



# Things Past

Newsletter 123  
November 2021  
Wurundjeri Country  
PO Box 289 Mt Evelyn Vic 3796  
Incorporation Number A0051327F

## Dates for Your Diary

**General Business Meeting**, Monday 15 November 7:30 – 9:30 pm at Hardy House, 49 Birmingham Road, Mt Evelyn.

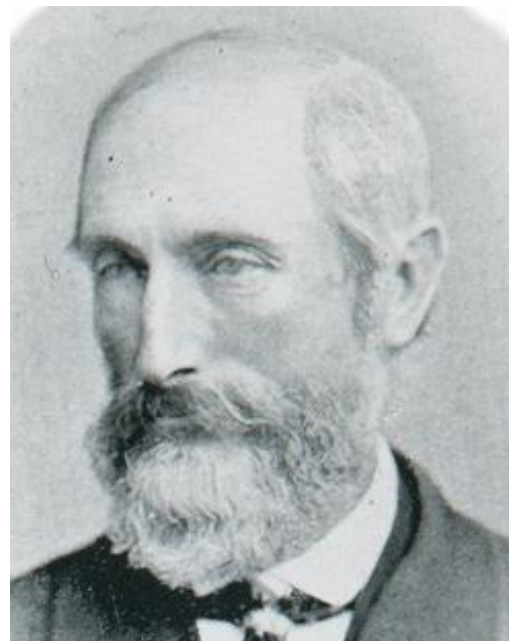
**Annual General Meeting**, February 2022. Details will be advised later.

*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.*

### In This Issue...

Descendants of a Wealthy Squatter: the Outhwaites from Mt Evelyn	1
Mooroolbark Station – Going, Going ... Gone	4
A Multi-talented Mt Evelyn Resident: Cedric/Louise Hordern	6
The Great Storm of June 2021 – a Personal Account	8
The Wrong Picture	10
Hidden Histories of Mt Evelyn Available in Print!	11
Calendar for 2022 – Ideal as a Christmas Card or Gift	11
Congratulations Sue Thompson	12
From Kev's Rain Gauge	12

## Descendants of a Wealthy Squatter: The Outhwaites from Mt Evelyn



**Robert Outhwaite**, *ANU Obituaries*

cont p 2

## Descendants of a Wealthy Squatter: the Outhwaites from Mt Evelyn

Robert Outhwaite (1827-1912), an ex-Yorkshireman, arrived in Melbourne in 1848 and acquired wealth through three cattle stations: Ghin Ghin,<sup>1</sup> north of Yea, Tallarook, south of the Goulburn River, and Tongabow. Robert subdivided and sold his stations then settled on a small estate near Doncaster. (Outhwaite Avenue, Doncaster, leading to the Manningham Park Reserve, is a reminder of his estate there).

Robert became a member of the wealthy squatter-based Melbourne Club. When he died he had six surviving children: a daughter, one son who was a member of parliament, another who was in South Africa and three (EW, AG and AH) who were in business in Melbourne. In 1912 Robert Outhwaite died, outliving his wife by 28 years.<sup>2</sup>

Alex Hubert Outhwaite, son of Robert, was born in Tallarook in 1877. In 1916 Alex was listed as the owner of Outhwaite House at 6 Stonnington Place, Toorak. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s the Outhwaites' extended family, and sometimes Alex and his wife, are mentioned in the social pages in relation to attending Toorak and South Yarra weddings and sporting contests.<sup>3</sup>

In 1914 Alex married Phillis Helen Martin and in the next few years the couple had four daughters (Joan 1915, Margaret 1916, Isla 1917 and Susan 1920). In 1922 Phillis Outhwaite was described as wearing black Chantilly lace and ivory satin at a dance at Yarrien, Toorak.<sup>4</sup> That same year, Alex bought Mt Evelyn's oldest house (formerly Temora, Blythswood and Pinemont) after a

subdivision of the Pine Mont Estate. He re-named the house 'West Hill'. He and his wife employed local people including Millie Peake, Alan Falkingham and Mrs Archer in the house and garden and became involved with a number of community bodies.<sup>5</sup>

In 1929 Alex was President of the Mt Evelyn Progress Association. He was also on the inaugural Recreation Reserve Committee in 1930. In 1932 he chaired a political meeting for a South Riding candidate, Dr Chapman, at the Mt Evelyn Mechanics Institute Hall.<sup>6</sup> In 1929 Mrs Outhwaite was President of the Mt Evelyn and Silvan Branch of the Australian Women's National League (A.W.N.L.)<sup>7</sup> Their daughter won first prize for her paper frock at a fund-raising New Year's Eve event run by the Mt Evelyn CWA.<sup>8</sup> In 1928 the Outhwaites also hosted the official luncheon for the RACV Hill climb up the old Zig Zag<sup>9</sup> (Birmingham Road, from Swansea Road intersection).

