

Now & Then



Issue 2 July 2020

Affiliated with Royal Historical Society of Victoria Inc

Meeting Dates 2020

Due to the coronavirus, we will not be holding any meetings at the present time.

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Issue 2 July 2020

Society Closes its doors ... for the time being

As with the rest of the community our society has had to quickly adjust to the coronavirus outbreak. The committee agreed we would close until further notice and not hold monthly meetings or committee meetings other than via Zoom or in a small group.

This decision was taken to ensure the safety of our wonderful volunteers to ensure they were not exposed to potential covid infection from visitors.

However this hasn't stopped members working away at home on various aspects of our work. Particularly important has been our income generating work of research and photos sales. This is helping us pay our utility bills which while lower still have to be paid.

For its part, the Yarra Ranges Council has waived our lease fees which we had just paid before the lock down. I guess this will be applied to next year.

To read about work being done by our volunteers, turn to page 3 Our Collection.



The newly planted grove of Firewheel trees at Melba Park. Story on page 3. (John Brown image)

How you can help?

Normally our society holds its Annual General Meeting in July but this will not be happening at the moment. However, you can support us by simply renewing your membership which was due on July 1st and perhaps adding a donation of a few dollars to help us pay the utility bills. Our renewal form is on the back of this newsletter or alternatively you can download [our membership form](#) from our website:

Complete the form, press send and then make your payment either by cheque or direct debit into our account – the details are at the bottom of the membership page.

Also visit [our shop](#) and purchase a book to read while in lockdown.

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website: www.lilydalehistorical.com.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/lilydaleandDistrictHistoricalSocietyInc/

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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Vale Mary Hamilton

It is with great sadness we mark the passing of another of our wonderful older members – Mary Hamilton. Quietly spoken Mary was always at our launches and Christmas parties and we all valued her depth of knowledge about Lilydale and its many community organisations such as the Yarra Glen & Lilydale Hunt Club. Mary was a wonderful help when we were researching our Gun Alley project as one of her ancestors lived there. If we wanted images or information, we turned to Mary as Lilydale was her home where she spent most of her life, she loved the place and knew the people.

Mary was born on February 29, 1932 and passed away on March 7, 2020.

New Display online

Our new display *Writing for the Future* features the society's various deceased member 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.

Our volunteers painstakingly researched their story and their publications.

When opened by our local MP Bridget Vallence in February, no one knew our doors were closed so no-one could visit and see the display.

However, we have now transformed each display board into an **e-book** which is freely available for download.

Also check out all our on-going activities at our news and events page on our website www.lilydalehistorical.com.au

Pre-loved books

As we are going through our collection, archive and library, we have discovered we have duplicate copies of various books. These are **now for sale**. More will be added in the coming weeks.

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.

If you would like to help, please phone our president Sue Thompson on 0475 219 884.

Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Tree and Firewheel Grove

(Philip Burton)

It started out as disaster because of lack of knowledge and communication by the Yarra Ranges Council. However, after an on-site meeting, council staff, John Brown and I worked closely together and developed a plan for the area. During autumn the Yarra Ranges Council planted an additional four Firewheel trees to create a grove of trees and installed a plaque commemorating the original planting for Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee in 2013.

The society is grateful to the council for listening, responding, and working with us to create this grove which when in flower in coming years will be an asset to our beautiful Melba Park.

The plaque reads:

Stenocarpus sinuatus (Firewheel Tree)

This planting was initiated on the 13th September 2013 to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee (60th anniversary) of the accession of Queen Elizabeth II Queen of Australia on 6 February 1952.

Lilydale & District Historical Society

Lilydale Primary School

Yarra Ranges Council

Our Facebook post on the 2nd June showing the new grove and plaque reached over 2,800 people and was shared 16 times and 40 likes on our Instagram.

Lilydale Express 1886 to 1920 now online

While libraries may have been in lockdown the work goes on and one of the jobs completed was the digitisation of the Lilydale Express from 1899 to 1920. This was completed thanks to a grant from the Public Records Office and a contribution by our society, the *Lilydale Express* newspaper has been digitized and added to the National Library's Trove.

This means groups from as far away as Eltham, Ringwood, the Dandenongs as well as the Yarra Valley can now access the searchable pages of the newspaper from 1886 to 1920. To explore Trove go to:

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/>

and in the search area click on the newspapers and gazettes category. It is amazing the amount of information in each edition and is a fantastic resource for family researchers.

