



# Things Past

Newsletter 107

November 2017

PO Box 289 Mt Evelyn Vic 3796

Incorporation Number: A0051327F

## Dates For Your Diary

Remembrance Day Service, Saturday 11 November, 10.50am Mt Evelyn War Memorial Gardens, corner Wray Cr & Birmingham Rd, followed by morning tea at the RSL club rooms and unveiling of another Vietnam Veteran's name, Charles Stewart, on the Mt Evelyn Honour Board (see p.3).

Chelodina Festival, Japara Living and Learning Centre Kilsyth, Sunday 12 November:

- talk by Shirley Jones on Kilsyth artist James Alfred Turner, 11am
- talk by the authors of *Aborigines in the Yarra Valley & Northern Dandenongs*, 1pm.

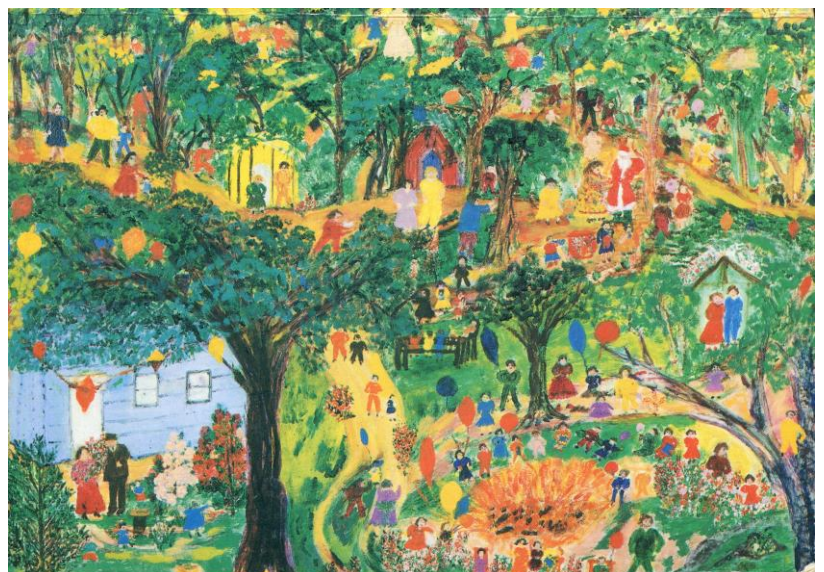
Brief business meeting/breakup, 2:30pm (note later time), Saturday 18 November, Paperbark Café, Kurunga Nursery, York Road.

*Meetings are 3rd Mondays of even months, 7:30 pm at Hardy House for General Business Meetings, and 3rd Saturdays at 1:30 pm on odd months (except January) for speaker/activity. Dates are subject to speaker availability and other factors.*

## In This Issue...

New Year's Eve At Billygoat Hill	1
Writing Competition Winners	2
Signage For Historic Sites	2
Another Mt Evelyn Vietnam Vet	3
Swap Cards - Seasonally Trending	4
Dorothy & John Fyander	5
Alternative History	8
You Know You're Part Of History	8
Heidelberg Artists Tour	9
Ridgewalk	10
Mooroolbark Talk	10
Vale Barry Callanan	11
From Kev's Rain Gauge	12

## New Year's Eve At Billygoat Hill



Above, 'Christmas at Billygoat Hill' by Nan Yaxley, 1985.

Continued p.2.

## New Year's Eve At Billygoat Hill

(from p.1)

Mt Evelyn residents and visitors brought in the New Year in festive style, even during World War II. The following account of the 1940 New Year's Eve celebrations at Billygoat Hill appeared in the *Lilydale Express*, 10 January 1941.

'The feature of the period was the party on New Year's Eve organized by Mr. H. Schultz.

Mr. Schultz can usually be relied upon to produce something novel in the way of cricket matches between visitors and locals, yabby catching contests, or other playful pastimes, but this year he excelled himself and deserves high praise for his latest plan. He canvassed local tradespeople and received donations of meat, bread, potatoes and onions, and Mrs. Schultz provided and begged fireworks for 100 children.

A huge log fire was prepared on "Billy Goat Hill" and proceedings commenced at 9.30 with community singing by the 500 people present, Mr. Ewing proving an able accompanist with banjo and accordion. Several ladies obliged with solos, and the children excelled themselves in community and solo items, for which they were recompensed by Mr. Schultz.

