

Mount Evelyn History Group Inc.



Things Past

Newsletter 122

August 2021

PO Box 289 Mt Evelyn Vic 3796

Incorporation Number A0051327F

Dates for Your Diary

AGM followed by General Business Meeting, Monday 16 August 7:30 – 9:30 pm at Hardy House, 49 Birmingham Road, Mt Evelyn.

'History of the Whaling Industry 1700s – Late 1800s', talk by Ross Martin, Saturday 21 August, 1.30 pm at Hardy House

Meetings are 3rd Mondays of even months, 7:30 pm at Hardy House for General Business Meetings, and speaker and activity times are on alternate months at times by arrangement - please check your email inbox.

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Recreating Walden Hut and Remembering the Woodlanders



BUSH HUT ON OLINDA CREEK, VICTORIA.

From Charles Barrett's The Australian Bush Cassell & Company, 1943

(cont p 3)

Interested in Finding Out About Your Place in Mt Evelyn?

A few years ago member Joan Vanderhorn created an excellent blog for us, giving the tools we recommend in our publication *Researching Your House* plus others she knew about. The whole is clear, beautifully set out, and is well worth a look!

<http://mtevelynhistorytools.blogspot.com/>

The information Joan covers includes

- Cemeteries-Deceased Records
- Electoral Districts and Mt Evelyn
- Family Histories Published On-Line
- Free Genealogy Websites
- History Group Publications
- History of Your Mt Evelyn House
- Military Records
- Mt Evelyn in Newspapers
- Registry Office BDM search \$1
- Schools and Teachers
- Wills and Probate Records

Can You Help? ...

Aqueduct Avenue

Does anyone have old photos of Aqueduct Avenue?

We've had a request for photos of number 20, with the old house that was there in the 1950s, before the present house was built.

Goat Farm on Inverness Road

Anita Payne has contacted us because she is trying to trace the properties that my grandparents had. She writes,

'My grandparents were Herbert & Gladys Dacre. They had 3 children Stella (my mum), Stan and Alex.

I know they moved to Inverness Road about 1949 and left to go to Taggerty in about 1954/5.

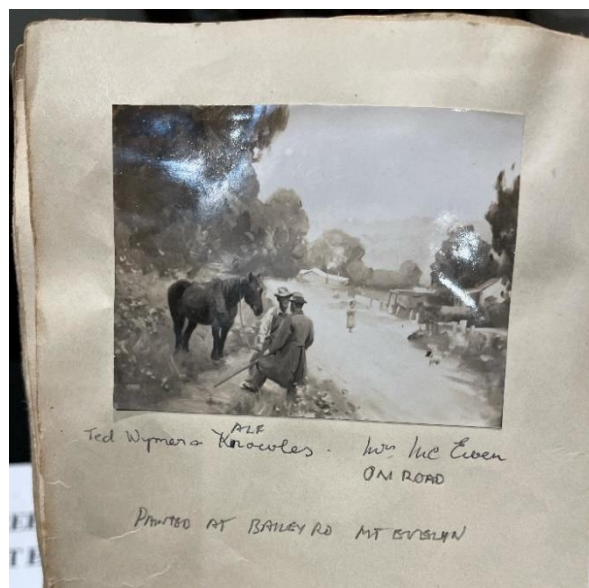
Grandma had a Goat Stud 'Illoura' on the property - I have the pedigree book she created with all the goat details. Plus she was often mentioned in the Newspapers.

But my problem is identifying where the property was, as I'd like to obtain the title as I have done with several other properties they have had.'

If you can help Anita please email her on <mailto:anitapayne58@gmail.com>

The Discussion – Figures Identified

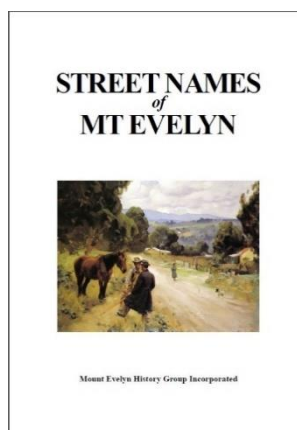
Michael Buckmaster very kindly forwarded this photo of his grandfather Ernest's painting *The Discussion*, annotated by his grandmother. This finally settles any doubts over the identity of the three figures.