Over the next few years we aim to have all the newspapers digitised through to the 1950s.



Top the firewheel Tree in flower earlier this year and above the new plaque dedicated to our Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee tree. (Philip Burton and John Brown images)

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.




&

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Welcome*

Our Collection

(Philip Burton)

While the Court House has been closed it gave us the ideal opportunity to work on our collection and over 500 items were given registration numbers and filed.

Space is always an issue at the Court House and especially in our collection cupboards, so this was an ideal time to resort the cupboards and create space for our ever-growing collection. All five cupboards were emptied out and re-stacked resulting in some spare space being created and making it easier to find items. This led us into Les's shed where the same resorting took place.

During the closure, many volunteers have been busy at home working on projects varying from

- adding items to the collection
- typing spreadsheets, which gives us access to our vast amount of information
- sorting and cataloguing archive files
- completing cataloguing worksheets for our collection items
- working on and updating our websites
- researching for our future exhibition which will celebrate our 50th anniversary
- scanning photographs and negatives
- library additions

All this work opens the vast amounts of information we hold so it can be searched and made available for us and future generations.



Ration Tickets and Cards

Some of the more unusual items donated to us some time ago and which will bring memories back to older readers are these World War II ration tickets for Motor Spirit and clothing ration card for 1947 and 1949. The donation also included is a Tea and Butter card.

A time before computers, mobile phones, banking and purchasing goods online. How things have changed. (Philip Burton)

Celebrating 50 years of the Lilydale & District Historical Society 1971 - 2121

(Lorraine Smith)

At our first meeting on March 11, 1971 our society's stated aims were "to collect and collate historical information and records. Research and record history of early settlers and citizens. To investigate the records of the formation of early churches and schools."

Our plan for next year's celebration, is to update our 30 years of History (1971 – 2001) publication and our display boards will feature the following: Achievements, Awards, Books Written, Fundraising, Celebrations, Functions, People, and Launches.

While doing the research, I thought members would be interested in some of the highlights of the past 50 years:

1971 Our first meeting held in the shire hall on March 11, 1971.

1976 Opening of the Lilydale & District Museum by Pamela, Lady Vestey.

1986 Pamela, Lady Vestey invited to be our Patron,

1989 Moya McFadzean becomes Victoria's first Curator appointed to a municipal museum.

1990 Leigh Blackburn steps down as president after 20 years and Sue Thompson is elected president.

1992 The "Glory Box" exhibition officially opened in 1992.

1994 Museum and shop moves to lower Main St, Lilydale due to rebuilding.

1995 Farewell to Moya welcome to Elizabeth Downs.

Continued next page

Research

(Sue Thompson)

Week in week out we receive various requests from around the world.

One request was for information about William Strachan who was a baker at Lilydale from 1886 to 1900. He married Mary Agnes Woulfe daughter of Thomas and Johanna Woulfe from Gruyere and the family rented Poyner's bakery at the corner of Clarke and Main streets. William was involved in the Lilydale community in many ways – football, cricket and the Lilydale brass band. In 1889 he also bravely disarmed George Syme who had shot both his wife and mother-in-law. Sadly his mother-in-law (Mrs Clifford) later died. We were also able to find a photo of her ancestor which she was delighted with.

An email from Belgium from Jan Biekens whose grandfather Eduard Stibbe owned a big shoe factory in the Netherlands: Bloch & Stibbe - Hollandia.

In 1956 he founded together with Mr. P. Goodman a shoe factory in Lilydale, named Hollandia Shoes Pty. Ltd.



07208 Peter Goodman, his wife and two children in a paddock. Peter and Eduard Stibbe. Established Hollandia Shoes in Lilydale in 1956.

50th birthday of our society (continued)

2001 Sue steps down as President welcome Sandy Ross. While the re-building was going on we were able to be on duty at the Lilydale Library on the weekends and have our meetings at the Athenaeum Theatre.

2011 Our new home: Old Lilydale Court House. Displays, talks, tours & cemetery walks. Open 3 ½ days a week. Eight volunteers on duty each week. Celebration of anniversary of Dame Nellie Melba's 150 birthday.



