

Now & Then



Issue 4 November 2019

Affiliated with Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc

Meeting Dates 2020

- February 1
- March 7
- April 4
- May 2
- June 6
- July 4
- August 1
- September 5
- October 3
- November 7
- December 5

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 4 November 2019

Vale Les Skate



*Left: Happy Les doing what he loves - creating beautiful buildings from the ground up, January 2017.
Above: Les and Cr Tim Heenan cutting the ribbon to officially open Les's Shed.*

bare shell. In stepped Les and he set about turning the building into our home. He designed and built our large cupboards behind the bench, our library shelving; moved our filing cabinets around in the office so we could maximise the space and built our wonderful notice board at the

Continued page 5.

It is with great sadness I record we have lost another of our wonderful Life Members with the passing of Les Skate on October 25. He was a quiet, unassuming man with such a dry sense of humour. At times you couldn't be sure if he was serious or just having fun. The only way to tell was the twinkle in his eyes when he was having a joke with you.

When the society moved into the Old Lilydale Court House in 2011, we were confronted by a

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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.

Writing for the future

Our first meeting of the 20202 will feature the launch of our new display: Writing for the Future.

The display will feature the society's various deceased authors, their contribution to the society and their publications. The authors are: Leigh Blackburn, Ruby Kwijas, Keith Lithgow, Jack Lundy-Clark, Val Sheehan, Sandy Ross and Pamela Vestey.

Each author drew on and shared their own wealth of knowledge which today we continue to use to inform new residents and younger generations about the history of our district.

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.

Threat to tree fires up society members and the wider community



The Firewheel tree at the corner of the new toilet block.

In 2013, at the instigation of Life Member Dot Hill, the society, Lilydale Primary School and the Yarra Ranges Council combined to hold a special tree planting ceremony at Melba Park on September 13. The Mayor Cr Jim Child, complete with a silver spade and assisted by the school children, planted the Firewheel tree (selected by Cr Len Cox), which was named the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Tree. After the planting the school children led the singing of our national anthem. This was in recognition of the Queen's 60 years on the throne and replicated what the Lilydale community did in 1897 for Queen Victoria's 60th year on the throne. The location of the tree was carefully chosen by council staff so it could be seen from Main Street and link it with the park.

Imagine our consternation when contractors dug the foundations for the new Melba Park toilet block within 1m of our tree and its metal surround. Despite treasurer Philip Burton's best efforts and undertakings from a councillor, councillors and staff didn't stop work but pushed on and poured the foundations the next day.

Despite Melba Park being the shire's oldest gazetted public reserve (1860) and Lilydale's most historic precinct, no-one thought it important enough to consult council's own heritage staff or the historical society

Next Project

For 12 months now several members have been working on our next project on the businesses of Main Street from 1860 to today. We will include the story of every business – the people who operated them and images and adverts of the shop and owners throughout the years. This will take time to complete but you can help us now. If you have any images or stories about any of the Main Street shops and their owners, no matter what era, please contact us so we can include them in the project. Email Sue Thompson at: info@lilydalehistorical.com.au if you can help.

before work started. There was no advertising of the project save a small sign out front and council relied on the advice of the police as to where the toilets should be located. A metre further east or west would have ensured our tree's survival. Time will tell if our tree survives. After an on-site meeting with council staff, including the arborist, plans are now being made to enhance the tree within the park.

We raised the issue with the wider community via our



After the 2013 tree planting left to right: Speaker of the Victorian Parliament Christine Fyffe, Yarra Ranges Mayor Cr Jim Child, society Life Member Dot Hill and Lilydale Primary School children.

Facebook page and the response was astounding. Our 6 posts had 150 likes, 7266 reach, 51 comments and 45 shares. Our 5 posts on Instagram resulted in 108 likes. We thank the community for their wonderful support.

Society Christmas party

Our traditional Christmas party will be held following our final meeting of the year on Saturday, December 7. We hope all our members can join us and share the good food and good company - a perfect way to end the year.

Wal Thompson and Trevor Smith will again be in charge of cooking and carving the Weber-roasted turkey while the ladies will provide all the salads and deserts.

Our meeting will commence at the early time of 11.30 am and be followed by lunch at 12.30. The cost is \$15.

To book, please call Lorraine on 9735 1104.