Mrs Florence Buckmaster has written: 'Ted Wymer & Alf Knowles - Mrs McEwen ON ROAD. PAINTED AT BAILEY RD MT EVELYN'. Edward Wymer was a friend and fellow-artist, who lived at 'Wymerest' on Adams Lane (*Things Past* #112). Alf Knowles owned The Outlook guesthouse at the

top of Birmingham Road. We have no further information about Mrs McEwen.

This beautiful painting was featured on the cover of our booklet *Street Names of Mt Evelyn*, with permission from the Buckmaster family.



Recreating Walden Hut and Remembering the Woodlanders

The hut by Walden Pond in Concord, Massachusetts, where Henry David Thoreau lived over two years and then wrote his book *Walden* in 1854, has been rebuilt. Replicas and a Thoreau Institute in the woods have become a site for pilgrimages for students of nature writing and the environment. What a great idea if we could create an information and visiting site at a replica Walden Hut on the Olinda Creek! Perhaps an associated bird hide and small building for use of field naturalists, birdwatchers, bushwalkers, Scouts and Guides could also be considered.

As outlined in previous issues of *Things Past*, from 1903 to 1907 this hut, in the settlement called Olinda Vale on the border of Mt Evelyn and Lilydale, was the base for three young nature writers/photographers and their poet, historian, journalist and naturalist friends. They aimed to write a natural history of the Olinda Creek in the style of Thoreau. Indeed, poet Bernard O'Dowd suggested that the *Argus* articles of their mentor Donald Macdonald and their own two series of comprehensive articles and images in the *New Idea* journal could be called a 'Natural History of Melbourne' (as in *The Natural History of Selbourne* by Gilbert White.)

The time is ripe for a memorial to Victorian nature writing. In the last couple of decades we have seen an escalation of interest in the amateur scientists, bird watchers and nature writers and what they have brought to science, emotional attachment to nature and conservation. Writer Tim Winton,¹ and Historian Tom Griffiths² have been important voices in the debate.

H.D. Thoreau and Walden

Between 1845 and 1847, Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862) lived by the glacial Walden Pond in

the woods not far from Concord. This sojourn became an experiment in living. Thoreau lived in a hut he built himself. He tried to survive with minimal work and minimal food, clothing and shelter; to pare down the barriers between a person and nature as 'birds do not sing so well from cages.'

He observed, in rich scientific and sensory detail, his changing seasonal environments: the flora, fauna, itinerant people and the lake.

'This is a delicious evening, when the whole body is one sense, and imbibes delight through every pore. I go and come with a strange liberty in Nature, a part of herself.'³

The time freed from working was more fruitfully applied to thinking, reading, writing and appreciating the intricacies and beauties of nature. With some others Thoreau formed a group called the Transcendentalists who combined romanticism with reform, and focused on the individual, emotion and nature. The reality of the spirit transcended the reality of matter.⁴

Australia was a bit later to develop a tradition of nature writing. Early forms of nature art and writing were the fairy stories for children by Ethel Pedley (*Dot and the Kangaroo* 1899), May Gibbs (*Snugglypot and Cuddlepip* 1916-21) and Annie Rentoul and Ida Outhwaite (eg *Little Green Road to Fairyland* 1904-1930s). With these writers and artists the naïve bush became friendly and enchanted.

At the same time E. Brooke Nicholls, Claude Kinane and Charles Barrett united in their common reverence for Thoreau's *Walden* and found themselves a hut on Olinda Creek, a couple of miles from Lilydale station. They planned to stay every weekend and holiday and write their own Walden, on Victorian nature.

¹ Tim Winton, *My Island Home: a landscape memoir*, Penguin, 2017.

² Professor of History, ANU. Author of *Hunters and Collectors: The Antiquarian Imagination in Australia*, CUP, 1996, *Forests of Ash: an Environmental History* CUP 2001, and many others.

³ D H Thoreau, *Walden*, 1854.

⁴ <https://Britannica.com/biography/Henry-David-Thoreau/Legacy>. Accessed 17 Dec 2020.