Steaks were distributed and each cooked his or her own at the camp fire, amid friendly banter as to the extent of culinary ability.

As midnight approached two hymns, "Nearer, My God, To Thee" and "Lead, Kindly Light", were sung, and it was an inspiring sight to see the assemblage standing in the glow of the fire, singing the hymns with fervor.

On the stroke of midnight all joined hands and sang "Auld Lang Syne" to conclude one of the happiest functions ever held in the district.'

## Writing Competition Winners

Congratulations to the winners of our History Writing Competition.

Laura Harrison, Year Level 3

Daniel Harrison, Year Level 5

There were no entries for Year Level 7.

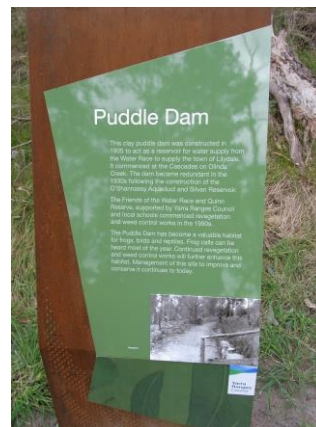
The stories dealt with a girl on her first day at school in the 1920s and a stationmaster on the Lilydale to Warburton line. The winning entries will be published in future issues of *Things Past*.

Thank you to our sponsors, Collins Bookshop, Croydon, and Launchpad, Mooroolbark.

## Signage For Historic Sites

Mt Evelyn has new signs on two of our historic sites, the Puddle Dam and the First Aid Post.

The Puddle Dam (1905) on Birmingham Road was the end point of the Water Race and was the storage reservoir for Lilydale's original water supply. Installing interpretive signage at the site has been a long-term project for the Friends of Water Race and Quinn Reserve.



**Above, the new signs at the Puddle Dam and First Aid Post. Photos Ben Ellis, Paula Herlihy.**

The First Aid Post on the Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail was the site of competitions by the Railway First Aiders (see *Things Past* #51). The new sign is on the site of the siding where special trains carrying the competitors and judges stopped for the event.

## Another Mt Evelyn Vietnam Vet

The RSL has found another Vietnam Veteran. Charles Stewart spent his early childhood in Mt Evelyn and sends the following recollections.

'I was born in late 1946 at the Lilydale Bush Nursing Hospital. My father, Robert Alan Stewart, was a builder, and my mother, Adelaide (Falkingham), was a personal assistant and driver to Mrs Peg Carlton. Adelaide helped form Girl Guides at Mt Evelyn in 1934 and in 1939 was elected Treasurer and First Aid Officer of the inaugural Mt Evelyn Fire Brigade. Later, in 1942, she was a member of Air Raid Precautions Reception welfare committee Mt Evelyn, also a Home Nursing Instructor.



Mount Evelyn was a small rural community, isolated really, quite a distance from Melbourne, and the electric train terminated at Lilydale. The steam trains were great, we'd belt from where we lived and run down the road and sit on top of the cutting (just before the station) and watch the train go by. Whilst I'm writing, I can smell the smoke from the train going up the hill.

**Photos; top, Robert Alan Stewart and Adelaide Falkingham wedding photo 1945; below, Charles Henry and Mary Jane Falkingham at "The Laurels". Above right: Charles David Stewart 38202.**



My maternal grandparents, Charles Henry Falkingham and Mary Jane (Kneeshaw) came to live at "The Laurels" in 1931. I remember going to their home, which was a timber walled and corrugated iron roofed one room house, with kitchen and laundry in a separate building. "The Laurels" was a large property on which were fruit trees and vegetable gardens. My recollection is that when visiting we would go along Channel Road and that their property was 19-23 Channel Road, running down to Clematis Road.

In 1937 our grandparents' silver wedding anniversary was celebrated by the Reverend George Falkingham at Wood Green, Prahran. In 1947 Mary Jane died, aged 83. In 1949 Charles Henry Falkingham, aged 86, died at Mt Evelyn.