Alex Outhwaite worked as a partner in Messrs Young and Outhwaite as a public accountant.<sup>10</sup> He appeared for the Melbourne Warehouses Association and other owning bodies in a Commission into the evasion of Income Tax, pleading for a simpler system for piece workers and itinerant workers such as shearers and timber workers. He acted as trustee in bankruptcy cases.<sup>11</sup> Newspaper items reveal that Alex Outhwaite commuted to Melbourne for work, but a manuscript by Alf Knowles suggests that he also travelled to work at the Victorian Hardware Company Mill, possibly in Nayook West, a small

---

<sup>1</sup> In 1853 Ghin Ghin station held 30 horses and 800 cattle for an annual fee of £12. *Victorian Occupants of Crown Lands* 1853, Government Printer. Tallarook in 1860 was leased for £4.6.8 twice yearly, *Victorian Government Gazette*, 1860, No. 153.

<sup>2</sup> 'Outhwaite, Robert (1827-1912)', Obituaries Australia, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <https://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/outhwaite-robert-790/text791>, accessed 13 July 2021.

<sup>3</sup> For example *Table Talk* Melbourne 6 September 1934, p. 38. Later, in 1940, Alex and Phillis' eldest daughter, Joan, married William A'Beckett when living at Iona Avenue,

Toorak. *The Pastoralist Review* 16 Dec 1908 1002 <https://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/outhwaite-robert-790>.

<sup>4</sup> *The Australasian* 18 March 1922, p. 42.

<sup>5</sup> Interviews G Falkingham, Millie Peake.

<sup>6</sup> *Healesville and Yarra Glen Guardian*, 13 Aug 1932, p. 4.

<sup>7</sup> *Healesville and Yarra Glen Guardian* 30 March 1929, p.2.

<sup>8</sup> *Healesville and Yarra Glen Guardian* 6 Jan 1934, p. 4.

<sup>9</sup> *The Argus* 8 Oct 1928, p. 7.

<sup>10</sup> *The Argus* 19 Feb 1931, p. 7.

<sup>11</sup> *The Herald* 26 June 1924, p 24, *The Argus* 8 March 1932, p. 8.

forest town between Powelltown and Neerim that consisted of 150 residents in the 1920s.<sup>12</sup>

On two occasions the West Hill home of the Outhwaites was in danger from bushfires. In January 1928 a fire broke out on their property. It came within a half chain (10 metres) of Cirdec, Mrs Hordern's property, and burnt 8 acres of scrub. Again in 1932, at a time when there were many fires in the mountains, the Outhwaites' property was burned.<sup>13</sup>

In 1947 Alex retired from the accounting firm, Young and Outhwaite. He died at Richmond in 1953.

By this time the surname Outhwaite was well known in Melbourne. Ida Rentoul married Alex's brother Arthur and became well known as Ida Rentoul Outhwaite, an artist illustrator of scores of children's books, some of which were collaborations with her sister Annie, who wrote verse and music, and with her husband Arthur Grenbry Outhwaite.



**Portrait of Ida Outhwaite by Bernice Edwell, 1917, NGA.**

Melbourne University and chief chaplain-general for the AIF during the First World War.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>12</sup> 60 kilometres from Mt Evelyn. An extension of the main Gippsland train line was made to Nayook by 1917. Wikipedia.

<sup>13</sup> *The Herald* 5 Feb 1932, p. 4.

<sup>14</sup> <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/rentoul-john-laurence-8184>

In 1909 Ida married Arthur Grenbry Outhwaite (1876-1938), brother of Alex Hubert. Ida and Arthur had at least five children: Robert Rentoul (1910), Annie Isobel (1911), Wendy (1915), Margaret (1916), and William (1919).<sup>15</sup> Ida first published in 1904 when she was only fifteen (*Molly's Bunyip*). She loved plants and gardens and presented a magic land with 'bush, cool gullies, mosses'.<sup>16</sup> She developed a 'unique fairyland vision which filled the Australian landscape with an engaging liaison between native bears, kangaroos, kookaburras, ethereal and lissom fairies, mischievous-looking elves and tidy Edwardian children'.<sup>17</sup>



**Blue pincushion fairy, from A Bunch of Wildflowers 1933.**

When drawing elves and fairies associated with particular native wildflowers, their shapes differed, some being modelled on her own children. Accompanying verses sometimes gave children information about the species

and when you might see it.