The Woodlanders and Friends: Recreating Thoreau's Walden

'... when nature study was just beginning to manifest itself, three devoted and earnest young men leased from its owner the hut they dignified by the name Walden'. They began a 'remarkable series of illustrated articles' in the *New Idea* under the penname of *The Woodlanders* and 'gave to a waiting world those wonderful bits of nature that seemed all too long in coming.'⁵

Walden Hut became a 'centre of rambling, observing and photographing, living at week-ends a simple life on a fancied pattern with Thoreau, though without this author's "eternal economies"'⁶

For up to five years (1903-7) Nicholls, Barrett and Kinane spent holidays and weekends using Walden Hut as a base for nature excursions and to welcome friends, such as Poet Bernard O'Dowd, Historian Ernest Scott and *Argus* Nature Writer Donald Macdonald. They had regular bird and lizard visitors, tamed a thrush, mopoke and kookaburra and, ultimately, were able to hand feed a blue tongued lizard they named Gola. Their passion for wildlife, birds, flowers and the bush made an impact on future generations of nature



A WONDERFUL SNAP-SHOT.

This, the only photo of its kind in the world, shows an infant cuckoo (nearly twenty-four hours old and still blind) in the act of ejecting one of its foster brethren from the nest. It was obtained under great difficulties, and by special request from the authorities a copy has been sent to the British Museum.

lovers through their popular writing, children's books, journal editing and articles, radio programmes, films and photographs. Their impact was ultimately felt Australia-wide.

Claude Kinane captured wonderful bird photographs (at left, a cuckoo evicting blue wren chicks⁷) by waiting

up to three hours in swaying gums or swampy waters. Brooke Nicholls broadcast on 3LO, made several documentary films on central Australian wildlife and Aboriginal customs, wrote many articles for the newspapers and journals, shared the writing of a travel book, *Blue Coast Caravan* (1935) with Frank Dalby Davison and published two children's stories: *Jacko, the Broadcasting Kookaburra* (1933) and *The Amazing Adventures of Billy Penguin* (1934).

Charles Barrett became a very popular author, publishing more than 100 books including the Sun Nature Series, and editing the *Australian Junior Encyclopaedia*. He worked as a journalist for the Melbourne *Herald* for 33 years from 1906, and conducted the 'Wild Nature Notes' page, the 'Australian Boys' Page' and the 'Camp Fire' in the *Weekly Times*.⁸ He edited the birdwatcher magazine *Emu* 1910-16, *The Victorian Naturalist* 1925-40 and *Pals* 1920-1927.⁸



Walden Hut. From left Donald Macdonald, E Brooke Nicholls, Ernest Scott and Frank Nicholls (brother of Brooke).⁹ 'Walden Hut' was made of red gum slabs, roofed with a double row of over-lapping strips of stringy bark, held in position on either slope by two long, thin bleached poles... Two windows face away from the weather side – one glass, the other wire netting.

Life in the Olinda Creek valley took the Woodlanders into nature to such an extent that they emotionally engaged with some birds and animals, writing into them human motivations

(cont p 10)

⁵ 'The cult of the gum tip', *Hobart News* 12 Nov 1924, 2.

⁶ *The Emu* August vol. 59, 1959, 226-7.

⁷ *New Idea* 6 Jan 1906, 666

⁸ Obituary *The Emu* August Vol 59, 1959, 226-7.

⁹ Ex C. Barrett *Koonawarra*. Caption from Beaumaris and District Historical Trust Collection at the State Library of Victoria MS 8494, Box 7 in *A Chisholm Joy of the Earth* 1969.

Warrandyte Walk in the Wet

A few hardy souls braved the cold and wet for a Warrandyte Walk on 15 May. Not that the weather was all bad – between the showers there were gleams of sunshine through the trees.



Light at the end of the Pound Bend Tunnel.

We went first to Pound Bend. Almost surrounded by a loop in the Yarra, Pound Bend was named because of its use as a cattle pound. In 1870 the Evelyn Tunnel Gold Mining Company was formed to construct a tunnel to divert the river and allow three miles of the old course to be worked for gold. The Pound Bend Tunnel or Evelyn Tunnel was 693' long, 18' wide and 14' deep. Some gold was found but the company never paid a dividend. It was wound up in 1872.



The tunnel outflow from above, with the History Group taking a dip (just kidding!)

According to Pamela Vestey's *David Mitchell a Forfar Man*, it was David Mitchell who founded the Evelyn Tunnel Company, with a capital of

£16,000. The company is mentioned under his entry in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, with an incorrect date (1890), but his involvement is disputed. No contemporary references to Mitchell in connection with the Evelyn Tunnel could be found.