We lived on 49 Birmingham Road. My memory of the house Dad was building was one bedroom, bathroom and kitchen, which were partially completed on a bush block. A vacant block next door on which cows were agisted, and then next to that the Dean family (Les and Beanie) lived. The dairy was down the road across the railway line, and you put an enamel billy can with a lid on top of the gate post in the morning. The milkman dipped the required amount from a large churn in the back of his truck.

**Continued p.12**

# Swap Cards – Seasonally Trending In The 1950s

Paula's articles on her own childhood collecting enthusiasms have reminded me of one we Mt Evelyn State School girls enjoyed – at least when I was there, in the mid-1950s: swap cards.

Now swap cards, along with schoolyard games such as skippy, hoppy, hula hoops, and 'sevens' (a competitive ball-against-a-wall game), enjoyed seasonal trending and popularity. But don't ask me when a 'season' started and finished, or how long it lasted. One month we would be completely engrossed in one activity. The next week, another one altogether.

A couple of girls – usually the popular ones, the leaders – would know (by osmosis, or from having cousins at other schools already engaged in the latest 'must-have' or 'must-do' fad), that a new season – of whatever – had started.

I guess department stores might have been partly to blame. Myers and 'Coles Variety Stores' (Coles didn't sell food and other household grocery supplies in those days), certainly set aside a generous amount of space for displaying and selling swap cards during the swap card season. And newsagents were never far behind in acquiring at least some cards to sell to those who couldn't travel closer to, or into, the Melbourne CBD for the best selections.



Recently, I asked a dozen of my current friends and contemporaries whether they remembered the swap card crazes from their primary school days. And would you believe it? Three of them still had their own old swap card collections intact! (They showed them to me.) Two of these collections were still in their original albums.

(These are a bit like the old photograph or postcard albums, with slits to hold the cards in place at each corner. Swap card albums, depending on size, held either three or six cards to a mid-grey coloured page, and have the title 'Swap Cards' on their covers.)

The other collection was still held together by a rubber band. This was how we Mt Evelyn girls kept together our 'swaps'. An album contained the cards we prized. Any repeats, damaged cards, or those we didn't especially like, were bundled in a rubber band ready to show to friends who might be keen to exchange their own (different) duplicates for one of yours. Or to risk losing, by playing (chancing) them in a 'win or lose' game.



There were two different kinds of swap cards. Some were just manufactured as 'swap cards'. They were the same size as standard playing cards, but their backs were plain white. (No suits, numerals, or any other indication that these might have once been playing cards.) The other kind of swap cards originated from broken packs of picture playing cards – playing cards with distinctive and attractive pictures on the reverse side being more common in 'those' days than now.

What made a rare or highly sought-after card? Obviously, something with a theme you really liked – horses, foreign scenery, dogs, ballerinas, sailing ships. Then cards that were nice, but which nobody else had. Or – if they did have them – were prepared to swap.

Also the 'pair' to a card you already owned. Very often, playing cards were sold as twin-packs, so if

broken up to be used as swap cards, two cards from the set became a pair. (Thus many non-playing-card swap cards were similarly manufactured as pairs or perhaps sets of four.) A 'pair' might be cards that were the same except for their coloured borders. Or they might be similar – but not identical – depictions of a common theme (hunting scenes, Victorian ladies out walking, vases of flowers).

Cards with silver or gold edgings and/or that included silver or gold in the picture, were considered special. I noticed that my swap card-collecting friends regarded any cards depicting royalty and royal events (coronation, royal visit), to be significant – but this might be because such cards now mark historic occasions, I guess.

But in talking to my friends, I found one very noticeable difference to my own experience of swap cards. At Mt Evelyn SS we used swap cards to play a game similar to the one the boys played with marbles. It was: 'touch it, and you keep it'. (My friends were horrified when I explained it. They grew up in and around Ballarat, and declared that they had never 'played for' cards, merely collected and/or swapped them.)

The game was played this way:

In turn, you tossed a card into a ring (same as the circle marked on the ground that the boys used when playing marbles). If your card touched (covered any part of) another card, you could

retrieve your own card and collect/keep the card yours made contact with.

The cards you didn't care about were the ones you began with. Homemade cards (non-picture playing cards overlaid with a picture cut-&-pasted – from a magazine, perhaps), or damaged cards. But once the game was underway, newer cards proved to be more accurate missiles.