&

Sharyn Manning
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Welcome*

Making news in the Lilydale Express in the 1950s

There's great rejoicing out Swansea road way, where at long last the power has been turned on in houses on the western side of the road. But what of those houses on the opposite side. Seems they will have to curb their patience still longer, because of some hitch over the erection of new telephone poles. Pretty tough, this, seeing that most of the residents affected were mainly instrumental in getting the extension along this road.

A driver filling in an accident report blank, wrote: "I was backing out of the garage and by the time I had backed out far enough to see what was coming, it already had."

An ailing author drew a ravishing beauty for his nurse. According to his own chart: "The nurse first held my pulse, then she advanced my pulse, finally she repulsed my advance."

Sad thought: By the time most women get to know a man like a book, they decide they don't like his type.

A new definition for rock'n'roll — cars towing caravans!

capital cities.

One of the most progressive innovations is the installation by the E.S. & A. Bank of the "telemobile." The E.S. & A. was a pioneer in the Australian field with this new adjunct to banking efficiency.

Those in use by the E.S. & A. are in polished maple and lightweight metal. They measure three feet high, three feet long and two feet wide. They are in three sections. In the top section are cash, cubicles, and compartments for notes of various denominations. These take the place of the cash drawers on either side of the teller in his conventional box. In the second and third compartments are sections for rolled money and emergency rolls of notes. Each section may be locked by the teller at will. At his fingertips he has a small compact teller's box capable of containing all the money necessary for his immediate needs.

The Express' Topical Tid-Bits page had a bit of everything. February 1, 1957 pg2.

Wonder what the motorists think, and say, when they negotiate the main road hazard at Lilydale railway gates. The crossing has never been so bumpy, and if neglected any further, will increase the danger of an accident at this spot. A few shovelfuls of premix would make a big difference.

Reports like this will soon be a thing of the past. December 7, 1956 pg10.

A Mt. Evelyn man chopped down a tree one day last week — and put Melbourne's television stations off the air. The tree fell across power lines and cut off supply to many areas including television transmitters at Mt. Dandenong. GTV9 switched over to auxiliary power within three minutes. HSV7 took a little longer — 10 minutes. ABV2 was not televising at the time. Areas left without power were Croydon, Montrose, Mt. Dandenong, Yarra Glen and Healesville. Power was off from 1 to 2 p.m.

Thankfully the man wasn't named. December 7, 1956 pg10.

CLARKE STREET TREES.
At the suggestion of the engineer, roadside trees in Clarke street, Lilydale, are to receive some attention. Mr. Eldridge recommended obtaining the services of an expert to prune all trees in Lilydale at the proper time, but added that no harm would be done by removing the low-hanging limbs on the Clarke street trees, which were an obstruction to school buses. Whilst on the subject of trees. Mr. Eldridge also recommended removal of at least 22 large gum trees in Main street, Monbulk. Their removal, he said, would be subject to criticism and comment, but in his opinion they were a real hazard.

Cr. White, supporting the engineer, said the trees were a knotty problem; it would take an expert to get them down. There would never be a decent road in Monbulk until the trees were removed. The C.R.B. is to be asked to remove the trees.

Still proud of our trees. October 3, 1952 pg3.

OVER TO SELF-SERVICE

MESSRS. BROWN & HAWKEY'S
PROGRESSIVE MOVE

As from Monday next, 4th February, Messrs. Brown & Hawkey's modern Grocery and Delicatessen Store in Main Street, will be conducted entirely on a self-service basis. This progressive move gives Lilydale a shopping service comparable with the best in Australia.

Although the firm will no longer be making the rounds for orders, it will still maintain a delivery service within specified areas. This gives housewives the opportunity to call and select their own groceries, pay for them, and then forget all about them. That same afternoon the goods will be delivered to your door, at no extra cost. To get the benefit of the delivery service, customers must make their purchases the day before, or up to 12 noon on the day of delivery. The management is confident that all customers affected by the change-over will be more than satisfied with the results. Assistants at the store will be happy to discuss details with clients, and will be on hand at all times to assist in the selection of goods.

Who other than Harley Brown remembers this? February 1, 1957 pg1.

Lilydale Place Plan

It has taken almost 2 years but at last the Yarra Ranges Council has endorsed the Lilydale Place Plan. This is the first of place plans which will be developed over the next few years for each town in the shire.