One of the 'Wurundjeri Stories' boards.

We followed the Wurundjeri Stories Trail, a short walk through the Pound Bend Reserve, around storyboards giving both traditional and post-contact Indigenous history. Pound Bend was a place of plentiful resources for the Wurundjeri. The site briefly became an Aboriginal Reserve in 1850, till the discovery of

gold in 1851 put an end to the traditional way of life. Leader Simon Wonga organised the last *gayip* (corroboree) at the site in 1852.

The Riverside Walk below Warrandyte township is part of the Heidelberg Artists Trail. The picture boards have been redone, with paintings by Clara Southern and Walter Withers.

Southern's beautiful works 'A Cool Corner' and 'Evensong' were particularly admired.



Picture board of Walter Withers' 'Old Bridge, Warrandyte' (c.1910).

Mt Evelyn artist Ernest Buckmaster bought a 1930s house 'Landfall' at the top of the escarpment in 1968, but lived there for only seven months before his death later that year. Surprisingly in such a scenic location, he does not seem to have painted any Warrandyte landscapes. Our walk concluded with a look at sites of interest along the Riverside Walk and Yarra Street. Warrandyte has suffered devastating bushfires and floods but many historic buildings survive.

See also:

'Warrandyte Gold Mines & Relics':

<http://warrandyte.bizhat.com/>

'Wurundjeri Stories at Pound Bend Visitors Information Guide' online

Indigenous history along the middle Yarra (some excellent pamphlets): <http://reconciliation-manningham.org.au/resources/self-guided-walks/>

'In the Artist's Footsteps':

<https://www.artistsfootsteps.com/>

Karen Phillips. Photos Kevin Phillips.

Naming of Wonga Park

The Wurundjeri Stories Trail continues from Pound Bend Warrandyte (see excursion article) to Wittons Reserve, Wonga Park, at the confluence of Brushy Creek and the Yarra. This is thought to have been a birthing place, and may have been the birthplace of William Barak.

The story board at Wittons Reserve also states that Wonga Park was named after Wurundjeri leader Simon Wonga. Very interesting, if true – but is it?

A Mr William Brown came from Tasmania and established a station called 'Wonga Wonga' on the Brushy Creek in the 1860s. He developed this into a race horse stud which, by 1875, was called the Wonga Park Stud.

Brown's reasons for naming his property 'Wonga Wonga' are not known. Naming it after Simon Wonga was one of several possibilities. Brown might have named it after a racehorse called



The information board at Wittons Reserve. There are issues with the information on Boorat also – but that's another story.

Wonga Wonga (this is perhaps the most likely explanation). There was a Wonga Wonga mining company in South Australia, a steamship Wonga Wonga, the Wonga Pigeon *Leucosarcia melanoleuca*, and the Wonga Wonga Vine, *Pandorea pandorana*.

Brown died in the 1880s. By 1889 the Mutual Life Assurance Company had acquired his estate, which was subdivided and marketed under the business name 'Wonga Park Land Co.'

Four years later, a timber reserve adjoining Brown's estate was subdivided for a village settlement. The name 'Wonga Park' came to

(cont p 10)

Stan and Nancy Deed, part 2

Nancy (Amy)

Amy Dale and her twin sister Violet Dale were born in the Women's Hospital in Melbourne to a single mother, and fostered out at one month old to Mr and Mrs William Draeger. She was given the name Nancy, as one of the Draegers' own children was already named Amy. Although they had five children of their own, they also fostered fifty other children over as many years. In those days, there was no monetary support for such efforts. It was just pure generosity and a caring spirit that motivated such people to take on these responsibilities. They said 'we have no time for institutions' and took in Nancy and Violet even though Mrs Draeger was over sixty at the time and already had seven foster children. The Depression years were pretty tough but the Draegers tried to be self-sufficient, working their six-acre property, growing their own vegetables, with a good variety of fruit trees in the orchard. They had ducks, pigs, a cow and a horse.



*'Home' for Nancy and Violet in Burke Rd,
Ferntree Gully.*

At five years old Vi and Nancy walked a fair way to school in Dorset Road. School was a two-room, bluestone building with only small windows. There were four grades in each room with two teachers. There were no High Schools or Tech Schools in those days. A 'Qualifying Certificate' was issued at the end of the sixth grade and a 'Merit Certificate' after the eighth grade.