Was this game played at other schools? I don't know. But it was certainly played at Mt Evelyn SS. I remember that my father (who worked in Maribyrnong), boarded in Ascot Vale during the week. But he detoured into the Melbourne CBD while on his weary way home to spend weekends with his family, especially to buy swap cards – at my insistence – so that I could start my own collection. Certainly an early example of 'peer pressure' at work, and a clear instance of a parent spoiling a child!

What happened to my swap card collection eventually? I have no idea. Its lasting impact has been my willingness to help my cosplay-enthusiast daughter collect Pokemon cards (she now has complete sets of three of the earliest collections), while I have – admittedly over a couple of years – acquired full sets of the 1970 television series of Blake's 7 cards, as well as the 1990 Tempo May Gibbs and Beatrix Potter card collections.

Card collecting is not 'hoarding', Paula. It's a way of easily recalling a happy, possibly more innocent, stage of one's life! (And swap cards don't take up too much space in your house.) Have I ever been tempted to re-live my past and find a few swap cards to replace my original collection? Well, no. Apart from about 120 I couldn't resist, that I picked up cheaply a couple of weeks ago from two local garage sales, that is! What memories they've brought back ... .

**Photos: p.4, swap card albums, sets of cards; left, swap cards featuring royalty were especially valued.**

**Isabel Martini**

**Karen Phillips comments:**

Swap cards were banned at my school. I'm sure some reason was given, but it escapes me now.



## **Dorothy (nee Patterson) and John Fyander**

**Honorary caretakers for over twenty years**

John and Dorothy Fyander, from Port Melbourne, in common with many others who moved to Mt Evelyn, and indeed their own relations, were enticed by lure of bush holidays and by economic difficulties in Melbourne. They talked to me in July 1993 about their passion for dancing, for the Football Club and the Recreation Reserve.

Dorothy Patterson began visiting Vin Healey in Bailey Road, travelling by train from Melbourne with her Auntie Dorothy Cassidy in 1937. She had fond early memories of the train slipping down the tracks on frosty mornings and a lovely station with a sign made of pebbles, saying '770' above sea level'. In 1939 there were big bushfires and from the Bailey Road house Dorothy and her brother could see the red glow over Wandin before they were evacuated to Melbourne.

Eventually her single Aunt Dorothy joined with her brother to purchase their own bush block in Hereford Road, near the former Blue Wren Service Station, abutting the railway line. By this stage Dorothy was going out with John Fyander, who lived around the corner from her in Port Melbourne. John's father was a boilermaker who was unemployed for two years in the Depression.

The family lived in a rented Housing Commission house.

When John and Dorothy visited Mt Evelyn together, as the train slowed down to begin its ascent, they would throw their suitcases and bags out of the train at the block, to avoid carrying them from the station. When staying for two or three days and missing the news they would shout out to passengers as the train passed, 'Got any papers?' and would often have some papers thrown, even if they were three days old.

In 1942, Charles Patterson, Dorothy's father, a mattress maker renting his home in Port Melbourne, dreamed of home ownership. He began paying off two cheap blocks of land in Ferntree Gully and Mt Evelyn in the bush that they loved. As building regulations were less stringent in Mt Evelyn, the family chose to build on their half acre block on Old Hereford Road, just beyond Fernhill Road.

The bush block was indeed bushy and up until the 1960s they had wallabies coming around, plenty of possums and an occasional echidna crossing the road. There were 'stacks of wildflowers' and a multitude of birds. As they cleared the blocks and removed the tree stumps there would be 'jackies and maggies coming down for the worms'.

*Below, Dot and John Fyander (left & centre) with Gene Stroud and her granddaughter Belinda. Photo from an undated newspaper clipping.*



In 1945 the family moved in and lived in three army tents and two bungalows. Dorothy's boyfriend John Fyander had been visiting frequently and then staying over to help build. He ultimately became a boarder with the Pattersons. John was at Technical College when the War broke out and worked in a protected marine engineering industry. Dorothy's father and brothers continued to work in Melbourne after the move to Mt Evelyn, travelling by train from Lilydale, and later riding motor bikes to the station or to work.

John married Dorothy in 1946 and, in between staying with the Pattersons, they rented a house on the corner of Irvine and Elizabeth streets, then another one behind the police station, called 'Rosetta'. Around 1949-50 they bought their own smaller block of land on Old Hereford Road near Dorothy's family home. Here they cleared the block except for one big manna gum, then planted their own trees.