0049 22 members of the Lilydale Band in full uniform with their hats on and each holding instruments. Descendant identified one of the members as Lilydale baker and founding secretary of the band (1888 to 1896) as being the man standing second from the right in the second row. (Scott Strachan December 2002). Image prior to 1899.



05149 The south-east corner of John and William St east showing the Hollandia Shoe factory in 1982.

We put out a request for information via our Facebook page and we had a great response.

We have also put copies of the 1961 double page spread of Hollandia up on our web page. It can be downloaded from our download research under our resources tab.

If anyone has information or images of either William Strachan or Hollandia Shoes, [please contact us](#).

2014 After 13 years President Sandy retires Lorraine Smith becomes president.

2015. Sue Thompson elected president.

2021 Looking forward to what it will bring: Vision, Technology, Membership and Sponsorship.

If you have an stories about our society over the past 50 years or images you would like to share, please speak with Lorraine on 97351104.

Local girl with great talent performs on the world stage

(Philip Burton)

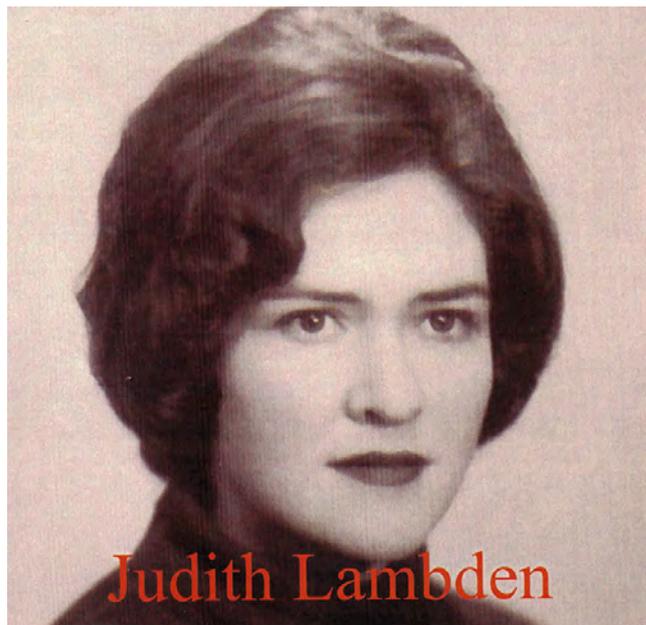
In our collection we have a CD of Judith Lambden recordings.

As the CD says Judith has performed as a concert pianist and harpsichordist during tours of United Kingdom, Italy, Belgium and Holland. Awarded the Clarke Scholarship Judith studied for three years in London at the Royal College of Music during which time her teachers were Kendall-Taylor, Lamar Crowson, Nadia Boulanger and Paul Badura Skoda. Judith studied harpsicord with Gustav Leonhart and Ruggero Gerlin. Since returning to Australia in 1983, Judith taught at the Victorian College of the Arts and other tertiary institutions.

Since 1986 Judith has examined for the AMBE and adjudicated at competitions throughout Australia.

Judith, as a nine year old child, moved to Lilydale with her family when her father became the station master. She went to school in Lilydale and she set to music the Lilydale High School song 'The Book and the Flame'.

She recalls her years at Lilydale High in the recently published book 'Look to the Light' *The Life of Lilydale Higher Elementary / High School* which can



The cover of Judith's CD in the LDHS collection.

be purchased from the Historical Society for \$40 plus postage. If you live locally we will hand deliver.

Footnote: At the function celebrating the launch of the book, Judith formally donated her original copy of the high school song to the school's archive.

Changing aerial view of Lilydale

With the demoliton underway of the former Lillydale Shire Offices now Yarra Ranges Council Offices, it seems timely to publish the image below. [See a larger image](#)



07209 An aerial view of Main, Anderson and Hardy streets Lilydale. Top right is the council offices and below that the Lilydale Bowls Club and Lilydale Senior Citizens Centre in Hardy Street. Along Main Street south side is the car dealership, Lilydale Fire Station, Lilydale Medical Centre shops, Liydale Hotel (red roof) and the Lilydale Post Office and exchange. Ca 1970s.

