



Things Past

Newsletter 131
 November 2023
 Wurundjeri Country
 PO Box 289 Mt Evelyn Vic 3796
 Incorporation Number A0051327F

Dates for Your Diary

Christmas Breakup, Sunday 26 November, 1.30pm at 3 Bligh Court, Lilydale. Mary and Glenn Golds are once again opening their home for us. Members, please bring a small plate of food; tea and coffee will be provided. RSVP to pherlihy3@gmail.com or leave a message on 9736 2935 to assist with catering. All welcome, members and friends.

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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Launch of *The Woodlanders of Walden Hut*



The new sign for Walden Hut and the Woodlanders, with Janice Newton, Kim Campbell and Professor Tom Griffiths who brought the Woodlanders to our attention in *Hunters and Collectors* (1996).

Constance Coleman Project Awarded an 'Endangered' Local History Grant!

Mt Evelyn History Group is relieved that their recent agitation, and that of other historical societies, has led to the Victorian State Government rescinding an earlier decision that funds would be cut to the Public Records Office of Victoria (PROV), for the Local History Grants Program:

<https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/funding-takes-local-history-grants-and-awards-forward>

We are especially pleased to see two Yarra Ranges projects receive funding in this year's grant round:

<https://prov.vic.gov.au/round-21-recipients-2022-2023>

The Friends of Wanderslore group has been awarded \$4,500.00 to conduct a *Significance Assessment of the Wanderslore Constance Coleman Collection of Artworks, Archives and Artefacts*. Gwyn Davies from Friends of Wanderslore, who wrote the application, supported by our president Paula Herlihy (also a Friend of Wanderslore Sanctuary at Launching Place), have been aware that such a formal assessment of Coleman's contributions to Art, Literature, Education and Conservation was necessary for her to receive the attention she deserves.

The Friends will engage Melinda Mockridge to carry out the work. Melinda curated the successful *Power and the People* exhibition for the Yarra Ranges Heritage Network. Special thanks to John Petersen (YRC) for his support of this project. Several MEHG members (Paula Herlihy, Janice Newton, Mary Golds) were taught by Constance

Coleman at Lilydale High School, and she was a friend of Dr Bill and Cr Gwen Hardy. After our recent Woodlander book launch Janice Newton remarked that Coleman could be regarded as an 'honorary Woodlander'.

In addition, the Yarra Valley Railway (yvr.com.au) has been funded \$3,070.00 for the purchase and installation of display units.

Thank you to everyone who contacted their local State member, as well as Minister for Government Services Danny Pearson, to encourage provision of these necessary funds. Our local member Bridget Vallenge spoke on this issue in State Parliament on our behalf.

As this support is for one year only, without any indication about future funding, it is important to encourage the Victorian State Government,



Constance Coleman Untitled (Yarra Valley from Wanderslore Sanctuary).

Photograph by Paula Herlihy of a painting in her possession.

(especially during preparation of the next budget), to provide ongoing funding to support PROV and the availability of Local History Grants opportunities for the 350 local history societies throughout Victoria.

Paula Herlihy

Charles Leslie Barrett FRZS, CMZS (1879-1959) Scribe and Mentor, part 1

This is part 1 of the final of three articles highlighting the lives of the three original (Waldenite) Woodlanders. These were nature writers who rented 'Walden Hut' in Swansea Road between 1903 and 1907, to escape the 'throbbing city', and immerse themselves in nature. The Shire of Yarra Ranges has installed a sign near the site of this hut. MEHG has published a print-on-demand book called 'The Woodlanders of Walden Hut'. Thanks are due to grandsons of Charles Barrett, Don and Gavin Campbell, and great-grand daughter Kim Campbell for providing photographs and material.

Although historian Tom Griffiths has made an excellent start, the biography of Charles Barrett is yet to be written. Born in Hawthorn, Victoria, Charles Barrett was the author of more than 100 books,¹ and hundreds of articles on topics ranging from natural history, travel, history, and Indigenous Australians to social life and customs. To do justice to the scope of his work is impossible in a short article, so the following discussion focuses somewhat on Barrett's early Walden Hut years and its subsequent influence, his marriage, war service and writings on Aboriginal culture and for youth.

