

Change the only constant

Greek philosopher Heraclitus lived around 500BC but his wonderful saying “The only constant in life is change” is so apt in today’s coronavirus world.

While we are grappling with the virus, life and work goes on and none more so than in Lilydale which is undergoing a transformation on a scale not witnessed before in the town’s history.

The new railway station removing the Main Street level crossing and the development of the Kinley Estate on the former Cave Hill Quarry site are massive projects.

Our society has endeavoured to be a part of both projects. Not to stop them but to ensure they respect our heritage and embrace it in the projects to achieve a continuing link of the past with the present.

I along with a group of residents, have the privilege of serving on the Stakeholder Liaison Group for the Lilydale level crossing removal project.

Through this group’s monthly meetings I have shared our knowledge of the importance

Looking back

Sue Thompson



Lilydale and District Historical Society president

of Lilydale’s history and ensured:

Our heritage listed avenue of trees in Main Street and the Lilydale Railway Station are protected.

The stone used on the station is from our own Coldstream Quarry - honouring the various stone walls and gateways around town.

The bridge across Main Street will be brown to match that of the Warburton Rail Trail Bridge.

Station landscaping and tree planting will reflect the town’s existing treescapes and local indigenous species.



Lilydale’s John Street bridge, previously known as “subway”, April 1973.

Possible inclusion of a clock tower to replicate the Melba Gates and Lilydale Post Office clocks of the past.

Using the red bricks from the John Street underpass as a feature around the station precinct to honour the many brickworks that operated in Lilydale and provided brick for buildings in town and throughout Melbourne.

And retention of the existing railway station and the goods shed.

I’ll finish with a more recent quote. 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.

(Value of History Statement adopted by history groups throughout Australia)
Stay safe and well.