Before having their first son Trevor, in 1951, Dorothy had a few jobs, beginning with Spicer's shoe factory in Lilydale and then Richardson's milk bar and tea rooms. The tea rooms were near the York Road/ Wray Crescent corner, where Theo Millard later built his timber yard. John spent his working life as a tool maker travelling to South Melbourne, Richmond, then Box Hill and Nunawading, but his final workplace was Moorabbin. With overtime he sometimes did not get home till 10pm.

In spite of his long commutes to work, John was definitely a part of Mt Evelyn life. He and Dorothy referred to the Mechanics Institute, then the Public Hall as 'their second home'. 'Dancing was the main thing'. 'If we didn't have a dance at the Hall of a Saturday night we would have been lost, really lost!' They were tied up with the cricket and football clubs and all their functions were at the hall. John was in the premiership cricket team of 1946 and later captained the side. They were both on the committee of the football club and loved the fancy dress dances run by the club in the hall. Later they also enjoyed going to the Athenaeum Theatre on Tuesday evenings and Saturdays for the 'pictures'.

When the Mechanics Hall burned down, four groups: the Football Club, CWA, Hall Committee and another group ran a Queen Carnival to raise money for rebuilding. (The groups were promised meeting facilities in the new hall but this did not eventuate.) As a stop-gap, the old hall in the *Do Drop In* (corner of York and Swansea Roads) was recommissioned for Football Club dances.

*It was a bit out of the way if you had to walk there. Cars were few and far between. We had to clean it all up first and polish all the floorboards. Mr Adams was approached to use the hall, to have social gatherings after football and other functions. He said 'yes' but we'd have to clean it up. It was a big job getting it in order. Mr Adams had a lot of things stored there. It was hard polishing the dance floor but it was great when it was finished. We used this until the new hall was opened.*

Meanwhile fundraising was underway in earnest for the new hall.

*We had fundraising parties at different people's houses. The Council agreed to subsidize £1 for £1, but there was still a lot to raise.*

Later the Fyanders were involved in another big fund raising effort to build the Football Clubrooms at the Recreation Reserve.

*The Council were supposed to give £40,000 but reduced it to £36,000. The same room was to be used for showers and socialising (!) so we had to raise another £20,000 for that training room.*

There was a small charge at the gate for home matches but there was not a lot of profit in this. Up to £3,000 a season was, however, made by renting the Recreation Reserve for picnics during the summer season. Complaints about the loud music from the big Italian and Greek parties ended this large income. In 1993 the Reserve was making only \$600-\$800 a year from local firms and some others.

For twenty years the Fyanders were unpaid caretakers of the Recreation Reserve. When John retired they moved to Dromana but found it

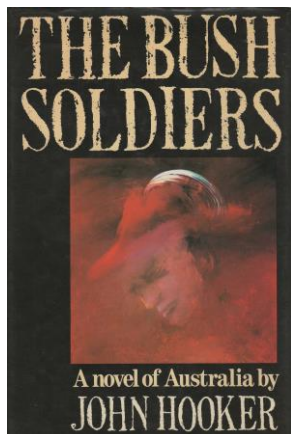
similar to early Mt Evelyn: full of WEs (Weekenders) and WOs (Worn Outs)! Elderly neighbours were becoming increasingly reliant on them, and Dorothy was affected by discovering one who had passed away. So they returned to live with their son and family in Croydon, where they could be of some help with grandchildren. Dorothy didn't drive and had missed her family. 'I've always been a family one', she said as we parted.

**Janice Newton**

## Alternate History

What would have happened if Australia had been invaded in wartime?

I've just finished reading *The Bush Soldiers* by John Hooker. It packs in more Australian history, and an eerier evocation of the outback, than any other novel I've ever read. And that's strange, because it is, in part, an 'alternate' history.



The 'present' of the novel takes place during the Second World War. Flashback chapters bring us up to date, from the protagonist's experiences at the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917, in Melbourne and the suburbs in the 1920s, rural Victoria and NSW in the Depression, and the early years of World War II.