George Mason Baker

(Researcher: John Brown July 2020)

We have many photos in our collection and they all tell a story, but with many of them it takes hours of research to build a story about the image. This is one that had no information that I could quickly access from a file at the Historical Society or from one of our many publications, all I had to go with was G T Mason, Baker, Grocer.



00025 Pen and ink sketch of G.T. Mason, baker and grocer shop in 1888. From *The New Tourists' Guide and Victorian View Album 1888-89* Melbourne Cook Duerre & Co Printers and Publishers.

Mr Mason opened his new premises in Castella Street as a General Store in 1883.

He moved his bakery to his Castella Street General Store in 1888, which consisted of a shop with 5 rooms, Bakehouse, Oven and out buildings.

His premises was opposite the Athenaeum Hall.

All goods were of the best quality and delivered at the lowest possible prices.

There were 3 Bakers who ran bakeries in the town during the 1880s - 1890s.

My research for this photo was done by looking in Trove at the *Lilydale Express*.

I researched the advertisements and business directory plus general notices which gave me all the information above of when the business started and where it was in the town and how many bakers there were at the time. There was also a death notice for a child and a notice explaining Mrs Mason having rheumatic fever, plus a notice to let which were all in the same year of 1891, this gave me the number of rooms and out buildings.

When I look at the image I now see and can picture a man and family who were part of the working fabric of our town and its past.

Library books and easy to use index

(Kristyn Jackson)

This month I have been able to visit the Court House and have added an additional 8 items to our library. These include 3 of Val Sheehan's newspaper clippings and may be of interest to our members. One addition that I found of particular interest was the *Autobiography of a Cornish Miner* by Thomas Oliver which I found myself reading almost in its entirety. Thomas led a varied life including a visit to the Ballarat gold fields after which he returned to his home in Cornwall. We have this story in duplicate if anyone would like to have a read. Two other books added this month that may be of interest are *The Heights* by the National Trust a prefabricated house built for Charles Ibbotson who settled in Newtown and *Across That Far Horizon* by Marissa Yeaman, a story about the Yeaman family of Montrose. We currently have 522 items in the library and all are freely available for everyone to use when we re-open.

Master Index

The Master Index is the go-to place to do research, look up an ancestor, a place, or an event to see if we have any records in the way of photographs, books, memorabilia, CDs. To maintain the Master Index we need volunteers to go through our library items and create a written index of local people, places and events.

Once this is done I then enter the items into our Master Index for all to use when doing their research. I would like to give a big thank you to Jacquie Duvoisin for writing up the three Val Sheehan Scrap Books into an index so I could add them to the Master Index. Before Jacquie started there were 23,797 subjects and with Val's additions, the project our final tally is 24,915 or 1,118 subjects added to our Master Index.

Members at work

At our monthly meeting Marg Tull has the unenviable job of recording all the hours and work being done by the volunteers. Below is her report for the past 4 plus months.

There's a lot of work being done by our volunteer members during the close down of the Court House.

Our president, Sue Thompson, has been working and updating the LDHS website, as part of that the Gun Alley project needs to be formatted differently to make access to it easier, as well as more information for the Nellie Melba museum website.

Our treasurer, Phil Burton, has kept us informed on money matters, and numbered nearly 600 items in our collection, then returned on occasions to the Court House to tidy and list the contents of the office cupboard and shed.

Our Secretary, Joy Gothe, is scanning and indexing

the newsletters.

Our Court House manager, Lorraine Smith, is working on LDHS minute books for the 50th Anniversary of the Society display being launched in February 2021.

Our media guru, John Brown, is researching and posting relevant historical articles to Facebook and Instagram.

