

Lilydale & District Historical Society Annual General Meeting

Saturday, September 4, 2021

President's Report

Overview

Another year has rolled by but against all the odds your society has continued to operate. Despite the repeated lockdowns, our wonderful volunteers have turned adversity into opportunity and continued working from the safety of their own homes.

Our annual financials show our income for the 2020-2021 financial year is \$3,300 less than the 2019-2020 year. From making a profit for the 2019-2020 year of \$751.27, the 2020-2021 year returned a net loss of \$978.05.

While these may not be big numbers, it means members have to work harder doing research, selling images, generating sponsors, seeking donations, leading walks and tours and giving talks to community groups to keep ahead of things. Our membership remains stable at 110 members.

When able, several volunteers spent several days in the Old Lilydale Court House organizing items to be catalogued, scanned, archived or added to the library.

Thankfully, the investment we have made to upgrade the LDHS and Melba website is now starting to pay a return through photo sales and research work. However, we have to keep a close watch on the ongoing costs of the website and so far our income is more than covering those costs.

Social Media

Thanks to the wonderful work of John Brown on the LDHS Facebook page and Instagram we have built up a wonderful following as can be seen in his annual report. More importantly, we have gained new members, research work and photo sales through Facebook.

Philip Burton is looking after our newly established Melba Facebook page which is gradually building its own following and is generating income.

On-Going Costs

Sadly, being in the Old Lilydale Court House means there are costs which we can't control – electricity, gas and water. While the bills are less due to reduced usage, the oncosts remain and have to be paid. Thankfully the Yarra Ranges Council waived the \$200 odd annual lease fee which helped.

Another worrying cost is our internet and phone costs which are continuing to rise. We are presently speaking with other providers to see if we can get a better deal compared to Telstra. It is important we have the phone and internet to ensure the safety of our volunteers should anything go wrong when on duty.

COVID

To be COVID safe, vice-president Brian Duvoisin spent hours working through all the paperwork to develop our own protocols so, no matter what the restrictions we can safely open our doors to the public when allowed to do so.

Finances and Collection

Philip Burton not only holds our purse strings very tightly, he spends hours working on our collection which has been indexed and is digitally available. We can quickly find documents, images and the

small artefacts in our collection and know their exact location. Special thanks must be given to Jacqui Duvoisin and Maree Phelan who continue to catalogue our collection.

Archives

Robin Childs has taken on the onerous job of our archives. Slowly she is bringing order in our 4000 + files and with a couple of other volunteers is now indexing the contents of each file. Already the digital index is paying dividends when access to the Old Lilydale Court House is restricted.

Library

Kristyn Jackson has again done a great job keeping our library books in order on the shelves and accessible to visitors and members. We have 538 items including cds, books and brochures, an increase of 26 items from the previous year. Most items relate only to our collecting area which is Lilydale, Yering, Coldstream, Gruyere, Killara, Seville, Silvan, Montrose, Kilsyth and Chirnside Park.

Images update

Our late President Sandy Ross donated almost 4,000 negatives to the society. Volunteers Sue Thompson, Wayne Gray and Kristyn Jackson have spent the last two or three years quietly scanning the images. We now have scanned more than 2350 of them plus we have digital versions of a further 1400 scans in the society's collection. These are new donations and photographs taken of various events since 2011.

The sale of images in our collection are a valuable income stream and digital images have been sold all over the world.

Court House Management Team

While the numbers may not take too long to compile our Court House Management team of Lorraine Smith and Marg Tull have again done a wonderful job keeping track of the hours volunteers contribute to the society, plus the many outside activities.

People ask me: why do we keep these statistics and publish them in our annual report? We are in a council-owned building and are required to submit our annual report to the facilities management team each year. Like other heritage groups we get on with the job and do the work with only limited council support.

Several years ago, we joined with the Yarra Ranges Heritage Network to fight to secure a part-time heritage officer who is now working on other projects and not available to provide hand-on support to societies who are doing it tough.

We decided we would show council just how much work we do for them. If we didn't do it, they would have to employ staff to do it or information on the people, places and events in this community would go unanswered. When applying for grants in-kind volunteer hours is equated at Yarra Ranges' own community hourly rate of \$41.72 an hour. On this basis, the 1661 (3149.5 hours last year) hours completed by our society has contributed \$69,296.92 to the Yarra Ranges Council.

A Big Thank You

I would personally like to thank Lorraine Smith for the many years of loyal and on-going service to the society. During her time with the society Lorraine has filled most positions on the committee and developed and led countless cemetery tours, organized the volunteer rosters, organized the cataloguing and represented the society on various heritage organisations. Lorraine has decided to step down from the committee this year but will continue to work with Marg Tull managing the court-

house and the rosters. Lorraine's promotion and support of the society has helped ensure our on-going success. Now she will put up her feet and enjoy time with her family.

Sponsorship

Despite the difficult times all our local businesses have continued their sponsorship with the society for which we are extremely grateful. They have all been sponsors for many years and their financial assistance means we can continue our work in preserving and promoting our history.

Finally, nothing would be possible with the support both financially and physically by you, our members. Without your continued membership there would not be the Lilydale & District Historical Society.