The novel veers into alternate history when Japan enters the war: 'The invasion of Australia began on 12 June 1942, with Japanese landings at Darwin, Cooktown and Cairns. The major assault was on the New South Wales coast at the industrial town of Newcastle with other landings at Tweed Heads, Coff's Harbour and the Hawkesbury River. Sydney came under naval bombardment from the aircraft carrier *Zuikaku*. The evacuation Sydney was total, unorganised and chaotic ... <sup>1</sup> The Federal Government relocates to Perth and General Douglas

MacArthur withdraws the American forces to New Zealand.

A group of former soldiers travels through an almost deserted outback landscape, destroying any resources that could aid the enemy. They take it for granted that Aboriginal people, if they take sides at all, will support the Japanese. There are no definite sightings of the enemy but glimpses of distant camp fires show that *someone* is following them. In the unforgiving country, their own errors of judgement lead to disaster.

New Zealand-born John Williamson Hooker (1932-2008) was a publisher, novelist and military historian. *The Bush Soldiers* was first published by Collins in 1984 and republished by Allen & Unwin in 1998, but is currently out of print. Wikipedia has an interesting article on the Alternate History genre.

**Karen Phillips**

## You Know You're Part Of History When

### ... you remember real butchers' shops

Blue and white tiles on the walls, sawdust on the floor, a huge chopping block, and sides of meat hanging on hooks from a steel rack suspended from the ceiling. Butcher in blue-and-white-striped apron and leather belt with scabbards for his tools of trade.

You got your meat wrapped in butcher's paper, probably with the price calculated in one corner (the people at Terry's Meats in Mooroolbark were still adding up their bills on paper till only a few years ago).

When supermarkets came along in the 1960s, they were at first forbidden to sell meat. Later they were permitted to sell meat only till 5pm. The lifting of restrictions meant that the old-style butchers' shops could no longer compete.

One of the last I remember was the Marong Road Butcher's in Bendigo. I used to stop there on my way home from my block near Inglewood. I'd select a side of two-tooth and have it cut up the way I wanted. The business kept going through the 1990s but I believe even it is gone now.

**From Kevin Phillips**

<sup>1</sup> John Hooker 1984, *The Bush Soldiers*, Collins, p.331.



# Heidelberg Artists Tour

On 16 September History Group members combined art, history and the great outdoors in a tour reconstructing the Heidelberg School Artists Trail through the Dandenongs.

The term 'Heidelberg School' refers to a number of artists, in particular Tom Roberts, Arthur Streeton, Frederick McCubbin and Charles Conder, who painted scenes *en plein air* (in the open air) in and around Melbourne, the Heidelberg area in particular. These artists used 'impressionist' techniques of quick, broad strokes to capture light and colour. The catalogue of their famous '9 x 5 Impression Exhibition' gave a brief outline of their aims:

*An effect is only momentary... Two half-hours are never alike... So, in these works, it has been the object of the artists to render faithfully, and thus obtain first records of effects widely differing, and often of a very fleeting character.*

The Heidelberg School Artists Trail, opened in 1997, was a self-guided tour through the Yarra Valley and Dandenongs. Paintings by artists of the Heidelberg School were featured on information plaques close to the locations where they were painted. Lack of maintenance has

unfortunately meant that some boards have disappeared and most that remain are badly weathered. Tour leader Kevin Phillips made an ingenious two-piece easel to display copies of the missing works.



**Above, Kevin Phillips with his display easel. Below, the History Group Art Lovers at Woolrich Lookout. Photos Louise Fitinghoff, Paula Herlihy.**



Two of the artists, Tom Roberts and Arthur Streeton, lived out their later years in the Dandenong Ranges, Roberts at 'Talisman' in Kallista and Streeton at 'Longacres' in Olinda. Janet Wilson was able to tell us about 'Longacres', which is still in the Streeton family.

We viewed five works by Streeton and three by Roberts, painted in the 1920s and 1930s. We also looked at one painting by Eugene von Guérard but did not visit its plaque location in Ferntree Gully. Artists Charles Conder and Penleigh Boyd were also represented, using paintings of the Dandenongs not included on the original trail plaques.