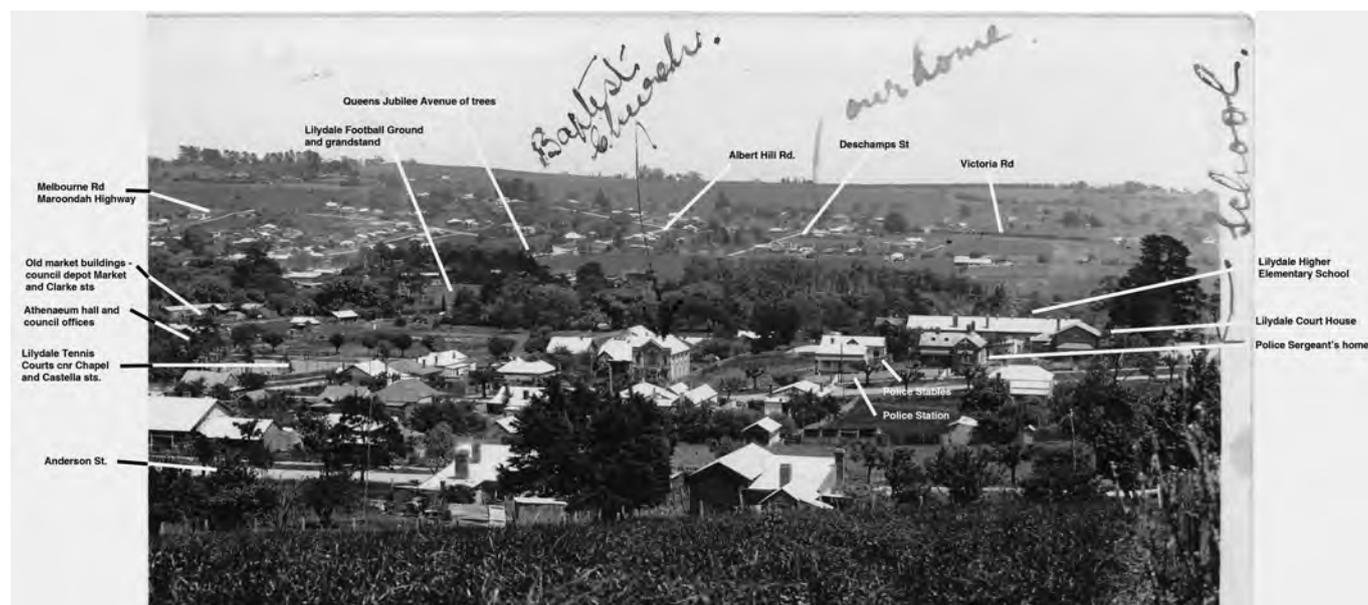
Robin Childs, has put in lots of hours, indexing and Main St. Project.

Kristyn Jackson, has the library in hand, of the large local history collection.

Brian's doing family research on the Duvoisin family, while Jacquie's been indexing Val's scrap books.

(Marg Tull)

From the Collection



06725.1 A rare panorama looking across the north part of Lilydale from The Towers c 1949. [Click for larger image.](#)

The Duvoisin Story

(Researcher Brian Duvoisin)

David Frederick Duvoisin was born in 1833. A native of Neuchatel Canton, Switzerland, he grew up in and around the vineyards and vigneronns of Neuchatel where he learnt his chosen skilled handcraft as a vine Dresser. In 1858 he sailed to Port Phillip (via Southampton England) to settle with other Swiss vine dressers/vigneronns at Little Neuchatel on Yering Station in the Yarra Valley.

In researching David, his family and background events of the Yarra Valley/ Lilydale history and cultures etc, Lilydale & District Historical Society has provided excellent support and help via their well established archives, images, records, library,

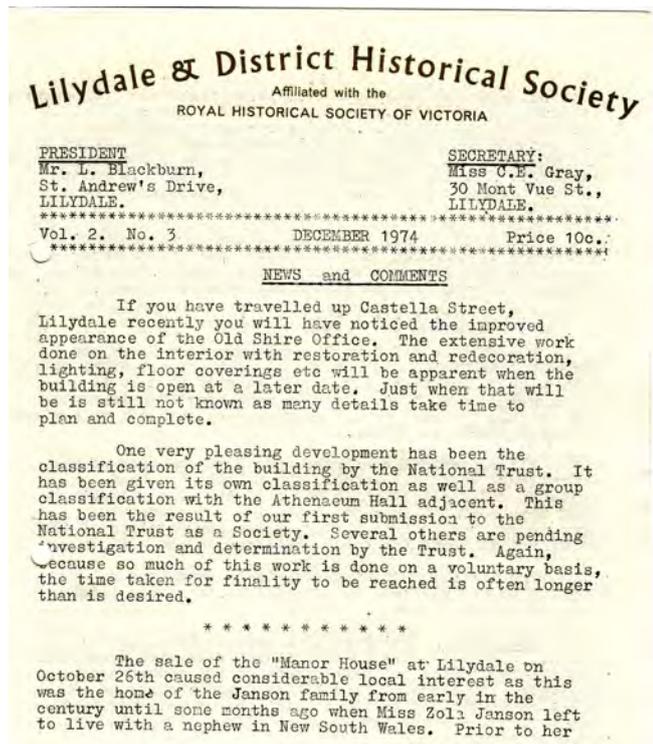
local cemetery register to name a few. The society's volunteers are friendly and knowledgeable.