Year Ahead

The 2021-2022 year is already shaping up as another where we all have to learn to live with COVID. It is also a watershed time for Lilydale, the civic capital of Yarra Ranges. Your society has been active in promoting recognition and incorporation of heritage elements into the town's major project such as the new Lilydale Railway Station, the development and implementation of the Lilydale structure Plan, the urgent need to protect many of our iconic buildings in Main Street with heritage overlays to stop potential owner/developer demolition or demolition by neglect. Throughout the year we will keep you informed of what is happening via our newsletter and on our new & events page under our Get Involved link our website. The link is:

<https://lilydalehistorical.com.au/news-events-lilydale-district-historical-society-inc/>

Sue Thompson

LDHS Financial Report for year ending 30/6/21

	This Year 30/6/21		Previous Year 30/6/20
Cash at Bank Australia	\$3,779.40		\$2,882.79
Term Deposit Bank Australia	\$5,658.91		\$5,625.73
PayPal	\$217.40		\$0.00
Membership	\$1,572.81		\$1,309.10
Books and merchandise	\$1,177.34		\$770.54
Other income'	\$10,718.14		\$14,646.84
Total income	\$13,468.29		\$16,726.48
Cost of sales	\$336.32		\$396.63
Gross profit	\$13,131.97		\$16,329.85
Expenses	\$14,110.02		\$15,578.38
Net Profit	-\$978.05	Loss	\$751.47
		(includes merchandise)	Profit
Total Equity	\$42,604.19		\$43,582.24

Income Amount

Donations	\$2,021.35	Includes donation from 1st Croydon Scouts of \$337.30 towards replacing Mafeking Tree plaque 36 members made donations ranging from \$5 to \$250
Grants	\$4,970.00	From Commonwealth Gov to replace Computers & printer
Research	\$768.19	2 major research items \$272.73 Kinley & \$250 Yarra Ranges Council \$909.09 Stockdale & Leggo, 2 for \$454.55 from Heritage & Heritage &
Sponsorships	\$1,818.19	Satewide Locksmiths
Photos	\$490.93	9 sales

Expenses Amount

Telephone	\$807.84	telephone/ internet \$72.73 monthly & for last 3 months \$90.91. Major expense and we are exploring cheaper options. Cost is increasing again in Jan 22.
Web	\$3,716.30	\$2,272.73 part repayment to Sue Thompson for Melba website. \$1,443.57 ongoing costs to run both websites
Miscellaneous	\$1,916.06	\$454.55 our & 1st Croydon Scouts contribution to replacement plaque for Mafeking Tree \$850.00 for installation of new computers & printer
Printing & Stationery	\$453.84	Main expense printer cartridge for new printer \$289.00
Insurance	\$543.84	Public Liability, Vol Workers Comp & Building & Contents Insurance
Electricity	\$318.06	Lighting & heating/cooling etc usage 78% service charge 22%
Gas	\$55.78	Hot water usage 13% service charge 87%
Water	\$393.47	Water usage 2% service charge 98%
Asset Disposal	\$5,424.03	Disposal of our old computers & printer

Balance Sheet

As of June 2021

ABN: 48 759 896 459

Assets

Bank of Australia		\$3,779.40
Bank Aust Term Deposit		\$5,658.91
PayPal		\$217.40
Petty Cash		\$121.25
Assets		
Equipment		
Equipment	\$5,940.21	
Acc Deprec Equipment	-\$911.62	
Total Equipment		\$5,028.59
Computers		
Computer Equip	\$4,220.00	
Total Computers		\$4,220.00
Furniture		\$7,974.85
Acc Deprec Furniture		-\$1,577.42
Building		
Shed	\$3,634.57	
Total Assets		\$19,280.59
Melba - Important Dates		\$716.82
As it Happened Vol 1		\$583.30
As it Happened Vol 2		\$889.20
As it Happened Vol 3		\$831.38
As It Happened Vol4		\$842.86
Band Rotunda		\$185.97
History of Trees		\$375.54
Lilydale - 50 Street Names		\$701.34
No Tombstones		\$241.36
Reminiscences of Life Vol 1		\$85.06
Reminiscences of Life Vol 2		\$133.71
Walk Back in Time		\$54.08
Lilydale Cemetery Vol 2		\$166.25
Lilydale Cemetery Vol 3		\$314.55
Lilydale Primary School		\$30.00
Melba 150th Anniversary		\$80.00
All Other Publications		\$7,132.29
Total Assets		\$42,421.26
Liabilities		
GST Liabilities		
GST Collected	\$17,524.75	
GST Paid	-\$17,707.68	
Total GST Liabilities		-\$182.93
Total Liabilities		-\$182.93

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

Balance Sheet

As of June 2021

ABN: 48 759 896 459

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Net Assets	\$42,604.19
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Equity	
Retained Earnings	\$45,973.02
Current Earnings	-\$978.05
Historical Balancing Account	-\$2,390.78
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Total Equity	\$42,604.19
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This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

Profit & Loss [With Last Year]