There were several possible routes we could have followed but Kevin settled for the logic of altitude. We started with the lower-lying sites at Silvan and Kallista, climbed up to Olinda and Kalorama, and finished on Mt Dandenong. The tour took in Silvan Reservoir, Sherbrooke Forest, the gully of Sassafras Creek, and views from Woolrich Lookout (at the R.J. Hamer Arboretum), Five Ways and Sky High.

**Karen Phillips**

## RidgeWalk

The RidgeWalk is planned to be a 26km walk connecting the villages of the Dandenong Ranges. There will be heritage interpretation exploring the connections between art, history, landscape and community in the Dandenongs. Yarra Ranges Council has commissioned Dr Bronwyn Hanna and Dr Judith Denby to research the artistic and historical background. We have been able to share information.

The route of the RidgeWalk is expected to run between Montrose and Belgrave, making use of existing paths where possible. While Mt Evelyn is out of the way of the probable route, we hope that the Wols Track or Wilkilla Track from Mt Evelyn Reserve up the side of Mt Dandenong might connect to it.

We hope too that the project might provide an opportunity to reinstate the boards of the Heidelberg School Artists Trail in the Dandenongs (see above). The RidgeWalk Masterplan should be available for comment in 2018.

## Mooroolbark Talk

Marion Stott gave us a 'Talk Without The Walk' on the Mooroolbark historic walk, at the RSL Rooms on 15 July. Marion is President of the Mooroolbark History Group, as well as being a Mt Evelyn History Group member. Such are the wonders of social media that a Mooroolbark couple attended after their daughter in England noticed the flyer for the talk on Facebook.

Marion's talk focused on the railway station, local hall, shopping centre, State School, and Hookey Park. Mooroolbark began with the station, which opened on 10 October 1887. The station boasted the first-ever memorial to Dame Nellie Melba: an avenue of trees planted by landscape gardener Edna Walling.

The Public Hall was built in the garden of Captain T.H. Payne at 'Yarra View' Toorak, as a temporary ballroom to entertain the troops when they arrived home from WWI. Mr John E. Taylor donated the block of land on the corner of Station and Charles Streets and arranged for the Hall to be moved in 1924. In disrepair after many years of use, it disappeared one night – either demolished or spirited away to some other location.



***The Mooroolbark Station building, above, turned 130 years old in October this year.***

Hookey Park was named after Jack Hookey, a popular headmaster at the former Mooroolbark State School. The park has information boards on Jack Hookey, Edna Walling and Bob Gatherum. Some locals were less than impressed by the redevelopment of the park, especially the loss of the rose garden, and the steel sculptures representing origami native birds. See: <http://livingtoday.org.au/uploads/LivingTodayIssue52.pdf>.

## Vale Barry Callanan

6 May 1940 – 10 September 2017

The recent death of Barry Callanan came as a shock to community groups in Mount Evelyn.

Barry was Minutes Secretary of the Mount Evelyn Township Group, indeed he attended a Township Group meeting only three days before his death. He was a past member of Mount Evelyn History Group, MEEPPA and Lilydale Apex. Until recently he was a regular attender at working bees for Friends of the Aqueduct and Friends of Water Race and Quinn Reserve.

‘Barry was a regular contributor to FWRQR’s efforts over the last six years in the weeding & revegetation of the Horseshoe Falls area of Quinn Reserve, which has been receiving monies from Melbourne Water. He is sadly missed by our members’, said FWRQR President Ben Ellis.

During his time in the History Group, Barry was on the committee to recreate the Avenue of Honour and represented the group in talks on the future of Cave Hill. One project he was working on was a large wall map of David Mitchell’s tramway, including his reconstructed pictures of the tram. He also drew a map for the 2015 Street Party when the Township Group was applying for permissions. He corresponded to *The Age* and local papers, especially on environmental topics.

Jean Edwards recalled,

‘I first met Barry in 1979/80 when we were campaigning to retain the aqueduct land. During the Cave Hill consultations [c.2014] there was a bus trip across the land. Barry was there. When we were on top of the overburden hill, we were told it would all be removed and put back in the hole. Barry’s response was “what a wonderful site for a wind farm!”’

After studying at various Institutes of Technology and gaining a Diploma of Electrical and

Electronics Engineering in 1965, Barry worked for the former State Electricity Commission.<sup>2</sup> He was a member of the International Energy Agency. After leaving the SEC he grew hydroponic tomatoes at his mother’s property near the First Aid Post in David Road, where he built a miniature railway. His experience in vegetable growing later led him to volunteer at the Purple Patch, the vegetable garden at Morrisons Reserve run by the Township Group.

