



Newsletter 11, November 2008

Mount Evelyn History Group Inc.

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Dates for your diary

Our **November meeting** will be on **Tuesday 25th November, 7.30 pm** at Morrison House. This will be our final meeting for 2008. Rather than a Christmas break-up, we plan to hold a special event early next year.

History Group members are invited to the long-awaited launch of the **Timeline Fence on Friday 5th December, 11am** at Bowen's fence (opposite old station platform at Wray Cres), and afterwards at the Community Room for coffee, tea and scones. RSVP Morrison House by 1/12/08, tel. 9736 1457.

1939 Black Friday Bushfires commemoration, 10th January 2009, 7.30 pm, at St Mary's Hall, Warburton. See flyer on p.3.

Editorial

The local government election looms. We'll be stuck with the newly-elected councillor till November 2012 – scary thought. Does History offer any insight into the choice?

For starters, let's hope the next Billanook councillor will support and not obstruct local projects involving the History Group. Politicians who exploit and aggravate divisions in the community are judged harshly in the long run. But it goes deeper than that.

One of the fundamental values of History is a commitment to truth. The campaign for Billanook has been marred by deception. On the bright side, the large field of candidates has inspired a local muso to re-write the ABBA hit 'Dummy, dummy, dummy...'

Candidates: no matter how good your policies, you've gone to the bottom of the preference list if you've been telling porkies. Come 28th November, you'll be History.

Karen Phillips



Air League members stand guard at the Kyeema memorial cairn



Parade and pipe band at the commemoration ceremony

Kyeema commemoration

Several History Group members attended the 70th Anniversary commemoration of the Kyeema aircraft crash on October 25th. Those who couldn't leave the Scarecrow festival to attend were able to watch the DC3s circling over Mt Dandenong.

All 18 people on board were killed when the Kyeema went down in 1938. The crash prompted the modernisation of air safety procedures in Australia.

Many thanks to Glen Golds for the photos.

Family history on TV

Paula is going to be part of an episode of the 'Who Do You Think You Are?' TV series, filmed in Echuca. The episode is scheduled for release in about 18 months.

Contact from Queensland

Judy Glen, from Longreach, ordered a copy of *Tracks to Trails*. Her late husband's grandparents used to own Dalmeny (previously Cirdec, the Hordern house in Johns Crescent). Judy may be able to give us more information about the family's time in Mt Evelyn.

Birmingham Primary talk

Paula gave a successful talk to the Birmingham PS Second Graders on 29th October about the history of the station, flying fox, yabby pond and zig zag. The students received replica tickets for the Last Train to Warburton. They also walked the Township Trail and visited the RSL and CFA. Paula was impressed by their good manners and by their decision to donate their Scarecrow Competition prize money to charity.



Birmingham PS students add colour to the Warburton Trail

Also present, with Mum and big sister, was three-month-old Angelica Holmes. Her mother, Marie Muys, is the niece of John Muys, who chaired the first Aqueduct meeting (see *Tracks to Trails* p.205). Marie is a descendant of John Vlaming, the McKillop Postmaster who moved the PO/Store across Monbulk Road to its present position.



Starting young on history: Angelica clutches a ticket for the Last Train to Warburton

History and heritage downplayed*

The Yarra Ranges Heritage Network has written to the Shire protesting at the apparent lack of understanding of history revealed in the Arts, Culture & Heritage Plan.

The document seems to equate 'History' with 'Heritage', which in turn is treated as an aspect of 'Tourism'. The role of the Shire's many historical societies and other heritage-related groups as custodians of valuable collections and knowledge is not recognised. There is no provision for the support, training and mentoring of these groups by the Shire, as was previously the case.

The Museum redevelopment, while it has many positive aspects, will apparently not maintain the former close ties

with local history groups and will no longer house the Lilydale & District Historical Society. The Heritage Network has requested input into any further development of the Arts, Culture & Heritage Plan.

Museum update

The Yarra Ranges Regional Museum redevelopment went out to tender in October. Work is expected to start in February 2009. Maggie and the team have relocated to the Courthouse. The collections will be moved by the end of January 2009; children's collections will be on display until then.

The Museum is discounting a range of books, which will be discontinued from stock. Contact the Museum for details.

Melba donations

A Melba tie-pin has been donated to the Museum. A mounted gold \$100 note featuring Melba has been donated to the Lilydale & District Historical Society.

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the writer(s), not necessarily those of Mt Evelyn History Group Inc.

* This and following sections adapted from Yarra Ranges Heritage Network minutes, October 2008. Information from Paula Herlihy, Maggie Solly, Ruby Kwijas and Ellena Biggs.

WARBURTON

and
the Upper Yarra Valley



THE 1939 BUSH FIRES

*You are invited to the commemoration of the '39 Black Friday fires on
Saturday Jan 10th 2009, at St Mary's Hall, 7.30 pm,
3360 Warburton Hwy, Warburton. Join us for a night of film, history,
reflection & song, supper provided.*

**Events at St Mary's Church: Sunday Jan 11th, A Service of
Commemoration at 10.30am, stay for morning tea.**

**Tuesday Jan 13th, A Service of
Remembrance & Reflection at 8pm, followed by supper.**

Daily displays from 10th January to 18th January 10am-4pm.

Everyone is welcome, share this information with family & friends

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REMEMBERS