July 2020 To June 2021

ABN: 48 759 896 459

	This Year	% of Sales	Last Year LY	% of Sales
Income				
Memberships	\$1,572.81	11.7%	\$1,309.10	7.8%
Books & Merchandise				
Melba - A Family Memoir	\$404.55	3.0%	\$54.54	0.3%
Melba - Important Dates	\$49.99	0.4%	\$1.82	0.0%
As it Happened Vol 1	\$0.00	0.0%	\$22.73	0.1%
As it Happened Vol 2	\$0.00	0.0%	\$25.45	0.2%
As it Happened Vol 3	\$27.27	0.2%	\$18.19	0.1%
As It Happened Vol4	\$63.64	0.5%	-\$2.83	0.0%
Band Rotunda	\$3.18	0.0%	\$0.00	0.0%
No Tombstones	\$0.00	0.0%	\$1.82	0.0%
Reminiscences of Life	\$25.16	0.2%	\$9.09	0.1%
Reminiscences of Life Vol2	\$10.91	0.1%	\$9.09	0.1%
Walk Back In Time	\$4.55	0.0%	\$13.64	0.1%
Lilydale Cemetery Vol 2	\$0.00	0.0%	\$2.73	0.0%
Lilydale Cemetery Vol 3	\$0.00	0.0%	\$2.73	0.0%
Lilydale Primary School	\$0.00	0.0%	\$22.72	0.1%
All Other Publications	\$588.09	4.4%	\$588.82	3.5%
Total Books & Merchandise	\$1,177.34	8.7%	\$770.54	4.6%
Other Income				
Interest Received	\$33.18	0.2%	\$96.52	0.6%
Christmas Party	\$0.00	0.0%	\$206.36	1.2%
Donations	\$2,021.35	15.0%	\$2,266.10	13.5%
Fund Raising	\$88.20	0.7%	\$0.00	0.0%
Grants	\$4,970.00	36.9%	\$6,989.00	41.8%
Postage & Sundries	\$122.65	0.9%	\$20.59	0.1%
Raffles	\$0.00	0.0%	\$31.87	0.2%
Reseach	\$768.19	5.7%	\$1,855.44	11.1%
Tours & Talks	\$405.45	3.0%	\$195.46	1.2%
Sponsorship	\$1,818.19	13.5%	\$1,709.11	10.2%
Photocopying	\$0.00	0.0%	\$86.38	0.5%
Photos	\$490.93	3.6%	\$1,190.01	7.1%
Total Other Income	\$10,718.14	79.6%	\$14,646.84	87.6%
Total Income	\$13,468.29	100.0%	\$16,726.48	100.0%
Cost Of Sales				
Books & Merchandise				
Melba - Important Dates	\$18.90	0.1%	\$0.90	0.0%
As it Happened Vol 1	\$0.00	0.0%	\$20.90	0.1%
As it Happened Vol 2	\$0.00	0.0%	\$20.90	0.1%
As it Happened Vol 3	\$18.49	0.1%	\$18.49	0.1%
As It Happened Vol4	\$56.22	0.4%	\$0.00	0.0%
Band Rotunda	\$0.91	0.0%	\$0.00	0.0%
No Tombstones	\$0.00	0.0%	\$0.90	0.0%

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

Profit & Loss [With Last Year]

July 2020 To June 2021

ABN: 48 759 896 459

	This Year	% of Sales	Last Year LY	% of Sales
Reminiscence of Life	\$0.00	0.0%	\$13.18	0.1%
Reminiscences of Life Vol 2	\$13.18	0.1%	\$5.70	0.0%
Walk Back in Time	\$1.00	0.0%	\$3.00	0.0%
Lilydale Cemetery Vol 2	\$0.00	0.0%	\$3.60	0.0%
Lilydale Cemetery Vol 3	\$0.00	0.0%	\$2.00	0.0%
All Other Publications	\$227.62	1.7%	\$307.06	1.8%
Total Books & Merchandise	\$336.32	2.5%	\$396.63	2.4%
Total Cost Of Sales	\$336.32	2.5%	\$396.63	2.4%
Gross Profit	\$13,131.97	97.5%	\$16,329.85	97.6%
Administration Expenses				
Bank Charges	\$45.00	0.3%	\$35.00	0.2%
PayPal charges	\$6.93	0.1%	\$0.00	0.0%
Tea & Coffee etc	\$16.37	0.1%	\$55.32	0.3%
Postage	\$273.55	2.0%	\$223.96	1.3%
Telephone/Internet Charges	\$807.84	6.0%	\$861.07	5.1%
Web Expenses	\$3,716.30	27.6%	\$3,356.74	20.1%
Computer Software	\$58.38	0.4%	\$0.00	0.0%
TROVE	\$0.00	0.0%	\$7,735.00	46.2%
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$1,961.06	14.6%	\$243.01	1.5%
Printing & Stationery	\$453.49	3.4%	\$713.25	4.3%
Displays	\$0.00	0.0%	\$365.40	2.2%
Archival Stationery	\$96.40	0.7%	\$84.40	0.5%
Memberships	\$0.00	0.0%	\$252.27	1.5%
Insurance	\$543.84	4.0%	\$0.00	0.0%
Court House Rent	-\$164.64	(1.2)%	\$276.26	1.7%
Court House Cleaning	\$103.26	0.8%	\$9.46	0.1%
Court House sundries	\$0.00	0.0%	\$17.41	0.1%
Court House Electricity	\$318.06	2.4%	\$708.31	4.2%
Court House Gas	\$55.78	0.4%	\$120.29	0.7%
Court House Water	\$393.47	2.9%	\$521.23	3.1%
Assett Disposal	\$5,424.93	40.3%	\$0.00	0.0%
Total Administration Expenses	\$14,110.02	104.8%	\$15,578.38	93.1%
Net Profit/(Loss)	-\$978.05	(7.3)%	\$751.47	4.5%

This report includes Year-End Adjustments.

