volunteers over the year. During the year there were 284 Visitors to the Court House.

82 Society Members worked outside the Court House doing a total of 1350 hours, to the total hours for the year.

For the year there were 12 talks, with 366 people attending them, and of the 3 Walks 10 attended, and for the 2 Cemetery Tours, 28 people attended.

The average Attendance at the General Meetings was 19 for the Year.

The facts and figures that make up the Statistics for these totals for the year, will be included in a separate report.

A big Thank You to all our Volunteers for their valuable contribution, their reliability and dedication, rising to the challenges that are part of the statistics for the 2018- 2019 year.

Walks and Talks, at and outside the Court House for the Year.

July, Connect Lilydale Town Walk. August, Connect Lilydale Seminar. September, Speaker was Russ Haines, his topic, Fraternal Groups in Lilydale.

October, Sue Thompson, talked on David Mitchell to 17 people at the Court House. 2 Walks were held as part of Yarra Ranges Seniors Festival, for 10 people, on Behind the Bar Walk of Lilydale Township. Lilydale Library's Free Event, was Harvesting History with the LDHS.

December, the Christmas lunch was held after the General Meeting at the Court House with 30 attending. After the Court House closed for the year, a working party of Volunteers, packed away things to Les's Shed, so the interior of the Court House could be painted. January, the working party returned, before the Volunteers Lunch for 12 people, and returned things to their rightful places.

February talks, Lorraine Smith, spoke at Chirside Park Seniors Club, to 40 people on, Current Boards at the Court House, including Olinda Creek, Avenue of Honour, and Mr Jensen. Sue Thompson, did a Cemetery Tour for dame Nellie Melba's 88th Anniversary of her death for 11 people.

March, After the General Meeting, Philip Burton talked about Behind the Bar, the History of the Lilydale Hotels, Fred Bramich came and told us stories of his time as owner of the White Dog Hotel.

April, Talk after the General Meeting was the Q & A, by Postie, Ron Norman and Builder, Ray Oliver, this was a great success with 60 attending, to hear their stories of growing up and working in Lilydale. Philip Burton did his infamous talk Behind the Bar, again, this time at the Lilydale Library to 26 people.

May's Guest Speaker, Gus Ward talked about Farming at Port Campbell.

Sue Thompson gave a Melba Talk to Templestowe Probus Club, 87 came, she also spoke to Balwyn Probus Club, with 70 there. Sue then did a Cemetery Tour for Lilydale Probus Club with Philip assisting and 17 in attendance.

Sue also presented the Draft of Lilydale Place Plan to the Yarra Ranges Council meeting for May. Very busy month.

June's Guest Speaker Joy Olney, talked about Norfolk Island history and her relative's connection.

Lorraine Smith did 2 talks for June to a Yarra Ranges Care Group, at Mt Evelyn, RSL, and the other at their venue in Tecoma

Yarra Valley Business Group held their June meeting at the Court House with Phil and Sue speaking.

The AOEHS held their Conference at Ringwood's Karalyka Theatre, LDHS was well represented.

Marg Tull

Financial Report for year

1/7/18 to 30/6/19

Cash at Bank Australia	\$5,031.57
Term Deposit Bank Australia	\$5,530.13
Membership	\$1,672.83
Books and merchandise	\$2,212.84
Other income'	\$9,649.13
Total income	\$13,534.80
Cost of sales	\$1,130.46
Gross profit	\$12,404.34
Expenses	\$16,502.38
Net Profit	-\$4,098.04
Total Equity	\$42,830.77 ¹

¹ includes merchandise.

Annual Inquiries Report

There were 60 **logged** queries for the period August 1, 2018 to July 31, 2019.

Below is a summary of each inquiry. For more details and how we helped please download a copy of the report from our website at http://www.lilydalehistorical.com.au/newsletters_lilydale_historical.htm

August 2018

- Jon Kehrer from Qld is researching a James Hogan at PROV and came across a suit for Rental arrears in 1908 by James Hogan vs Ham Loy Ling, William Hoy Ling, Harry Hoy Ling and others.
- Brenton Hale had a query regarding a Sewing Machine he found in an Antique shop with Coombe written on the cast iron leg stand. Thought it might have belonged to Coombe estate and was possibly Nellie Melba's.
- Patrick Ferry is a member of Berwick/Pakenham Hist. Soc. Have got a grant to commemorate WW1 Diggers. They have a Douglas & Robert Black which they also found have a connection with us, as they are on our ANZAC Website. Wants to confirm when Lilydale & Montrose State School Rolls of Honour were dedicated and also more recently the Mooroolbark War Memorial.
- Kevin Browning is a member of the Royal Australian Artillery Historical Company & wants information on the Lilydale War Memorial Trophy Guns that he saw in a photo.
- Roy Hay wanted documentary evidence to support a claim that there was a Lilydale Football club in 1872.
- Rosalyn O'Shannassy rang Lorraine Smith enquiring about a Janie Jordan, her parents were William & Marie McGee.
- Darell rang Lorraine enquiring about an Elizabeth Trinder her father was Abraham & mother Rebecca Hall also information about aboriginal camp at Warrandyte. F