Ida's work was exhibited in Europe and one of her books was presented to the young Princess Elizabeth. Her stylised drawings, many in black and white, reflected the tall gums and wind stunted tea tree of Mt Macedon, the Dandenongs and Lorne, where her family had holidays. A recent Radio National programme celebrated the magical fairy story illustrations of Ida Rentoul Outhwaite and a reappraisal of her importance.

Mt Evelyn has a tenuous link to Ida, sister-in-law of Alex Hubert Outhwaite. Perhaps some of her drawings were also inspired by visits to her husband's brother in Mt Evelyn.

**Janice Newton**

<sup>15</sup> Victorian births, deaths and marriages.

<sup>16</sup> M Muir and R Holden, *The Fairy World of Ida Rentoul Outhwaite*, Sydney, 1985, p. 153.

<sup>17</sup> Muir and Holden, 1985, p. 153.

## Mooroolbark Station – Going, Going ... Gone

Old Mooroolbark Station has come to a sad end (for history timeline see *Things Past* #116 & #117).

George Clewett's original 1887 building was the western end, built straight onto the ground. The 1922 eastern end, with chimney, was added when electricity arrived for the signalling. This section was built on stumps. Many people were confused about which end was the old part.

Firstly, before even any public consultation, the Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) just wanted to demolish the whole building.

Local history researcher Rhonda Simmonds worked tirelessly on the submission to have the building and surrounds Heritage Listed. Although Heritage Victoria agreed on every point, they refused the listing because the building had been altered several times, e.g. larger windows and glass door, which were installed for safety/security reasons.

Due to our information however, lo and behold Heritage Victoria decided to Heritage List the Station Master's House, which has been under the carpark for at least 47 years. Thus the Heritage 'dig' by Dr Vincent Clarke & Associates, which took over six weeks, with many people involved.

Secondly, the LXRP offered to relocate the 1922 end, the proposed site being next to the Peppercorn tree, near the Senior Citizens building in Red Earth Community Park on Brice Avenue. Then Yarra Ranges Council were to restore it for 'Community' use, e.g. connecting water and electricity, plus ramp access etc.

We gave both the LXRP and YRC some 12 gigabytes of information. Unfortunately the YRC was briefed 'in confidence' and we had no recourse. I gleaned that the cost had been put up to over \$600,000. 'YES! You could build a four-bedroom house with that!' I shouted down the phone.

I obtained funds in an afternoon and we commissioned an independent report on the station by eminent railway historian Fraser Brown. He identified it as the oldest station building of its

type still standing in Melbourne. We sent off the report to LXRP, YRC staff, every councillor and all around town.

Then LXRP changed their minds a third time and offered to retain the original 134-year-old part by dismantling it sensitively, placing it on a flatbed semi-trailer and taking it to Box Hill TAFE at Lilydale to be restored by the students. Then it's to be relocated to a siding near Tarrawarra Abbey on the Yarra Valley Tourist Railway. Better than nothing, but only just – no compensation for the Mooroolbark community for the loss of their valued building.

The Last Train that stopped at Mooroolbark Station was at 8.30pm Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021. We had heard there was to be a LXRP blitz in September, but HAD NO IDEA that the Mooroolbark Station buildings and surrounds were to be targeted for dismantling and DEMOLITION so soon.

Before 6am Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July, the digger machine had begun crunching up the front canopy and dumping it into a huge skip, along with stainless steel hand rails, paving, lumps of concrete, a small gumtree and vegetation.



We reversed the car into a parking bay. Rhonda joined us as we sat through the showers and watched for hours, as they removed the roof irons and trusses.



Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July, the rain persisted more steadily. They started on the 1922 eastern end, knocking/



smashing through the ceiling, then dismantling the trusses, which were set aside in piles, also a large window, a section of floor and a few pieces of board. We were quite hopeful.



exposing the original 134-year-old building.

A man in a blue machine started on the 1887 west end, again smashing through the ceiling and destroying the first two trusses as they wrestled with the 134 year old handmade nails, which had rusted in over the years.



would move. The chap used a small power saw to cut the boards. He then worked with a crowbar, hammers, but finally resorted to a small grinder to cut through the nails.

Then he actually demolished two trusses before taking a break. The two men who had previously worked on the eastern end returned in their



couple of hours to warm up. When we returned the top of the chimney stack had been dropped and ALL the trusses were down and stacked. (They broke two and there are 16 in the photo).