LDHS Annual Court House Report for 1st July 2020 - 30th June 2021.

The Court House was closed from the July 1, 2020 till the end of January 2021, due to lockdowns and restrictions imposed during those Lockdowns. These made it impossible for the Court House to operate at all.

The first General Meeting for the year was held on the first Saturday in February 2021. LDHS negotiated with U3A, for our days of operation to follow one another, the days are now, Friday afternoon, Saturday, Sunday, Monday. The first Committee Meeting was on Monday 1st March, it was decided by the Committee to change the meeting to the fourth Friday of the month at 2pm at the Court House and via Zoom, also that Sunday is the only day visitors can come to the Court House and are required to book. Members need to book to come to General Meetings.

The 5 months the Court House was permitted to open, required a Covid plan of cleaning, restrictions of numbers inside the Court House, to enable social distancing.

The total number of hours for the 5 months the Court House was open and temporarily closed in the year 2020 - 2021 were 1661 hours, of these 921.5 hours, were done at the Court House the remaining 739.5 hours were carried out by members working from home.

The number of duties at the Court House totalled 248 and were done by 15 volunteers over that part of the year. During the time we were open to the public, there were only 18 Visitors to the Court House. LDHS was only open to the public one day per week, and visitors were required to book in advance.

There were only 5 General Meetings and attendance was limited because of restricted numbers inside the Court House and the need to book that you intended to attend.

Following are the areas our volunteers worked on while doing their duty at the Court House and working outside. These areas make up the Statistics for the totals for the year:

Committee, General Monthly meetings; Administration, Newsletter, Computer Backup; Research, Inquires, Projects; Indexing Files; Filing & Sorting; Cataloguing; Collection; Papers, Library Indexing; Scanning Photos; Multi Media posts; Radio; Cleaning & Maintenance.

Because of Coronavirus Lockdowns there were no Heritage Network meetings held at the Court House nor were our traditional Christmas Lunch and Volunteers Lunch in January held.

A very big Thank You to all our Volunteers for their valuable contribution, their reliability and dedication, rising to the challenges of the restrictions and Lockdowns that were faced during the year.

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

For the year there were 4 talks, and 1 Walk, and 4 Cemetery Tours, these were all done during the 5 months that we weren't in Lockdown.

There were no guest Speakers at General Meetings as we were only allowed limited numbers at the Court House. The Court House wasn't used as a meeting venue during the year.

Other Events

February: The Melba Website was launched on the 90th Anniversary of Dame Nellie Melba's passing. The radio interview that Sue Thompson did with 2GB in Sydney on Melba was added to the website.

The Society made a grant application to Tony Smith's Strong Communities Program to replace the ageing Computers and accessories. This was approved within the next few months, and these were installed by the end of the financial year.

The 1st Croydon Hills Scout Group raised money on a walk from Lilydale Lake to Melba Park, for a plaque stolen from the Mafeking Tree. Sue Thompson talked to the group about the Boar War and Baden Powell's involvement. A new Plaque was unveiled in early May with the Scout Group attending, the Society donated some money and the Yarra Ranges Council paid the balance.

April There were 2 Melba talks by Sue Thompson, one at Balwyn with 12 attendees, the other at Oakleigh with 35 people.

May A new licence agreement was discussed with U3A and Yarra Ranges Council. Sue Thompson talked at Mooroolbark Library to 10 people (maximum number allowed). Sue and Philip also did 4 Cemetery Tours, the first for the Lilydale Library for 24 people. Then 3 in one day for Rotary's 100th Anniversary with a total of 40 people attending.

June Victoria was again in lockdown at the beginning of the month a talk was re-scheduled and another walk and talk were cancelled. The General Meeting for June was via Zoom.

The members of the LDHS rose to the challenges of the restrictions and lockdowns that were faced during the year due to the Pandemic.

Lorraine Smith and Marg Tull.

Multi Media Report July 2020 to June 2021.

Summary

During the past 12 months we have put up 69 posts onto our Facebook page and 36 posts on Instagram.

Total followers as of 1 July 2020 were 1,360 on Facebook.

Total followers as of 1 June 2021 were 1,750 on Facebook.

Total followers as of 1 July 2020 were 440 on Instagram.

Total followers as of 1 June 2021 were 611 on Instagram.

Most Popular Posts of the Year

Lilydale & District Historical Society Facebook

July 18 2020, Happy Birthday Lilydale Lake 30 yrs old

Likes 91. Reach 791. Comments 14. Shares 13.

Instagram July 16, This is one of the many things we have in our collection Mr W G Errey. Likes 29.

August 5 2020, Looking West from William Street East under the John Street Railway bridge.

Likes 143. Reach 3,444. Comments 27. Shares 23 **Instagram** Likes 57. Comments 8.

September 3 2020, LDHS disheartened at the disappearance of Commemorative Brass plaque.