September 2018

- Trevor Westmore is Heritage Adviser to Yarra Ranges Council, has been asked to comment on proposed works to the verandah of the St Patrick's Church and Presbytery, Clarke St, Lilydale.
- Braydon Allen had a query about the old farm house building in Mooroolbark on Hilledge Lane. Now the Caladenia Dementia centre.
- Claire Simmons wanted to know if we have any photographs of the grand opening of the Lilydale Lawn Bowls club in the 1960's ??
- Lisa Hughes wrote that part of Remembrance Day, Woori Yallock Primary School has been invited participate in a project where the students decorate the 'M' in Remembrance.
- Tonia Cianciulli is an opera singer who performs concerts and is writing a book on the late opera singer from Newfoundland named Georgina Stirling aka Marie Toulinguet. There are two pages dedicated to her in the recent book on Australian opera singers called DIVAS by Roger Neill.
- Leslie Street was enquiring if the society has any documents/files relating to Esther Park Reserve in Mooroolbark and Mooroolbark Soccer Club?
- Amy Spicer was just enquiring about our collections policy, and conservation management plans for our items, and also if ours is the same one the Yarra Ranges Council use.
- Ros Newnham is a student at Deakin University and is making a documentary filming the interior of an old-style courtroom.

October 2018

- Jason Bottomley wanted Information on Joseph WALLWORK his GG Grandfather, also his daughter Isabella, and a Grand-daughter Edith May WALLWORK born 1897.
- Barry Thompson is a descendant of Jabez Britton, a blacksmith of Seville, would like images of Blacksmiths and their shops.
- Requests for Photographs - St Johns Anglican Church - they want photos of Prince Charles & Prince Philip when they played polo here.
- Lilydale High School are making a Video for Armistice Day.
- Kinley Estate want photographs of Cave Hill for the refurbished Cricket Club. We have over 100 Cave Hill Photographs in our Collection.

November 2018

- Query from Jane Smith, a children's author, she is writing historical novels in which her character meets strong women from Australia's past. Her next book is on Melba. She wants to know what years she was at Leigh House School.

- Darryn Schneider is writing an article about a Walter Taylor a very skilled Bookbinder, he read that Melba commissioned him to bind books for her.
- Rose van Sticksen has an Ernest Buckmaster portrait and wanted to explore if any family members were interested.
- Jeanette Peach lives in WA and her Great Grandfather was Johann Karl Heinrich Richter he came out from Germany in 1854 and lived in Lilydale, believes family were farmers and wood choppers.

December 2018 / January 2019

- Sally Williams is researching for a local history book for Warburton CFA. Wants to examine Lilydale Express Newspapers.
- Peter Henderson is researching his Aunt Dulcie Yvonne Fisher. Her father was Duncan Ambrose Fisher, living in Mt Evelyn and Lilydale areas 1943-1949.
- Katie Drummond is researching a Dairy Farm in Lilydale owned by Joseph Wilson around mid 1800s.
- Diane Harris is looking for an article in the Lilydale Express for 1969.
- Veronique Mangan is looking for when the Olinda Hotel was granted its License.

February 2019

- Anthony Car query. Dame Nellie Melba and Anne's Cascades waterfall naming in the Otways, There is a Melba Gully and wants confirmation that Anne Williams who the cascades may have been named after also had a connection with Melba.
- Laurel Henry's Great grandparents were married 1/01/1866 at the Harmans Hotel Lilydale according to their marriage certificate.
- Mariangela Adorno's Italian born grandfather came to Australia as a young man, around 1910. He went back to Italy after staying here for some time and bragged to others back home that he taught a famous singer to swim. In his broken English, he said it was Nelly Melba.
- Wayne Hodges wants support for a campaign to help Fund Trove digitization of Knox and the Dandenong Ranges' historical local newspapers, on Trove.
- Elaine Young's Great Grandfather, Myles Archibald Lyons, was the first Policeman to be stationed at Lilydale Police Station.
- Susan Arthur is doing her family history and has found that one relative, Hugh Thomas Arthur was a bank officer and lived in Gruyere on Medhurst Road in at least in 1972 and 1977.
- Maree from Customer Service at Chirnside Park Shopping Centre informed Sue that the Centre is celebrating its 40th Birthday later this year, looking for photos stories and newspaper items from 1979 of its opening,

- Sally Gibbs is verifying family history research, Nellie Melba appears to be her Grandmothers cousin. Great Grandfather is James Mitchell.