Returning Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>, the 1922 end was gone, with the chimney still braced,

George Clewett had obviously built the station to last, since nothing of his work

orange machine and continued removing the trusses.

We went home for a

Home we went, returning at approximately 4pm to see that the walls and rest of the chimney had been dropped.

Then the flat bed semi-trailer was loaded. It finally set off about 5.30pm, presumably to the Lilydale campus of Box Hill TAFE. If that was all that was taken, it can't possibly be RESTORED as there is only a fraction of the building to work with. At most they can only create a REPLICA.

Next morning, Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>, we arrived back at the site



early, at 6.04am, to find the original building completely gone, possibly dumped into skips and trucks. More stainless steel hand rails were gone, NOT recycled. The digger was working on removing the 1922 chimney bricks and stumps and flattening the asphalt platform. There is just one little gumtree that can be used as a reference point as to where the building actually was.

We'll go back now the sun is beginning to shine, to take a final shot for



our School Power Point presentation. As I will say, Going, Going ... Gone.



cont p 10

## A Multi-talented Mt Evelyn Resident: Cedric/Louise Hordern (1914-2000)

(Cedric Louis Hordern's name and gender were changed in 1987 to Louise Hordern<sup>18</sup>. When referring to her early life the pronoun 'he' will be used.)

### Early Years

Cedric Louis was born in 1914 in Edinburgh, Scotland while his father, Cedric, was studying to be a doctor at University.



*Cedric's father, Cedric Hordern, image from the [ww1austburialsuk](http://ww1austburialsuk.com) website*

Two months after he was born Cedric's mother died of appendicitis and thirteen months later his father died of pneumonia.<sup>19</sup>

Cedric's father's mother, Harriet Hordern, travelling with her unmarried daughter Marjorie, came to Scotland to collect Cedric when he was one year old

to bring him to Australia. When Marjorie died in 1922, Harriet came to Mt Evelyn with Cedric to stay at Pine

Mont Guest House. It was at that time owned by Ellis, later by the Outhwaites. The property had a gatehouse on Birmingham Road and a long drive which later became West Hill Drive.

While visiting Pine Mont, Harriet Hordern found out that there was to be a subdivision and decided to leave her flat in Myoora Road, Toorak, where she had lived with her late husband, William (1862-1911).<sup>20</sup> Harriet chose to live in Mt Evelyn and bought six half acre blocks in John's Crescent. An architect designed the house and supplies were brought by bullock dray. The final cost for land and house, finished in 1922, was £5,500. The house was named 'Cirdec', Cedric's name in reverse.<sup>21</sup>



*Cirdec. The Hordern Collection.*

Cedric's childhood in Mt Evelyn was quite isolated as he was virtually secluded with his grandmother. However, he had access to a pony and he often rode or walked along all the back tracks of the countryside, including up to Mt Dandenong. Once

<sup>18</sup> Louise Hordern was interviewed by Janice Newton 22 July 1993. This first section is a lightly edited adaptation of the interview. Supplementary material has been gathered from Paula Herlihy, newspaper articles, the Australian Dictionary of Biography, State Library, and Births, Deaths and Marriages and family tree resources.

<sup>19</sup> Cedric had attended Scotch College, Melbourne and was completing his medical studies in Edinburgh. He qualified then volunteered as a Probation Surgeon on a torpedo boat HMS Kale for the war effort. He was working at a hospital in Perth, Scotland when he contracted pneumonia and died two days later.

<https://www.scotch.vic.edu.au/ww1/first/hordernC.htm>

<sup>20</sup> William's real name was 'Priddle William', the son of William (1831-1881) who was the youngest son of the founding family of the Hordern retail dynasty in Sydney. *The Argus* 18 June 1887, p. 1. Founder Anthony Hordern

the first, from Staffordshire (1788-1869) observed the success of his wife Ann's haberdashery, bonnet and corset store which opened in Sydney in 1824. From it he developed a retail business. His son Anthony the second (1819-1876) and, in turn, Anthony's son, Samuel the first (1849-1909), and grandson Sir Samuel the second (1876-1956), went on to expand massively the retail business and to become central figures in Sydney Society. *Weekly Times* 23 Feb 1929, p. 9. After the retail founder Anthony the first returned to Melbourne in 1839, he bought three blocks in Russell St CBD and became a Town Councillor in 1842. His youngest son William, grandson Priddle William, a solicitor, and other descendants remained in Melbourne. ([sl.nsw.gov.au/stories](http://sl.nsw.gov.au/stories))

<sup>21</sup> In 1937 it was sold for £1750, subsequent owners including the McGlades and Greg and Helen Luke.



he rode to a Scotch College Scout Camp at Jumping Creek (Warrandyte?). Cedric never camped himself and was not so interested in the local flora and fauna. Neither was he involved or interested in local sport or clubs. As the land around the house was cleared, perhaps having been farmed before, Cedric occasionally played golf with his neighbours, the Flemings.