Mafeking tree Melba Park. Likes 237. Reach 79,832. Comments 73. Shares 351.

Instagram September 17 2020, Historical Societies are treasure troves Access the link on our Facebook page read about the Bypass. Likes 52.

October 28 2020, A pet kangaroo at Cave Hill greets Madame Melba home and follow Nellie Melba Museum. Likes 79. Reach 4,332. Comments 7. Shares 18. **Instagram** Likes 52.

November 11 2020, They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old. Likes 78. Reach 621.

Comments 2. Shares 5. **Instagram** Likes 46.

December 22 2020, Merry Christmas with New Year Wishes. Likes 70. Reach 744. Comments 4. Shares 8. **Instagram** Likes 52.

January 29 2021, Reopening of Old Lilydale Court House and first General Meeting.

Likes 46. Reach 1,203. Comments 3. Shares 5. **Instagram** Likes 39.

February 26 2021, Dame Nellies Funeral. Likes 83. Reach 4,259. Comments 2. Shares 28.

Instagram February 17 2021, The Colonial Bank Lilydale. Likes 43.

March 17 2021, Happy St Patrick's Day, on this day 150 yrs ago St Patrick's Church Consecration Day. Likes 100. Reach 2,135. Comments 10. Shares 19. **Instagram** Likes 51.

April 12 2021, Following the death of Prince Philip Friday, 54 yrs ago from the archives. Likes 122. Reach 9,985. Comments 28. Shares 58. **Instagram** Likes 62.

May 5 2021, October 1969, coloured slide of Lower Main Street, Lilydale. Likes 102. Reach 2,454. Comments 42. Shares 7. **Instagram** May 26 2021, The old Lilydale Fire Station damaged by fire.

Likes 52. Comments 15.

June 23 2021, Does anyone have any light to shed upon " The Mystery of the Chimney Bell ".

Likes 48. Reach 2,912. Comments 24. Shares 8. **Instagram** June 8 2021, Lilydale Fire Station, due to the enormous response from our local community, read about the buildings history. Likes 40.

Nellie Melba Museum Facebook

From October 2020 to June 2021 there were 16 posts.

Total followers as of 19 October 2020 to 1 June 2021 are 51 followers.

Most popular post of the year. November 8 2020, Madame Melba and her party outside St Huberts. 1902. Likes 11. Reach 1,995. Shares 12.

Library Report 1/7/2020 to 30/6/2021

By Kristyn Jackson

It's been another slow year for our society with limited access to our home in the Court House. The library had an additional 26 items added during this period, two of those being c.d.'s.

The most prominent additions were "Melba A Family Memoir" by Pamela Vestey, a beautifully presented book written by Nellie Melba's granddaughter with lots of photographs of Melba and her family. We also have a very impressive book celebrating Lilydale High School's Centenary called Look to the Light, The Life of Lilydale Higher Elementary/High School by Lynda Carroll. At the rear of the book is listed past students and teachers and their achievements after leaving high school in the Gallery of Achievement. Well worth a browse.

From community groups we included the Lilydale High School Handbook 1980, Lilydale High School "Salamander" 1978 and Lilydale Football Club Annual Reports for the years 1991 and 1996. We now have quite a few of the annual school reports from Lilydale High School with the very impressive Olympic medallist Harry Garside as being a past student. It was a very proud moment for Harry, his family and the local community when he won a bronze medal in Tokyo Olympics. Harry is also named in the Gallery of Achievement mentioned in the book mentioned above, Look to the Light.

We are in the process of having new shelving built for our library, very exciting news as the current shelving has become difficult to manage. We have a total of 538 items in our library comprising, c.d.'s, books and brochures, some publications being out of print and not easily available elsewhere. Our library would easily be the largest local history collection in the Lilydale district covering the suburbs of Lilydale, Chirside Park, Coldstream, Yering, Gruyere, Killara, Seville, Silvan, Montrose and Kilsyth.

We have a Master Index which can be used to narrow down your search for family history, historical events, community groups or special interests. Our volunteers are able to help with your access to this index and guide you through the library process. Many publications have been indexed including the Lilydale R.S.L. Minute books and local community groups and news clippings for instance the Val Sheehan's History of Yering Mothers Club, ordinary people leading ordinary lives but remembered through our library.

I hope our next year is more fruitful than the past and look forward to the installation of our new shelving and organizing the rehousing of our collection.

Queries for July 2020

15 July 2020 - Andrew Ryan

Working on a Research Project on Spicer Sportswear Company, interested in finding more information on their Lilydale Shoe factory. Sue replied that we research and images and sent brochure on our costs.

16 July 2020 - Raphael Cottle

Wanted to know why her Street name of Erdogan Place Lilydale was so named. Sue said as it was a very new street she did not know and would have named by the developers suggested she contact the YR Council and also Victorian Place Names Committee.

22 July 2020 - Rob Frame

Looking for information of the Pazzi Family. Sue replied that Charles Pazzi information was on our Website project 'they Answered the Call', asked what other information he wanted, such as names, place's, dates, etc and sent brochure.

29 July 2020 - Lyn O'Donnell & Robert Elston (Yarra Ranges Council)

Wanted information on the history of gateway reserve. Sue replied was part of Cooring Yering and what information exactly were they requiring.