Nancy and Vi left school at 14 years of age as they both wanted to work.

Their first position was with Goldings in Canterbury, as machinists making Niblick golf shoes and other sports shoes. Nancy continued there for 11 years, until they closed during WWII.

They both then got work as machinists at Marshall's shoes for men in Richmond. They saw many starving children scavenging the rubbish bins for food scraps. 'Mum' made extra sandwiches for them to give to those poor kids.

'Mum' would be up each morning at five o'clock just after 'Dad' had lit the wood fired stove so she could cook a hot breakfast. They walked the two miles to Boronia Station to catch the train that left at 6.40. With so many kids to look after, neither Mum nor Dad ever had time to be idle. He had built dams in every corner of the property for water for the pigs, cow and horse, and he had built sheds for shelter and chook yards. During the Depression they often saw swag-men, some only about nineteen, walking miles with swags on their backs, looking for work. They saw them camping under the pine trees in Dorset Road.

Nancy met Stan and they were married on 21 December 1940. They first lived in Boronia and then Silvan. This may have provided Stan with a 'better' job but it was otherwise a particularly hard environment. They didn't have electric light until



*Nancy and Stan's Wedding
Day*

about 1955 and had to rely on tank water. They had to use a wood fired copper for washing clothes. The red dust or mud got into everything. They had white sheets in those days and used to boil them in the copper with the handkerchiefs but had to wash all the coloured clothes by hand. Later Stan bought a hand wringer to make it easier for Nancy. She had to use flat irons heated on the wood stove to iron the clothes.

When kerosene irons became affordable Stan bought one. These had to be filled with kero and lit with a match and then pumped to build up pressure. When electric light did arrive, they had only one globe in each room and a single power point in the kitchen. Just prior to the arrival of electricity they had managed to save £144 to buy a kerosene refrigerator. This would have been about half a year's pay for Stan. The small house, six children and the red dust everywhere – it was pretty tough, and it lasted for ten years.

Life was so much better when they all moved to Lilydale and into a big house. It had an electric hot water service, a slow combustion stove, plenty of rooms, carpets on the floors, an inside toilet, but best of all, there was no red dust. This was also the family's introduction to a hot shower.



Nancy looking relaxed in the kitchen of the big house on Mr. Nicholas's property.

Nancy was able to take various jobs nearby, including house cleaning, baby-sitting for the Nicholas family, and she worked for a while at



Nancy in Mrs Stewart's shop 1965

Mrs. Stewart's milk bar in Lilydale.

Stan and Nancy joined the Lilydale Senior Citizens Club and they went together

on many bus tours, some as long as eight days, including the Grampians, Stawell, Lakes Entrance, Bright, Merimbula and Mildura. They both eagerly looked forward to the Wednesday club meetings. Nancy eventually became a life member of the Club.

After all the children had married and moved away, they moved into a comfortable unit in Clark Street Lilydale. It was just a short walk to the shops and a taxi ride to the 'club' as she affectionately called the Senior Citizens Club. Best of all, were their many friends in the adjoining units so she was never short of someone to talk to or to have a cup of tea with.

After 46 years together, Stan died on 15 December 1986 at Box Hill Hospital. Nancy died at Silvan on 6 January 2003. A memorial service was held for her at the Lilydale Baptist Church on 13 January 2003. Nancy was buried with her husband.



Nancy on her 86th birthday.

Richard Doig

Our Neighbour Lilydale's Ongoing Attempts to Protect History and Heritage

Sue Thompson, past Shire of Lillydale Councillor, local newspaper journalist and editor, and President of the 50 year old Lilydale & District Historical Society, asks you to make the time to read about 'the battle we have been having in Lilydale' attempting to protect history and heritage at

https://lilydalehistorical.com.au/news-events-lilydale-district-historical-society-inc/?fbclid=IwAR1tlejpNDEhyPqISOjnmQl8UOynEqJJEghk_Z_ap_K7DHN1zvw_VOID_w

A Small Dog Named Titchie, a Pair of Walking Shoes and a Horse Trough

In the 1940s we lived four miles from Lilydale, two and a half from Montrose and three from Mt Evelyn. My mother, for a day out on a Friday, walked from atop Edinburgh Road to the Mooroolbark Station (around two miles from our house), to catch a train to the city and then a tram to Thornbury. She visited her mother and her two teenage daughters who were living with their grandmother in Thornbury - not out in the sticks with the rest of the family.