The vision for Lilydale is:

Lilydale thrives.

It is a place to breathe on the edge of the city.

Building on historic foundations, the community will continue to value the natural beauty of tree lined streets and the Olinda Creek that runs through town. The community connects with each other using quality public transport, excellent roads and active public spaces. People will spend time together at Lilydale Lake and Melba Park, and enjoy local produce at cafes, galleries and shops.

People of all ages and nationalities will live, relax and work in Lilydale taking advantage of All kinds of people choose to live, work and play in Lilydale to take advantage of this healthy lifestyle, the town's prosperity and its country town feel.

The Lilydale Place Plan Reference Group comprised 12 council staff and 12 community representatives who worked side by side to develop the Vision and then look at what needs to be changed to create the Lilydale we all envisaged.

Shortly, the council will prepare a brochure so residents can have a say in future developments based on the place plan.

The Project Reference Group looked at the data on: culture, community and service needs; economic prosperity and wellbeing; and leadership and governance.

From that data five themes emerged:

- Create new centres for Lilydale's community;
- Focus population growth within the town centre;
- Support local jobs and businesses;
- Improve traffic and transport connections; and
- Improve public spaces and walking amenity.

And from these 4 plans for Action emerged:

- New centres for the community;
- Support for a growing township;
- Improve traffic and transport infrastructure; and
- Create inviting streets and public spaces.

The society is committed to being involved in these various actions to help provide the historic context linking the town's rich heritage with any new plans and projects.

One example is the new Lilydale Railway Station. The society met with 5 senior staff from the LXRPA and were given the chance to speak about the value of our history and how elements could be included in the design of the station in such a way that they can flow through with groups such as the Main Street Beautification Committee. This provides a sense of belonging and unifies the various elements of our town and helps us plan the future which hopefully will include the Lilydale By Pass.

Some of our ideas may be included in the design of the new station and its surrounds.

New Website

It has been 12 months in the planning and taken that long to raise the money needed, but our new re-vamped website is now up and running.

Thanks to the expertise of the Paradigm4 team, the Wordpress based site can now be looked after by several society committee members. Each has been trained on how to add additional information to the site as and when we need it and without payment to outside contractors.

One great bonus for us is the new membership renewal form and also the ability to simply make a donation to the society to support our activities.

Also, at the top right hand side of the home page are direct links to Facebook, our Flickr site, Instagram and our videos up on YouTube from our Gun Alley project. You can relive the stories of Ruby Kwijas and the other residents of John Street.

Any comments and feedback are welcome.

Go to www.lilydalehistorical.com.au

Vale Les Skate

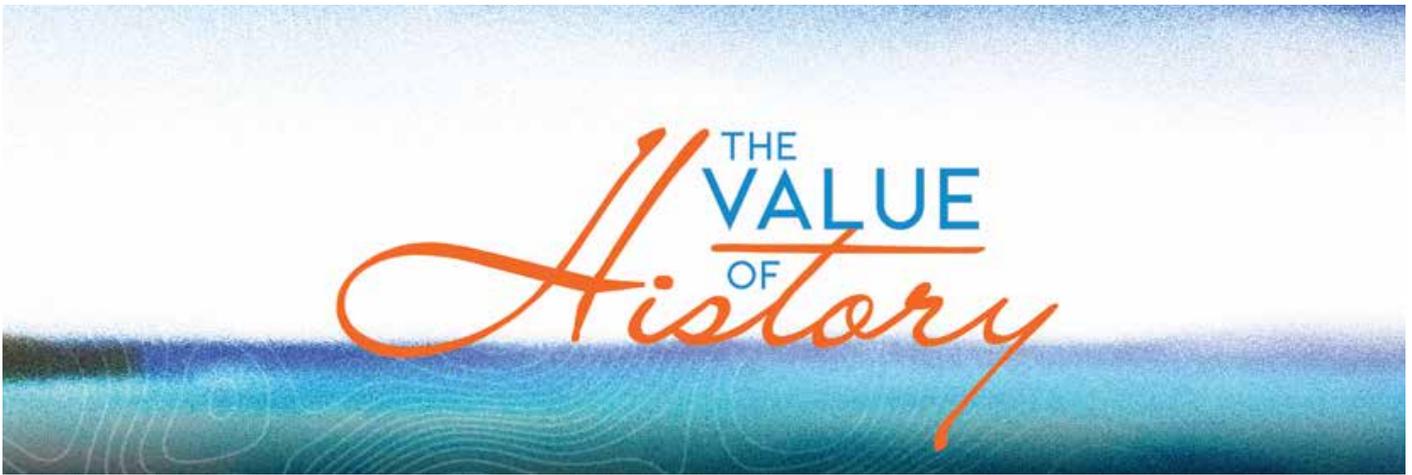
front of our building. He knew we had limited funds so in true Les Skate style, he foraged around his workshop, that of his son and anyone else's place he thought might have the wood or materials he wanted for the job. I think he called in many favours when he did any building for the society.