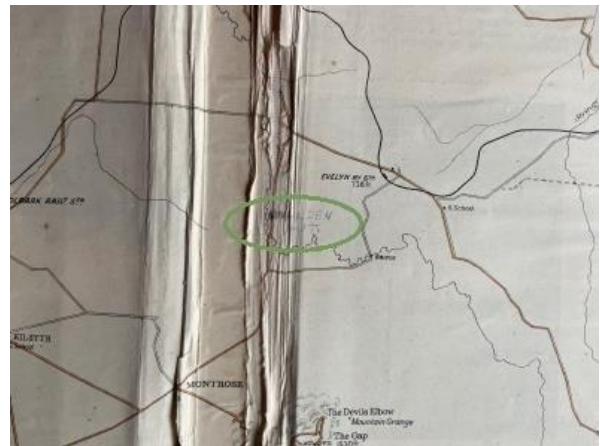
Born in 1879, Charles Barrett was the youngest child (of three sons and a daughter) of Thomas Barrett, builder and Mayor of Hawthorn. Thomas Barrett's finances suffered in the depression years of the early 1890s, limiting Charles' opportunities. Charles spent some of his schooling at the Brighton Orphanage School in the same class as co-Woodlander, Claude Kinane. 'I had to renounce hopes of a brilliant career', he wrote.² Still, what he achieved was quite remarkable.

¹ For some of these see <https://victoriancollections.net.au/collections?q=charles%20barrett> or https://openlibrary.org/authors/OL118852A/Charles_Barrett

Barrett and Walden Hut

A trip to Bass Strait to view marine life in 1901-2 led to Barrett's meeting with Brooke Nicholls and their 'Walden Hut' adventure. Nicholls and Barrett shared an admiration for the nature writing of H D Thoreau so they rented a hut at the Olinda Vale Settlement (on the Lilydale side of the York Road and Swansea Road intersection) and named it 'Walden Hut' after Thoreau's book *Walden* (1854).

Initially Nicholls, Barrett and Barrett's school friend from Brighton, Claude Kinane, referred to themselves as the 'Waldenites', but by the time they came to print they were 'The Woodlanders'. 'Life at the Hut' was delightful in Spring and Summer in those years between 1903 and 1907. The Woodlanders slept on sacks slung between sapling poles and ate simply: bread, meat, fish and water from the creek, wild honey and tea.³



1914 map with Walden Hut marked in pencil.

*When the cold dawn wind whispers among the gum trees on the mountain slopes, and the first streaks of sunlight lace the grass in the east, the Woodlanders were awakened by the calls of 'the blue wrens, magpies, thrush and coach whip birds A blue haze hangs between the gullies which are heavy with the perfume of musk and sassafras.'*⁴

The four to five years spent in holiday and weekend visits to Walden Hut with Woodlanders and friends (1903-7) became central to Barrett's

² Tom Griffiths, 'The Natural History of Melbourne', *Australian Historical Studies* 23:93, Oct 1989.

³ *Western Mail*, Perth 9 Oct 1919, 39; Charles Barrett 'Huts as Homes' *Australian Boy* 7 April 1928, 49.

⁴ *New Idea*, 6 October 1905, 355.

identity and memories. According to Griffiths it became 'a symbol of his beginnings as a naturalist'.⁵ 'The old hut is gone now ... but in memory it will always remain'.⁶ 'But a thousand and one nights spent in bush huts have given me memories I would not exchange for gold.'⁷

The Hut reappeared in fiction, newspaper articles and in several of his later books. In 1934 there was a proposal by the Field Naturalists to have a replica or miniature made for the Centenary Horticultural Display at Fitzroy Gardens.⁸ The hut, originally called 'Modesty Cottage', was on the acre allotment of David (Davy) Parr, Lot 29s on the Mooroolbark Parish map, and was also marked in pencil on a 1914 tourist map of the Dandenongs (see previous page).



Location of Parr's block 29s, approximately west of the junction of Commercial Road and Mons Road, Mt Evelyn.

Barrett maintained that he got the most out of the Walden Hut adventure because a letter to the

British naturalist W H Hudson about the experiment led to a friendship with this author of *Hampshire Days*. Letters from Hudson were read aloud in Walden Hut to Nicholls and Kinane.⁹

The Walden Hut experience also led to a correspondence, then a visit, to E Banfield, 'The Beachcomber of Dunk Island'. The letters between the two attest to how well Barrett, his wife Florence and their dog got on with the Banfields.¹⁰ Edmund Banfield was an exemplar for many nature lovers and artists of the early 20th century for his successful withdrawal from town life and employment to live close to nature.

Barrett was also mentored by the nature writer from *The Argus*, Donald Macdonald. Macdonald invited young naturalists, including Charles, to The Huts at Black Rock for weekends. Barrett obtained work at *The Argus* in 1906.

During the years visiting Walden Hut, Barrett thus obtained long term employment, began to demonstrate his organisational and community minded attributes,¹¹ and began writing his first book, much influenced by his nature writing from the Olinda Creek sojourns.

Charles Barrett's first book, *From Range to Sea* in 1911 was presented as a gift to his wife, Florence Ellynor Trego-Williams, whom he married on 12 June of that year.