Mum used to leave her walking shoes under the horse trough near the Mooroolbark Station and don her city shoes for her regular train trip to the city. Titchie, one of our dogs, used to walk to the station with her and would stay with her shoes under the horse trough until she returned. Protector of the shoes, Titchie would stay with the shoes till they were picked up and that was most often not until the next day, depending on which station Mum chose to come home by. Sometimes she used Croydon and at other times Mooroolbark. If she did not come home via the Mooroolbark station I would walk in the next day and pick the shoes up and bring Titchie home.

Titchie was such a dedicated guardian that Mum was asked by a horse rider could she please leave her shoes somewhere else, as he could not get near the horse trough to water his horse!

Mum often walked the two miles to Montrose to do her shopping and then wheeled the shopping home in an old four wheeled baby pram. Titchie, minder of the shoes, was also a guard dog when Mrs Patterson who lived in the apple orchard next door to us went with my Mum to also do some shopping in Montrose. Mrs Patterson would leave her baby in a pram outside the shop at Montrose. Titchie would sit with the baby and would not allow anyone near the pram to even look at the baby.

Our dog Titchie was only a little untrained dog with a big heart. We owned Titchie from a pup. Dogs can be very special.

Jim Johnson

You Know You're Part of History if ... You Remember the Expressions of the 1950s

What obsolete words or phrases do you remember from the distant past? Here are some from my youth, rarely heard today.

Keep your wits about you – a ritual phrase spoken by your mother as you were leaving the house. She was acknowledging that there were dangers out there, but that you'd probably be all right if you didn't do anything stupid.

Don't do anything rash – similar to the above, addressed to daughters in particular.

Use your common sense – another variant of the above, but more often uttered by teachers. Current thinking seems to be that appeals to common sense are pointless.

Half-baked – poorly planned or poorly organised.

Mad as a snake – crazy. But why a snake?

Nincompoop – a fool, an idiot.

Ninny – see Nincompoop.

Nitwit – see Nincompoop.

Nong – see Nincompoop.

Numbskull – see Nincompoop.

I realise now that there were lots of good insults beginning with N. Nincompoop and numbskull applied more to males, ninny and nitwit to females. Nong was gender-neutral.

No fear! – certainly not! According to Kipling, this was such a distinctive saying during the Boer War that the Indian troops thought the Aussies were always exhorting each other not to be afraid. I remember it in common use among older family members, but haven't heard it for years.

Skiting – the usual word among school children for bragging or boasting.

It stands to reason – it's a logical conclusion. Nobody mentions reason any more.

It's gone kronk – the item in question has broken/worn out/ gone bad (this probably dates from our grandparents' time or earlier).

Karen Phillips

Recreating Walden Hut ... (from p 4)

and frailties in a way disparaged by the true objective scientist. Their passion created ground work for a conservation ethos and for future directions in their cultural legacy.

The Woodlanders appreciated nature in all its moods through their senses of smell, sight and hearing. Their scope was from the particular to the general, from the humble caterpillar and cicada to the grand panorama of the forest. In the spirit of Thoreau they documented night and day and the seasons. Their writing brought the beauty of nature to the readers in a lyrical way. Life at the Hut was delightful in Spring and Summer.

‘When the cold dawn wind whispers among the gum trees on the mountain slopes, and the first streaks of sunlight lace the greyness in the east,’ the Woodlanders were awakened by the calls of the blue wrens, magpies, thrush and coach whip birds.¹⁰

In late August 1906 the Woodlanders returned to Walden Hut as the wattles were bursting, ‘flaunting their golden pomp by swamp and stream and mountain path.’ The ‘dew drops hung like tiny crystal globes from every rustling grass-blade and drooping bracken frond.’¹¹

The Woodlanders took their conservationist lead from mentor Donald Macdonald in encouraging that wild life should be the ‘harvest of a quiet eye’ and imploring youth to refrain from collecting eggs and shooting birds.¹²

A detailed look at the lives and works of the Woodlanders as a unit and as individuals sees them as central in a significant network of nature writers and in preparing their own and following generations for a deep respect and love of nature alongside conservationist values. In their articles in the *New Idea* they infused accurate empirical observation with passion, poetry and emotion. The work of the Woodlanders and the history of their Walden Hut on the Olinda Creek is most worthy of a memorial, a replica hut and

information base for future visiting and perhaps even pilgrimages.