Another interest for Cedric throughout his childhood was the construction and widening of the aqueduct (complete by 1933), which passed just above Cirdec. In fact, Harriet arranged to siphon water from this 'Channel'. Cedric was fascinated with the works and, demonstrating a flair for photography, took a number of excellent photographs. As was more common in those days, he developed his own film.



**Workers on the Aqueduct. From The Hordern Collection. Photo: Cedric Hordern.**

Isolation from the local community was compounded by Cedric commuting by train to Melbourne to attend Scotch College. A small group of boys travelled to Melbourne private schools on the Lilydale line.<sup>22</sup> Harriet Hordern personally lobbied the Victorian Railways to arrange for the train to stop at Glenferrie Station, close by Scotch College. If the boys were lucky they caught the 3.52pm train home. If not, Cedric and his small group of co-travellers had to wait for the 5pm train to leave Melbourne, then wait at

Lilydale for car or bus transport, if not cycling home.

During his early schooling Cedric took dancing lessons at the Betty Lee Academy in Melbourne. This ultimately gave him the confidence to attend friends' parties and, later, local dances. He made his own amplifier, bought some Victor Sylvester dance records and even ran a few dances at North Croydon Hall, as well as a private party for his friends at the Mt Evelyn Public Hall. This was to repay people for previous invitations to their parties. These events did not include local people from Mt Evelyn as 'Grandmother was not prepared to meet any of the locals'.

Cedric was able to gain some photographs of a football match at the Recreation Reserve a few years later in 1935. A religious group called *The Crusaders' Union*, stayed at Pine Brae guest house (formerly Pine Mont) and organised a football match at 'the Rec'.



**The Crusaders play football at Mt Evelyn Recreation Reserve 1930s. Photo, Cedric Hordern**

During the 1930s there was a big bushfire burning south of the Methodist (Union) Church - now a private home in Watkins Crescent - across the Recreation Reserve and up to Mt Dandenong.<sup>23</sup> Cedric was watching from the Recreation Reserve when he saw the spouting on Brother Bill's Camp two storey building catch fire. He could do nothing and the building burned to the ground.

cont p 11

<sup>22</sup> Cedric remembered travelling to school with Lilydale doctor's sons, Frank and Peter McMahon, who went to Melbourne Grammar, and with Ron Thompson who attended Trinity. Glen Beaumont from Silvan went to Box

Hill Grammar and two boys from Healesville went to Wesley and Melbourne Grammar.

<sup>23</sup> This may have been 'Black Friday' from 1939.

## The Great Storm of June 2021 - a Personal Account

In the early afternoon of Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of June, I was participating in a Zoom meeting, in touch with singers in Seville and Mt Dandenong. About 2pm we began to comment on the sudden extreme winds at our locations. The organiser in Seville said she was struggling to hear us, and wondered if we should close.

We had had heavy and continual rain for weeks and the ground was soft, always a recipe for tree fall disaster, specially where trees stand alone from their fellows. We were all pleased we were not on the roads.

I was wakened in the night of that Wednesday by a heavy thump, and I noticed the wind and the sound of branches landing on our roof, and of course the power was off. Since the house was secure I went back to sleep. We are well prepared for blackouts, with candles and several large LED torches.

Thursday morning revealed that the branches on our roof were smallish and the trees which had fallen on our block were on the back of our



*Wattle Avenue, from Susanne Richards' Facebook page. The tree demolished the carport, but missed the house.*

property, so could be ignored in the short term. We were sorry for the birds and other animals who had lost their homes, possibly their lives. There was an eerie silence as the birds were not calling. There was no sound, and no traffic noise, except for a few chainsaws, which we presumed were SES clearing the roads.

We live in a mobile black spot at the bottom of the York Road hill, and since we have been connected to the NBN our landline doesn't work in a power cut. So at first light, after checking with neighbours for damage, and a cold muesli breakfast, my husband Tim drove out to get mobile reception to let our family know we were fine, and to get news of the duration of the power outage. Our neighbour Liz offered us the use of her gas cooking facilities, and we had a cup of tea and filled thermoses with hot water.