Queries for August 2020

22 Aug 2020 - Rob Boot

He has a painting by a Jan Hendrik Scheltema (The Hague 1861 - Brisbane 1941) who lived most of his life in the east of Melbourne, where he painted many scenes, Wanted our opinion where a particular scene was painted. Sue could not help.

27 Aug 2020 - Bronwyn Morton

Sent some Photos supposedly of Lilydale Buildings, and of ABBEY and WILSON families. Sue knew photos Lilydale were not here and most likely from Tasmania, she contacted Rosemary Abbey for her input, confirmed that Tasmania was photo location, and also confirmed that the family photos were connected to her family, She will follow up Sue will send photos to Lilydale Hist, Soc. in Tasmania

NO September 2020 Queries

Queries for October 2020

19 Oct 2020 - Kerry Stanton

She is the current owner of "The Oaks", looking for any original photos of the property.

Sue replied that we only have an 1888 pen & ink Sketch.

29 Oct 2020 - Matthew Tsikrikas (Reserve Bank of Australia)

During /October Sue was involved in research and finding suitable images for the new \$100 Banknote.

29 Oct 2020 - Madalyn Parlet (President, Rotary Club of Lilydale)

Sue was approached by Madalyn to help with the club 100th years celebration in May 2021, want us to do a Cemetery Walk & Talk around their Founding Members buried in the cemetery. Sue given a list of Rotarians names buried in the Lilydale Cemetery for us to research and discover some stories about them.

Queries for Nov 2020

9 November 2020 – Carla Rademaker

Purchased a home in Monbulk from the 1960's by architect Robin Boyd was owned and built by Rene William Turner who also commissioned Boyd to build the 'Turner factory' in Lilydale. Information on Factory required and how to find the house plans? Sue replied with location information of Turner Factory and suggested she search the State Library catalogue for interior photos of the Lilydale factory.

30 Nov 2020 – Charles Bartlett - Local History Librarian, Rowville Library

Researching crash of a Corby Starlet light aircraft at Lilydale Airport in 1991. Plane crashed on maiden flight on 26 November 1991 after its engine failed. Sue sent our charges for newspaper article research and suggested they contact the Lilydale Airport and Civil Aviation Safety Authority,

Queries for Dec 2020

1 Dec 2020 - Lynelle Cogan

Queried if she could still buy books from us during COVID, was also after a photograph from a copy of a Lilydale Express that may have been in the 1980's about the 1920's Lilydale beer Strike. Sue informed her that she could purchase books online and we had the image in the newspaper and also another one.

14 December 2020 – Lucy Davies YR Museum

Museum planning "Amazing Race Lilydale" as a school holiday activity. Want information on plaques, displays etc around Lilydale where Trivia Questions would need to be answered.

21 Dec 2020 - Sarah Bethune (Cire Community Hub Chirnside Park)

She is running a Stroke Survivors community group and is looking for a speaker to come and give them talks on the History of Lilydale and the Yarra valley on Wednesdays if possible. Sue sent a list of talks we can do and our prices.

Queries for Jan 2021

2 Jan 2021 - Nathan Eva

Wanted to donate flags that were his grandmother's from Melba's final concert in Melbourne, Referred to the Museum as we do not have fabric conservation resources.

18 Jan 2021 – Susie Hodge

Is looking for information on James Sharkie who was a policeman in Lilydale and chased Ned Kelly. We had no information. Sue suggested she search for him on Trove Newspapers and to also contact the Police Museum in Victoria.

24 Jan 2020 - Yvette Wright

Her mother lives at No. 39 The Eerie, Lilydale and she wanted any history on the property we may have. Asked for more information on what she actually wanted to know about and sent our Brochure.

Queries for Feb 2021

1 Feb 2021 – Dan Fitzgerald

Researching Davies Brothers, has information on the eldest brother, Isaac David Davies, initially served as 522 Private in the 4th Contingent, Australian Commonwealth Horse in 1902 and awarded Queen's South Africa Medal. Looking for photo of him, We have some information on the family but did not know of his Boer War contribution. Did not have a photo of him, but we had one of Fred his brother.

4 Feb 2021 - Jane Smith

Writing a children's book that features Nellie Melba, Superstar. Is third book in a series aimed at ages 3-7. Wanted to know if we would be interested in selling her book. Sue will read the book and & contact publishers, will discuss with committee for Approval

Jan - Feb 2021 - Nicholas Aboukhater

Contacted Sue by phone. Nicholas was after information on the old Lismoyne house at Coldstream, also wanted information on the families of McHenry and Desborough. sent us further information of Lismoyne.

4 Feb 2021 - Martin Johnson

Martin is doing some family history research on residents of Myrtle Grove, Tecoma around 1930? There are two options for names, Johnson and Grimbley, wondered if there were records going back that far, of that street? As this query is out of our area Sue passed the query on to the Heritage Network to sort out which Historical Group covers Tecoma.

8 Feb 2021 - Deborah Purvis

Deborah has an old photo that has been in her family for many years of a theatre group, she submitted this photo to some experts who think a lady in the back row is Dame Nellie Melba, she is asking if there is any possibility that it is Melba. Sue replied that none of the woman in the photo was Melba, Referred her to Melba Website.