Compiled by Janice Newton for Mt Evelyn History Group, mtevelynhistorygroup@gmail.com or pherlihy3@gmail.com

Naming of Wonga Park (from p 6)

include the allotments from the timber reserve, those from the estate, and the grazing properties along the river. A primary school opened in 1895, at first called ‘Warrandyte East’, but renamed ‘Wonga Park’ in 1898.

In 1907 the National Mutual Company wrote to the Wonga Park Progressive League, objecting to the use of the name, to which they claimed exclusive rights. The company suggested ‘North Croydon’ as the place name, but the suggestion was not adopted. Wonga Park was first recognised as a district in the *Municipal Directory* of 1910.

The suburb of Wonga Park was not named directly for Simon Wonga. There is at present no evidence that the place name was associated with him at all.

Karen Phillips

Sources

James, G.F. 1984, *Border Country, Episodes and Recollections of Mooroolbark & Wonga Park*, Shire of Lillydale.

The Argus 22/2/1864,
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/5744591>

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<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/137577837>

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<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/219888812>

The Australasian 28/1/1888,
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/143306322>

Victorian Places,
<https://www.victorianplaces.com.au/wonga-park>

¹⁰ *New Idea* 6 Oct 1905, 112.

¹¹ *New Idea* 6 Nov 1907, 112.

¹² *New Idea* 6 Nov 1905, 458, 6 Dec 1905, 564.

Vale Phil Garland

(16/7/1946 - 15/5/2021)

Whilst Phil was not a member of Mt Evelyn History Group, some will remember him speaking to us on Victorian (Colonial) pre-Federation and Boer War military history in 2008, in the Community Room at the Mt Evelyn Library (pictured at right), and on collecting Australian and British banknotes ten years later in 2018, at Hardy House.

Phil was active in the Sherbrooke Foothills Historical Society Inc (SFHS) and the Running Rabbits RSL Museum at Upwey, was currently the Chair of the Yarra Ranges Heritage Network, and a representative from SFHS to the Association of Eastern Historical Societies.

Prior to retirement he was an insurance investigator, including working on major accidents such as train crashes.

Phil had a broad range of interests, and was always willing to help others any way he could. He gave physical help if needed, and chased up military history queries, specially those concerning uniform and badges, an area in which he was an expert at international level. He had a long time commitment to Scouting, including supporting Scouting facilities such as the ski lodge.



He kept up a wide friendship with his Scouting mates, who affectionately called him 'Chesty'. He collected scout memorabilia, and had an interest in philatelic items. He also collected crystal glassware, revealing the softer side of his nature.

More recently he wrote an article for us (see *Things Past* #117, May 2020) about the way he helped his mother prepare fruit for bottling. Again, in that article he shows his attention to detail from an early age, and his helpful nature.

A rough diamond, with a soft heart, and a sucker for dogs and a good red wine, Phil is missed by many who knew him. We were preparing to attend his birthday party, but it was not to be. He is survived by his ex wife Linda and daughters L'chelle and Danielle.



Phil is pictured at a meeting at Hookey Park Mooroolbark, on 17th April 2021

Paula and Tim Herlihy

STOP PRESS

Sad news about Mooroolbark Station

The Mooroolbark community has been left shocked and saddened by the demolition of their station building.

Opened as Mooroolbark Station on 10 October 1887, the building was assessed as the oldest of its type still standing. Following efforts by the Mooroolbark History Group to have it preserved for community use, it was understood that the building would be restored by TAFE students and relocated to Tarrawarra on the Yarra Valley Tourist Railway. Instead the old building was



completely destroyed between Monday 19 July and Thursday 22 July 2021.

More in our next issue.

From Marion Stott OAM

From Kev's Rain Gauge				
Rainfall (in mm) for Mt Evelyn, McKillop, and Melbourne for the last three months.				
	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-21	YTD
Mt Evelyn	76.0	131.2	74.8	568.7
McKillop	79.8	168.5	100.8	634.7
Melbourne	55.2	42.6	31.2	328.8

McKillop readings courtesy Jean Edwards
Melbourne figures from Bureau of Meteorology: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/>
Kevin Phillips

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