Initially the skies were clear and I dressed warmly and worked on my stamp collection. At different times I chatted with neighbours - Lauren and Gary next door offered us showers on their gas hot water service. The main sounds were now chainsaws and the occasional thump as trees continued to fall. They continued to fall for many days afterwards. It was extremely dangerous to venture onto any other than main roads.

By midday Thursday the skies had clouded over, and the air was damp. A gloom settled in so that candles and torches were needed that afternoon and the next few days except for two hours or so in the mid mornings.

Tim returned that first morning with news of fallen trees and branches and road clearing. He had had to travel to Bayswater to get mobile coverage, as a communication system didn't exist. Later we learned that the batteries were only designed for shorter power cuts like 24 hours. We arranged to meet friends from Sherbrooke, who were worse hit than us, for lunch at Bayswater. It transpired that they were without power for weeks and advised not to drink their water. We offered them a bed, but in the next few weeks they spent the day with us or their daughters in Melbourne, and returned to sleep in their cold Sherbrooke home. Liz gave us the keys to her house and left to stay with friends. Another friend went to a hotel in Ringwood.

On Friday morning we headed off early to buy a gas camp stove, as I wanted to cook food from the freezer. Bunnings was sold out but Anaconda had a good range. At Anaconda they told us they had sold their last generator that morning. The young



man filling our gas bottle said he didn't expect their gas to last the day. He was filling continuously, with a permanent queue of about 15 bottles with new ones added as soon as others were filled.

By now, as Tim described it, 'the hills were alive with the sound of chainsaws and generators'. Those with some gas fared the best, but the loss of electricity caused the failure of ignition to gas heating systems, MEPAC (health care) systems, house alarms, and other appliances using electricity to monitor them. The power surge which must have gone through the power system had damaged many appliances, such as our gas furnace ignition and Liz's refrigerator, and repair people were in short supply. Liz had moved her food to our fridge when she left in case it could be saved, and when she returned Tim spent several days assisting her in the research, purchase and transport of a new fridge.

Discovery Community Care, an arm of the Discovery Church, was early to offer practical help in Mt Evelyn. They offered meals, a laundry service, and other support, leaving flyers at local businesses, as communication was at first non-existent, and then limited. By a week or two after the storm, Council and others arranged practical support such as charging stations for laptops and mobiles, and showers.

Our power was back relatively early, late Friday, but others in badly hit spots were weeks without power. A friend in the hugely devastated area around Charles Road above Swansea Road was able to use an extension cord to his neighbour's generator. Once the cafes in the town opened we could eat there. A week after the storm hit, our Sherbrooke friends regularly ate dinner here before heading home to their cold bed.

In the weeks that followed we returned to normal, but roads through the hills were blocked by trees and debris and police barriers, so we couldn't visit family and friends for up to a month later.

We didn't take photographs quickly enough – the roads were soon cleared. The devastation was in a narrow swathe, with adjacent unaffected areas,

leading many to regard it as a tornado. Four months later, when Covid restrictions eased, I took a picture of the trees down in the reserve along Swansea Road, below Charles Road, where the trees were left in favour of more pressing cleanup work elsewhere. The heavy shutdown due to the Covid outbreaks gave us limited opportunity to travel and photograph.



*Olinda Creek Reserve below Charles Road, 19 October 2021.*

The loss of trees in the affected areas was mind boggling. The numbers of magpies we were feeding dropped from about seven to one pair. The butcher birds were unaffected. The devastation caused many people's vague fears about falling trees to crystallise into demands for neighbours to cut down their trees. Here we lopped three large pine trees which had survived the storm, as a response to the offer of neighbours to contribute to the cost. The trees were nearing the end of their lives, a fourth had gone down in the storm and they had good cause to worry. The lopped trunks are a horrible eyesore.

On the bright side the house has a lot more light and we plan to increase the number of solar panels on our roof. No consolation to the animals who lost their homes. Many beautiful trees lost their lives after surviving the storm, like the majestic gum near the Swansea Road bridge over the Olinda Creek. It had been leaning for years, but leaning is another way of describing a 'slow fall', so it went.

If you have a story, and photographs, I would love to hear about it! In years to come people can look back and read about this uncommon event.

**Paula Herlihy**

## The Wrong Picture

In *Things Past* #122 we mentioned the 'Wurundjeri Stories' board at Wittons Reserve and the misleading information about the naming of Wonga Park.

The story board also has text and a photo of 'Annie Boorat'. Boorat (c.1836-1870) was the mother of Wurundjeri leader Robert Wandin, and ancestress of the present-day Wurundjeri Elders. The caption reads: 'Annie Boorat of the Yarra Yarra (Wurundjeri) Tribe. Photograph by Carl Walter, 1866. Courtesy of the State Library of Victoria.'