Feb 2021 - Jenny Fisher

Jenny lives in the UK and is researching her Great Uncle Ellwood Arthur Read and his twin brother, Arthur Turner Read? from Suffolk,UK,.Ellwood lived in Lilydale & has photos of a visit to Lilydale when their sister Frances visited in the 1920's. Wanted family information. Sue asked for more details & dates, also Surname confirmation on Arthur. Sent our brochure.

12 Feb 2021 - Brad Hardingham

Brad wanted old photographs of the the old house at 131 Mangans Road Lilydale, previously been 534 Maroondah Hwy. Sue replied that this was the Coldstream Hill property, and informed him that we did have images, and attached a copy of our brochure with our charges

23 Feb 2021 - Barry Morkel

Sue received a text message from Barry regarding a Bessie Gaunson who may have been a pianist for Melba, Sue looked up the Yarra Ranges Museum website as they have many of her programs in their collection, and found Bessie as principal violinist performing in Melbourne with Melba in 1921. Sue suggested he should search their site further for more details.

Queries for March 2021

10 March 2021 - Carolyn Brown

Researcher from TV series "Who Do You Think You Are?" and was after our help regarding a Wilhelmina Eastwick (nee Basmann) who performed as a pianist, in NSW from 1854 - 1900s, Do we

know if she played with Nellie Melba? Melba did visit NSW around 1885, 1886 but Sue could not help, she sent her a link to our Melba Website.

11 March 2021 - Allan McClean

Received images of an old painting that may be of Melba's Drawing Room. He wanted confirmation that it was. Sue replied could not help him. Suggested he contact Coombe Cottage to see if they could identify it as Melba's Drawing Room.

19 March 2021 – Sue received 3 Telephone Query Calls

1. Tony Gardiner wanting to know if Melba stayed at Myoora in Toorak Sue said yes she leased the home in Toorak and held a garden party there.
2. Nick Aboukhatar rang to see if we were open on Saturday, he is Researching former McHenry home of Coldstream Hill.
3. Anne Marie looking for info about Felix Devine the Brushy creek toll gate operator and blacksmith in the late 1860s

22 March 2021 - Michelle Matthews

Did not have original Query information for this one. But Sue sent Michelle information and an image of Paul De Castella, also information on Street names.

30 March 2021 - Philip Rogers

Philip was looking for information on a John Williams born 1819 in UK and married 1897 in Lilydale to Eliza Goodyer, he has a photo of Eliza but not John, looking for his photo. Sue suggested he contacted Myrna McBain as she was working on the family tree., we only have one of Eliza.

Queries for April 2021

6 Apr 2021 - Pam and Ron Lewis

Researching "Alta Dena" - 1 Montrose Road, Montrose formerly 891-893 Mt Dandenong Road Montrose (Cnr. Mt Dandenong and Montrose Roads) looking for information of the house, was supposedly built by F.A Beckett in the 1920's. Sue to contact Jeanette Dodson regarding information on the house.

14 April 2021 – Johanna Nicholls (NSW)

Writing an Australian historical novel set in Victoria 1910-1928. Wants to create a feasible meeting between the central female character and Nellie Melba that might have occurred in Lilydale or Melbourne in the late 1920s. Wanted to discuss storyline with Sue for Historical accuracy.

14 April 2021 - Lesia Natsis (Adult Speech Pathologist at Inspiro))

Lesia was wondering whether we run activity groups for adults. She was looking for a discussion based group for a lady she works with who has had a stroke and has visual difficulties. Referred on to U3A

20 April 2021- Catherine McPherson

University student doing assignment on Lilydale Memorial Park. She is trying find key dates for the opening and operation of it. Wanted any information on the Memorial Park and its operating dates. Sue replied that we do have an extensive file in our Archives.

26 April 2021 - Dan

Grandmother grew up in Lilydale in the little cottage at the rear of the Heatherlie property. Her parents worked for Nancy Heath, her father being the gardener and her mother the cook. Has a blazer that belonged to his grandmother and she attended the Catholic school. He wanted to donate this to us. Referred to Yarra Ranges Museum.

Queries for May 2021

2 May 2021 - Graham King

Graham has come into possession of War Medals earned by Stanley Goode. He wishes to give them to a member of his surviving family if possible. He believes Gwenda Mutimer may be a relative. Sue will look for family members in our files and contact Diane Mutimer.

6 May 2021 – Anna Pasetti

Anna purchased a Photo from us and was now requesting permission to reproduce the a picture off Melba and Ada Sassoli in a new book on the history of the harp. Sue replied OK & asked her to let us know when her publication is released and she would be happy to include it on our website with a link to support her.

7 May 2021 - Rachel Williams

Looking for information about Independent wholesale store in a old stable but was looking for Lilydale in Tasmania.

10 May 2021 - Jim Child

Looking for Death Certificates of CHILD family, Lilydale Cemetery records has them as CHILDS. Sue replied that she will put it to our committee to look at a pioneer's tour – perhaps as part of the 50th next year.

17 May 2021 - Michael Marysej

Purchased a ships wheel with brass inlays that is claimed to have been from a boat or Yacht belonging to Dame Nellie Melba. Wanted to know if we had any records of her owning a sail boat or yacht? Sue found in our files that David Michell owned a yacht called Melba and so did someone else but this could not be used as provenance for the wheel because she could not give him any proof linking his wheel with David Mitchell's yacht. Sue asked for payment of \$25.00 for research costs.