David's son Louis David Duvoisin was born in 1863 at Yering and was later apprenticed to a blacksmith in Lilydale. In 1890 he married Margaret Briers in Lilydale. They later moved to Geelong West where he carried out business as a blacksmith in Pakington Street.

At their residential home in Preston Street, Geelong West they raised nine children. Sadly, David died in 1912 and to her credit, Margaret devoted herself to her family and grandchildren for the remainder of her life.

Newsletter Scanning and Indexing Project

(Joy Gothe)



A newsletter published by the society December 1974.

Presently I am working on digitizing all of the society's past newsletters and putting them on our computers for access at any time, they will be searchable and become another research tool for our volunteers and researchers. They also provide interesting reading. I am scanning all the old newsletters from 1973 when the first one was published. Back then they were just a four page information news-sheet typed up on folded foolscap paper. It was in 1987 when issue Number 1 of our official newsletter *Now & Then* was published.

When this is completed I will be working on some sort of index or synopsis which will show what information is contained in each issue.

Lilydale By Pass underway in 1975

While the soon-to-be-released Lilydale Structure Plan and adopted Lilydale Place Plan support the building of the Lilydale By-pass, let's hope we don't have to wait another 35 years for it or some form of it is built. Lilydale's time is now.

 Many folk of the Lilydale township will receive with pleasure the Christmas gift news that the Minister has instructed the C.R.B. to discard the concept of aligning the Highway through the town and study by-pass proposals. This comes as a culmination of many years of citizen work thought and action, with which the Society, from its inception, joined.
 Partly because of this decision, it became possible for the Shire Council to proceed with the presentation of a Township Plan to the public at a meeting recently. This plan will go on display shortly and deserves your attention. It sets an imaginative use of the famous difficult levels which could create an integrated regional centre without destroying the historic areas or the township's individuality. C.E. GRAY.

LDHS newsletter article December 1975.

LILYDALE & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Affiliated with
 ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

Patrons:
 Pamela, Lady Vestey
 Cr John Nathan
 President, Shire of Lilydale

Number 1, 1987

Indexing and Research

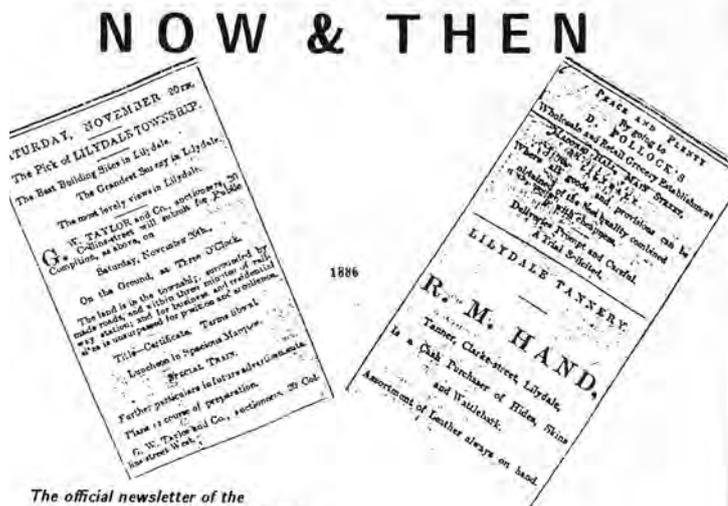
(Robin Childs)

Working from home has been very productive in the indexing of files. Some of the larger files, such as Lilydale History, Edna Walling etc, have been completed, which is hard to do at the courthouse due to lack of space and time. Also I have worked in with Phil and Kristyn cross referencing

Books in the library with the archive files and boxes in the shed to the files. There is still a lot to do but it will hopefully make material to be found easily.

The Main Street Project* is progressing, up to the mid 1990s, with lots of businesses that I can remember but are now well gone, even the buildings of some have disappeared and been rebuilt with new modern shops. That's progress I suppose.