By far, our most ambitious project was a new shed for additional storage of non-collection material. We were thinking a tin shed then along came Les. He had other ideas and with member John Brown they planned what we proudly named Les's Shed. It complements the existing three out buildings (former toilets) with the same pitched roof, the same style of weatherboard and the same eaves. It looks like it has always been there and that was what we were all trying to create.

As it was to be under 10 sq m. we didn't need a council permit but Les still had his plans and knew exactly what he wanted and when. Anyone who was there on the day the concrete was poured has lasting memories of Les, then aged 89 years in shorts and gumboots spreading the concrete around while his young 70-year-old labourers pushed wheelbarrow loads of concrete from the concrete mixer waiting out the front to the back into Les' foundations. Within 4 weeks, 10 volunteers under the direction of Les had spent 412 hours to complete Les's shed which will always remind us of his wonderful contribution.

In true Les style, there was no public funeral just a gathering of friends at The Barn, Yering Station on September 31. The venue is significant as Yering Station winery was one of Les's many building projects in the valley. **Sue Thompson**

For shed building images go to: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/87368280@N06/albums/with/72157676748602664>



The study of the past and telling its stories are critical to our sense of belonging, to our communities and to our shared future.

History shapes our **identities**, engages us as **citizens**, creates inclusive **communities**, is part of our **economic** well-being, teaches us to **think critically** and creatively, inspires **leaders** and is the foundation of our **future generations**.

Identity: History nurtures identity in a world characterised by difference and change. History enables people to discover their own place in stories of families, communities, First Peoples, and nations—individuals and groups who have shaped the world in which they live. There are stories of freedom and oppression, justice and inequity, war and peace, endurance and achievement, courage and tenacity. Through these varied stories, the systems of personal and community values that guide approaches to life and relationships with others are shaped.

Engaged citizens: History helps people craft solutions that meet community needs. At the heart of democracy are individual citizens who come together to express views and take action. Understanding the history of contemporary issues that confront our communities, nation and world can clarify misperceptions, reveal complexities, temper volatile viewpoints, and open people to new possibilities, leading to more effective solutions.

Strong communities: History lays the groundwork for strong, diverse and inclusive communities that are vital places to live and work. Communities are wrapped in human memory: Indigenous knowledge, family stories, oral histories, social customs, cultural collections, heritage and civic commemorations. These all strengthen our connections and commitment to one another. History supports a sense of community identity and place; and that in turn promotes social cohesion, individual and collective wellbeing, and resilience.

Economic development: History is a catalyst for economic growth. People are drawn to communities with a strong sense of historical identity, material heritage and character. Cultural heritage is a demonstrated economic asset and an essential component of any vibrant local economy, providing an infrastructure that attracts talent and enhances business development, including cultural tourism.

This statement was adopted on 3 July 2019 by the History Councils of New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia. It draws on the work of history organisations in the USA that promote the relevance and value of history through their History Relevance campaign. The four Australian History Councils have, with permission, adapted the USA 'Value of History' statement for all Australians to use.

The members of the Yarra Ranges Heritage Network have endorsed this statement and also will be asking Yarra Ranges Council to endorse it. Our society will discuss it at our December 7 meeting and endorse it. It was issued by the history councils of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.

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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

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 Lilydale 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 2019-2020 now due

Membership Subscriptions 2019-2020 were due on the 1st July 2019 (If you are not sure if you are financial, please ring Phil on 0488 403 155 to check.)

Name of Member: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Family Membership	\$25.00
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Amount enclosed: \$

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