20 May 2021 - Colin Thiele

Colin is writing a memoir about his parents who were the first caretakers of the Seville Swimming Pool. He is currently seeking copies of photos of Seville at that time. We had a couple of photos in our collection.

23 May 2021 - Rod Tuson

Rod is writing a biography of his great aunt Ada Whiting started by his mother when in her 80's. Ada was a Painter of miniature portraits and painted some of Melba and her family. He is looking to track down all the miniatures for inclusion in a whole chapter on the Melba relationship. So far he has found about 100 families and vice-regal personages. Referred to Coombe Cottage, added that It would be good to have information on Ada which we can add to our archive and perhaps she could put up on the Melba web-page under Melba's friends an appeal for miniatures etc

23 May 2021 - John Baldwin

Querying if an old 1920's photograph he has of his Nanna with another woman who was could be Nellie Melba? Sue replied that neither of the people in the photo were Melba. who in 1920 was 59 years old.

24 May 2021 - Betty Woolley

Betty is the past Secretary of the Kilsyth/Montrose Branch of the CWA. Branch closed at the end of 2019, has a Craft Exhibition trophy which the Branch achieved, & some relevant historical record items, and would like to donate them to the Society. Sue replied that our collection is paper based and referred them to the Museum.

26 May 2021 - Karen

Sue carried out Research on Richard and Myra Stevens for Karen \$50.00.

Queries for June 2021**9 June 2021 – Johanna Nicholls (NSW)**

Continuing query from Johanna following her initial inquiry from 14 April 2021. In her book she wanted to create a feasible meeting between her central female character and Nellie Melba. She wanted to know at what time the Melba Highway was given its name, she importantly wanted to know if it was given that name by 1828 or soon after. Sue replied that the Highway was then known as the Yarra Glen Road and that Melba Highway was named fairly recently.

25 June 2021 - Kerri March

Her Great and Great Great Grandfathers lived in Lilydale both by the name of William Newman or Billy Newman - one was a Cobb & Co Driver the other worked for the Lilydale Express. Is looking for any history on them. Sue found that the Father was known as William Burnell Newman & the son William Thomas Newman, also lived in Healesville. Turned out to be interesting characters with many mentions in the Lilydale and Healesville Newspapers.

20 June 2021 - Jessica Hogg

Jessica visited the Courthouse on Sunday to research her Hogg Family History. Following up on her visit she emailed us to thank Maree for her help and also Lorraine and Sue for giving her their valuable time on the phone.

24 June 2021 - Raymond Hyland

Researching the Veness family who lived at "Hazelbrook" adjacent to the railway station at Seville from early 1890s until 1910 . Looking for a photo of Hazelbrook or the orchards.

Also interested in a town plan which pinpoints the house and farm/orchard. Sue spent 3.5 hours on the project ie \$87.50.

Archives Report

For just over 50 years the society has been collecting files on people, places, events and businesses of the area. We now have almost 4000 files which have all been numbered and indexed so they can be readily found by society members and researchers.

We have a team of volunteers who have spent the past two years sorting through each file to eliminate duplicates and adding new information. The contents of these files are now being progressively indexed that information can now be readily accessible database.

While work at the Old Lilydale Court House was extremely limited during the long COVID lockdown, some members continued their work from home. This has given them a focus while staying at home and has also been of great benefit to the society.

To date about 540 files have been indexed and have already proved a valuable resource during the lockdown when working at home on research requests from the community.

Our archives are not just about the past but about the present and, thanks to Jeanette and Ray Dodson and Brian Duvoisin, each week the local newspapers are being read and relevant information added to our files. Other items are also being added.

Working on our archive files has given me - a Lilydale born and bred resident - wonderful insight into Lilydale life and has helped me re-live many things in my life I had forgotten about.

Robin Childs.

LDHS AGM September 4, 2021

Election of Office Bearers for the 2021 - 2022 year and society appointments

The following people were nominated and seconded:

President: Sue Thompson. Moved by Philip Burton and Seconded by Kristyn Jackson.

Vice President: Brian Duvoisin. Moved by Sue Thompson and Seconded by Philip Burton.

Secretary: Joy Gothe. Moved by Philip Burton and Seconded by Sue Thompson.

Treasurer: Philip Burton. Moved by Sue Thompson and Seconded by Joy Gothe.

Committee:

Robin Childs: Moved by Kristyn Jackson seconded by Joy Gothe

Margaret Tull: Moved by Sue Thompson Seconded by Philip Burton

Kristyn Jackson: Moved by Joy Gothe Seconded by Philip Burton

Other appointments:

Courthouse Manager: – Lorraine Smith. Moved: Kristyn Jackson Seconded: Robin Childs

Deputy Courthouse Manager: – Margaret Tull. Moved: Kristyne Jackson Seconded: Gwen Corbett.

Society Subcommittee – Acquisitions Committee

Philip Burton, John Brown, Sue Thompson. Moved: Kristyn Jackson Seconded: Robin Childs.

Yarra Ranges Heritage Network

Sue Thompson and Philip Burton. Moved: John Brown Seconded Rosemary Maimonis.