The trouble is the photo is of the wrong woman. Carl Walter did photograph Boorat, along with other Coranderrk residents, in 1866, but the woman in the photo is a different 'Annie'. Her photo in Carl Walter's series is captioned, 'Annie - age 18 - Timothy's wife, Yarra Yarra formerly from the Goulbourne (sic)'. Her husband, Timothy Jarrack-coonan, was a Wurundjeri man (his photo appears on the cover of Jane Lydon's book *Eye Contact, Photographing indigenous Australians.*) This Annie was only 18 when she was photographed in 1866. She could not have been the mother of Robert Wandin, who was then a boy of 11. The photos of all these people can be viewed on the State Library website.

The confusion may have arisen because clan membership was usually inherited from the father. Robert Wandin's father was a white man. Wandin belonged to the Wurundjeri clan through his mother Boorat, who was Wurundjeri by birth, not by marriage. Wurundjeri leader William Barak called Wandin 'my sister's son'.

Another point of doubt concerns Boorat's name. Her photo by Carl Walter is captioned 'Borate, age 30, Yarra Yarra Tribe'. She is mentioned in several newspaper articles about Coranderrk, on her certificate of marriage to her second husband, Adam Clarke, and on her son Robert Wandin's marriage certificate. She was always known by her birth-name in its various spellings (Borat, Borate,

Boraat, Boorat, Boorate, Boorort). She was unusual in that respect. Almost all Aboriginal people at Coranderrk were known by their English names, with or without the addition of their original names.

Not a single instance could be found of Boorat being called 'Annie' in her lifetime. The name seems to have become attached after her death, and is now associated with her. It would be more accurate to give her name as 'Boorat, later known as Annie Boorat'. She is commemorated by a street name, Annie Borat Close, in Brunswick.

I hope the photo and information on the story board can be corrected. I have contacted the City of Manningham and received a preliminary reply, but so far no follow-up. To leave the errors uncorrected would be disrespectful to both women, and to their descendants. Surely everyone deserves to be remembered under their own name and image.

**Karen Phillips**

## Mooroolbark Station... from p 5

According to the LXP:

*Part of the existing Mooroolbark Station has been successfully relocated to the Lilydale campus of the Box Hill TAFE to be refurbished before going to its new home on the Yarra Valley Railway. During last month's intensive period of works to remove the Manchester Road level crossing ... two semi-trailers transported part of the existing building to Box Hill TAFE.* <sup>24</sup>

At the Lilydale Stakeholders meeting, L&DHS rep Philip Burton asked about Mooroolbark Station and was told three truckloads had been delivered to the TAFE. The above post from LXP states two. We observed only one. The two photos on the LXP website were taken from either side of the same truckload that we observed and photographed.

**Marion Stott OAM**

---

<sup>24</sup> LXP 4/8/2021,  
<https://levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/media/news/existing->

[mooroolbark-station-goes-for-some-tlc-with-students-at-box-hill-tafe](#)

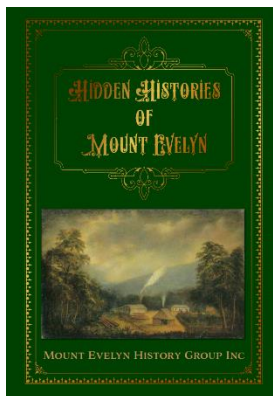
## **Hidden Histories of Mount Evelyn Available in Print!**

A positive to come out of the COVID -19 lockdown was the Mt Evelyn History Group's online book **Hidden Histories**.

A print version is now available as a print-on-demand book through the Amazon store <https://www.amazon.com.au/Hidden-Histories-Mount-Evelyn-History/dp/B09JJ9GT84/>

Price: as priced on the Amazon store (including postage), or

\$17.50 collected from Mt Evelyn History Group [mtevelynhistorygroup@gmail.com](mailto:mtevelynhistorygroup@gmail.com) (telephone 9736 2935).



This is a 'different' history of Mount Evelyn, about hidden aspects of the town's past – topics that are deeply buried, unproved, unprovable, or just too embarrassing for words.

Did Mount Evelyn have gold mines, or wartime

bunkers? Who was a secret Communist? Which houses are haunted? And what stories are told of gangster Squizzy Taylor, and the despised Nightman?

The printed version contains additional chapters not included in the online version.

This book will have you looking at Mount Evelyn with fresh eyes.