March 2019

- Nell Carpenter is doing a Documentary in the UK for Channel 5. Wanted to include Music by Melba. Do we know who owns the copyright and if still under copyright?
- Frank Thexton sent Sue a letter he had sent to Kinley Estate & wanted our opinion. Is upset that they have abandoned the Historic Name of Cave Hill which has been attached to the site for more than a century.
- Grant Beasley is researching the Bermingham Family.
- Michael Douthwaite is doing a School Project. He found an article in the Healesville Guardian on a Lawrence Black who hung himself in Lilydale Jail in the 1940s do we have information.

April 2019

- Barry Huntsinger has communicated several times with Lady Vestey, confirming earlier information about James Mitchell m. Susan McFarlane as being a brother of David Mitchell.
- Avril Priem was referred to us by Alex at the museum she has a book called "Melba: the Voice of Australia" by Thérèse Radic published in 1986.
- Rob is looking for information on the house at 14 Maroon-dah Highway. Wanted to know History and if we had any old photographs of it.

May 2019

- Yasmin Alcide, Programs manager from the International Academy for the Performing Arts is featuring Melba on their blog and requested permission to use a photograph from our website.
- Emily Gallagher a PhD student at The Australian National University in Canberra and my research is a study of children's art and writings in Australia in the first half of the twentieth century.
- Tony Woodhead was trying to locate his cousin Peter who moved to Silvan in Victoria in the 1950's he married and had a big family, he would like some help in tracking them down.

June 2019

- Barbara McMillan's mother-in-law Lillian/Lily McMillan nee Balshaw lived in Lilydale when she was younger. and her Grandfather Thomas W Balshaw died in Lilydale.
- Stanley Durham has been reading Sues story of Nellie Melba's Back Blocks tour and wondered if she had any details of tours in the Gippsland area.
- Greg Luke wanted to know if we have a list of houses built by Henry Sherlock. He built Wyreana in Croydon

and has been told that his house (Dalmeny) is similar in style to Wyreana and may have been built by him. .

- When Margaret Doring was a child at Tarrawarra, in the Yarra Valley, from 1945 to 1949, she had regular visits from a Sikh or Afghan pedlar who travelled around with a beautiful cart like a gypsy caravan pulled by a very fine horse. Do we have any information on him.
- Ruth McLean from the Museum contacted Sue about an unnumbered trolley they have and are trying to identify and wondered if we knew anything about it.
- Kay Hendriksen has found that her ancestors that were in Melbourne between the 1850s and the 1890s. She lives in the Blue Mountains. She will be in Melbourne for a few days and hopes to get to Lilydale.
- Nicole Hartley from Wandin Yallock Primary School has been tasked with obtaining quotes and information regarding restoring/replacing/repairing their 150 year old Jubilee Gates for the 150th Birthday celebrations.

July 2019

- John Hobby wanted to know who Cliff Mitchell was! In the 1970's he lived in what was known as "Mitchells" Big House in Barwite Road Mansfield, not far from Dueran Station.
- Nola Shoring is researching the family of Andrew Paul who came to Australia from Calcutta and settled in Lilydale. Do we have any information & pictures of Cambus. -the family homestead?
- Leo Duggan is searching for information about Margaret Jones who at the time of her death in October 1943 was living at Cave Hill Road.
- Caroline Zelazo was wanting to create a post on the Kinley Grounds as something we've already delivered for the project. Would you have details around the original oval? The year that it was constructed etc? and photos by chance? It was used by the Cricket Social Club is this correct?
- CMDR Robert Curtis chanced upon our website by Googling his Grandfather, Henry Robert Collins under 'They answered the Call'. He was indeed as our records indicate employed at Coombe Cottage. He was Dame Nellie Melba's personal chauffeur from 1909 until he enlisted in 1916. He returned to Coombe in 1919 and a year later & married the daughter (Mary known as Jesse) of Dame Nellie's manager of Coombe farm, Mr Daniel Guinea (my great grandfather).
- David Weatherill come across a death certificate for a John Gerleek who died in 1865 at Dandenong Creek. Of interest is the cemetery/burial place noted on it. Either: Thornconalee, or Thornconake, or ??

Joy Gothe - Secretary

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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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 2018-2019 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

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Members are the life blood of any organisation and that includes your society.

As a member you receive many benefits:

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- Free access to our digital archives such as the Lilydale Express and rate books;
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Now & Then by either mail or email

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