*The Main Street Project is tracing the stories of the people and businesses in each of our shops along Main Street..



The official newsletter of the Lilydale & District Historical Society Historical Museum
 Castella St., Lilydale. 3140.

INFLUENZA.

Fifteen cases of influenza during the past month were reported to the last Council meeting. Of these 10 were on Mount Dandenong, 1 at Seville, 1 at Burt's Hill (Croydon), and 3 at Ringwood. All these cases are now well, and the Shire has been fortunate in so far escaping the severity of the outbreak. The death at the Infectious Diseases Hospital of a little girl (Beatrice Leahy whose home was at Smith-street, Croydon, was reported from Clifton Hill.

The President of the Shire (Mr. Rouget) reported that the Council immediately upon knowing of the outbreak he had in consultation with the Health Officer (Dr. Syme) secured from the Education department the use of the school buildings as a hospital, and had advertised for helpers to do the necessary alterations and for volunteer nurses. A number of helpers had offered, and the hospital was now ready for patients. It was intended to treat only serious cases at the hospital, as the milder cases were better treated at home. So far the hospital had not been used, and he hoped there would not be need for it. Free inoculation had been provided.

Cr. Wallace moved that the President's action be supported, and that the President be empowered to do anything further necessary for dealing with the outbreak. He had acted in the best interests of the Shire, and the Council thanked him for his prompt action, which, no doubt, stopped the disease from spreading more extensively.

Cr. Hughes, in seconding the motion, said that the President's prompt action merited the approval of the Council. In such circumstances money did not matter. If the disease spread, the President would be quite justified in spending more money.

The President's action was supported by all councillors.

Cr. McGhee moved that the ridings pay the expenses pro rata, and this was agreed to.

The impact of the 1919 influenza pandemic on our local community

Municipal Notices.

SHIRE OF LILLYDALE.

PNEUMONIC INFLUENZA

Owing to non-attendance of persons wishing to be inoculated at the other depots, Dr A. E. Syme will in future attend only at the Shire Hall, Lilydale, on Fridays, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., till further notice,

— TREATMENT FREE —

HAMILTON SINCLAIR,
Shire Secretary.

Shire Hall,
Lilydale, 6th February, 1919.

SHIRE OF LILLYDALE.

PNEUMONIC INFLUENZA

Ladies willing to volunteer as Nurses Assistants or Cooks in the event of an outbreak of Pneumonic Influenza in this district are requested to leave their names and addresses at the Shire Hall, Lilydale.

HAMILTON SINCLAIR,
Shire Secretary.

Shire Hall,
Lilydale, February 2, 1919.

SHIRE OF LILLYDALE.

Influenza Outbreak.

IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE

After consultation with the Officer of Health, Dr A. E. Syme, and acting in accordance with the regulations of the Department of Public Health, the following precautions have been decided upon:—

1 All public meetings, entertainments, socials, and public gatherings generally of more than 20 persons, within buildings, are hereby strictly prohibited throughout the Shire.

2 Churches used for Divine Service are exempt, provided every person in the congregation wears an approved mask.

3 Free inoculation will be performed by the Officer of Health. (Times and places advertised in another part of this issue.)

The Public are urged to assist in every possible way, as required by the Regulations and Posters of the Health Department, in preventing the spread of the disease.

J. M. S ROUGET, Shire President.
HAMILTON SINCLAIR,
Shire Secretary.

Shire Hall,
Lilydale, 5th February, 1919.

If undeliverable return to:
 Lilydale & District Historical Society
 P.O. Box 834, Lilydale Vic 3140

Now & Then by email

With the rising costs of paper and postage, the society is inviting members who are happy to receive their newsletter by email to contact Sue Thompson at: suethompson50@ozemail.com.au

and I will email a copy to you.

Back copies are also available electronically.

Lilydale & District
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 website:
www.lilydalehistorical.com.au

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 2020-2021 now due

Membership Subscriptions 2020-2021 were due on the 1st July 2020 (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
Single membership	\$20.00
Pensioners	\$15.00
Students (under 16 years)	\$5.00
Business	\$30.00

Donation enclosed: \$.....

Amount enclosed: \$

SEND TO:
 The Treasurer
 Lilydale & District
 Historical Society
 P.O. Box 834,
 LILYDALE 3140