### **A Multi-talented Mt Evelyn Resident: Cedric/Louise Hordern** from p 7

Cedric was an engineering student in the mid-30s 'but did not attend classes diligently'. He was unemployed and 23 years old when his life changed markedly. He met a girl on New Year's Day 1937 at a dance at the Mt Evelyn Public Hall. Olive Biggs had come to Mt Evelyn as a weekender. Olive and her mother had bought blocks of land in Park Road (now Hordern Road), Mt Evelyn in 1933-4 for £35 each. Olive came from

Yarraville where her father was a crane driver for a foundry. Olive herself worked as an accounting machine operator for Robur Tea. On this particular weekend she stayed in a two room cottage with a lean-to kitchen in Spring Road (now Marshall Street), with her sister Florence and her sister's husband Arnold Padfield from Thornbury. As soon as Cedric and Olive met they became closely involved with each other. 'The two of us spent the next two or three days together wandering around. I took her up to see the Cascades and the Olinda Creek ... we thoroughly enjoyed our time together. We started going out [regularly on] Saturday nights. At this time dances in Mt Evelyn were only on special occasions so [we] caught a truck to regular dances at the Belgrave Memorial Hall.'

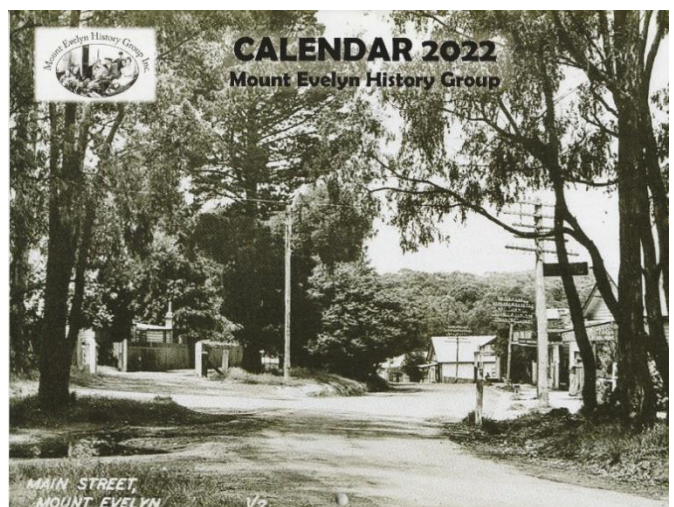
At this time Harriet Hordern decided to sell *Cirdec* and return to Melbourne. She moved to Kooyong near Hawthorn. A few months later, in August of 1937, Cedric married Olive. He still had no job and his grandmother Harriet broke ties with him.

*To be continued.*

**Janice Newton**

## **Calendar for 2022 – Ideal as a Christmas Card or Gift at \$10**

Mt Evelyn History Group has produced a calendar illustrated with some of the earliest photos we have of Olinda Vale/ Evelyn/ Mount Evelyn.



Calendars are \$10 collected from Mt Evelyn History Group [mtevelynhistorygroup@gmail.com](mailto:mtevelynhistorygroup@gmail.com)



## Congratulations Sue Thompson

On 21<sup>st</sup> October, Lilydale and District Historical Society president Sue Thompson, was recognised with the Inaugural Jane Hansen Prize for History Advocacy from the History Council of Victoria.

Many in Mt Evelyn will remember Sue from the early days of Morrison House, or perhaps as journalist and editor of our local papers, as a Shire of Lillydale Councillor and instrumental in the establishment of the Lillydale Museum (Yarra Ranges Regional Museum). Sue is currently chair of the Yarra Ranges Heritage Network and is a

strong advocate protecting Lilydale's history in the recent re-structuring of the town.

You can view the Award ceremony at <https://youtu.be/PZI5F2eLNMA>. Sue says, 'The History Council of Victoria's Annual lecture is fantastic but if you have limited time the Prize was made afterwards so forward to the 1.10 point (i.e. 1 hour 10 minute mark) to see the announcement of the prize and my humble acceptance speech.'

A well deserved award!

**Paula Herlihy**

<b>From Kev's Rain Gauge</b>				
Rainfall (in mm) for Mt Evelyn, McKillop, and Melbourne for the last three months.				
	Aug-21	Sep-21	Oct-21	YTD
Mt Evelyn	70.7	91.2	181.1	911.7
McKillop	81.5	107.2	191.6	1015.0
Melbourne	49.6	68.3	110.2	556.9

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

**Kevin Phillips**

## Contact Us

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

**Editor:** Paula Herlihy, [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/>

Opinions expressed in *Things Past* are those of the writers, not necessarily those of Mount Evelyn History Group.