His interest in sustainability informed his books *La Bella Nova* (‘The Best Revolution’, 2011), set in

an imagined community 30 years in the future, and *Local Wealth* (1999). His manifesto can be found on his blog <https://sunsrest.com/> Barry was proud of having hiked ‘on a series of linked walks as close as practicable to the exact line of the ridge top of the Great Dividing Range’, as described in his travelogue *Beyond Billanook: By Foot and Pack Along the Eastern Backbone of Our Land Across the Heart Lines of Its History* (Vol. I 1991, Vol. II 1997). He was familiar with the mountains; he was a cross-country skier and was a founding member of the

Australian Professional Engineers Association (APEA) Ski Club.

Barry died in Maroondah Hospital on 10 September, aged 77, after a painful illness. He is survived by his wife Rebecca and a step-daughter. While Barry had no children of his own, he took pride in having helped to raise nine children over the years, and having given them a better chance in life.

Mild-mannered and quietly spoken, Barry will be remembered as a sensitive soul, devoted to the Mount Evelyn community and the ideal of sustainability.

---

<sup>2</sup> Most engineers at that time had technical qualifications, rather than degrees. Barry considered his training and experience equivalent to Engineer Level 3 or higher.



### Another Mt Evelyn Vietnam Vet (from p.3).

We had a very big block, and the back part of it was just real bush. I'd wander off down there, or I'd go across the paddock and see the Deans, have a talk to them. Mum was afraid of the cows; she would have to skirt the cows into the Deans'.

About age four or five, we'd be commuting backwards and forwards with Dad's Chevrolet truck laden with timber and iron roofing to finish the Mt Evelyn house. Weekends were spent in Mt Evelyn and the weekdays down in the city.

Our father got more work in the suburbs. It became necessary for us to move down there, and this took about three years. My brother Robin Douglas was born in 1950, in Mentone. Our maternal grandfather's property and the house we lived in were sold to fund the house and block in Mordialloc. We moved there when I was about six.

I enlisted in the Army in 1964 and was posted to Signals Corps, serving at Balcombe School of Signals and subsequently at the Rockbank Signals Receiving Station.



Above, Charles Stewart in Vietnam.

In 1966 I was successful in being selected for the Special Air Service Regiment in Perth and served as a rifleman in Vietnam, 2 March 1967 to 2 February 1968, with 1 Squadron SAS. I was 38202 Charles David Stewart as a Private, what would now be classified as "Trooper".

I must record my thanks to my brother Rob, who has researched our Falkingham family.'

**Charles Stewart**

### From Kev's Rain Gauge

Rainfall (in mm) for Mt Evelyn, McKillop, and Melbourne for the last three months.

	August	September	October	Year To Date
Mt Evelyn	67.3	65.4	72.4	543.0
McKillop	96.8	102.3	69.3	718.5
Melbourne	53.8	39.6	40.4	418.6

McKillop readings courtesy Jean Edwards

Melbourne figures from Bureau of Meteorology: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/>

**Kevin Phillips**

### Contact Us

**President/ Editor:** Paula Herlihy telephone 9736 2935 [pherlihy3@gmail.com](mailto:pherlihy3@gmail.com)

**Memberships:** Tim Herlihy [therlihyau@gmail.com](mailto:therlihyau@gmail.com)

**Newsletter distribution:** Kevin Phillips [kev.phillips@bigpond.com](mailto:kev.phillips@bigpond.com)

**Newsletter layout:** Alison Martin

**General enquiries:** [mtevelynhistorygroup@gmail.com](mailto:mtevelynhistorygroup@gmail.com)

**Postal address:** Mount Evelyn History Group Inc., PO Box 289, Mt Evelyn, VIC 3796, Australia.

**Website:** [www.mt-evelyn.net/historygroup](http://www.mt-evelyn.net/historygroup)

**Archived newsletters:** <http://www.mt-evelyn.net/thingspast>

**Mt Evelyn History Tools Blogsite:** <http://mtevelynhistorytools.blogspot.com.au/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/MtEvelynHistoryGroup2016/>