Marriage

In June 1911 Charles married Florence (whom he called 'Helen') and they lived in Norwood, Adelaide until his return from his tour of duty in the Middle East. They then returned to live at Maralena, 8 Maybury Avenue Elsternwick, where they stayed until Florence's death in 1957. Florence was also a naturalist with a specialisation in shells and when her two children, Donald and Margaret (Bea) were old enough she

⁵ Griffiths 1989, 346.

⁶ Barrett 'Huts as Homes', *Australian Boy* 7 April 1928, 49.

⁷ Charles Barrett 'The Old Bush Hut' *Australia My Country*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 1941, 98.

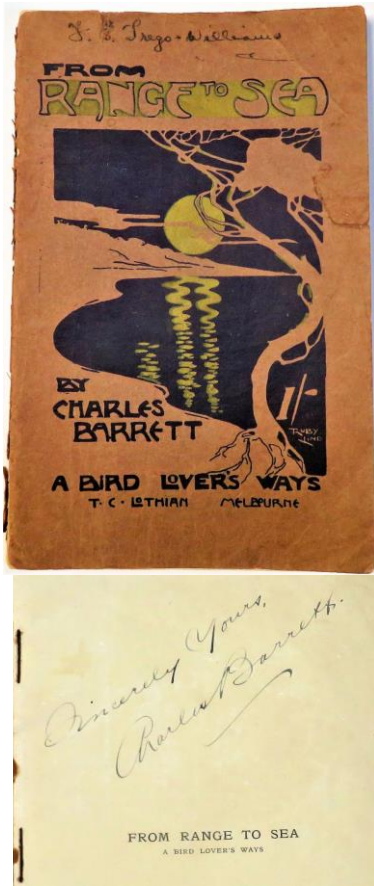
⁸ *The Herald* 6 Feb 1934, 22.

⁹ Barrett 1939, 33.

¹⁰ Letters from Edmund James Banfield to Charles Barrett 1920-22, 1977. State Library NSW.

¹¹ In 1905 he proposed the formation of the Field Naturalists in the Brighton area. In 1901 he had already become a founding member of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union (RAOU) and edited their journal *The Emu* from 1910-1916.

joined Charles on many expeditions to outback and northern Australia.



Copy of Barrett's first book and inscription to his wife-to-be, Florence. The book was dedicated to his mentor, Donald Macdonald.¹²

The First World War

Charles Barrett was the only Woodlander to serve in WWI. According to his daughter he abhorred war but after his experience he admired those men and women who served.¹³ During Barrett's service in the Camel Brigade Field Ambulance he was able to keep up his journalism. He wrote a regular 'Nature Studies in Palestine' column in the ANZAC journal, *Kia-ora Coo-ee* and edited *The Stretcher* and *Cacolet* for the Camel Brigade Field Ambulance.

Regular letters home from the base in Egypt to his daughter Margaret ('Bea') from 'Trogdolyte Villa'

were illustrated by David Barker, war artist, and were 'affectionate, informative and often humorous'.¹⁴

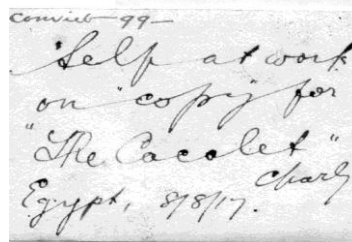
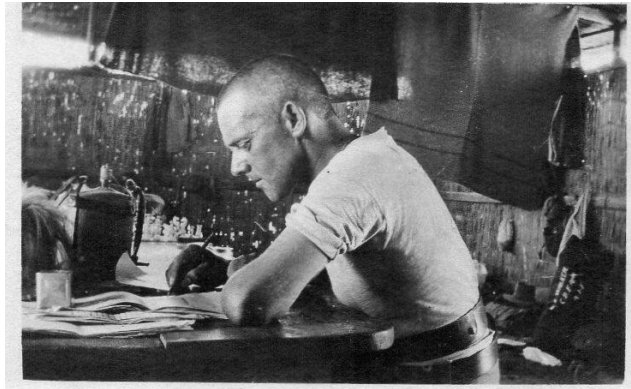


Image of shaven-headed Charles at his quarters, and inscription (self-dubbed 'Convict 99') provided by Gavin Campbell.

Barrett also did what he could for the Second World War (1939-45). 'He travelled officially to where Australian troops were stationed in Australia, New Guinea and other areas, lecturing on bush survival, natural food, animal recognition, etc.'¹⁵ Over 100,000 copies of his edited anthology *The Swagman's Notebook* (1943), were published, mostly for troops.¹⁶ Barrett's book *Australia My Country* 1941 was also suggested as a gift for soldiers. The flyleaf stated:

'Written by one who returned from the last war with a deeper love for his own country - Australia, this book, of handy size, will be a welcomed gift to Australians on active service. It is offered as a tribute to them and to their native land. But it makes an even wider appeal, as it will give to many people in Australia, New Zealand, Britain and America a glimpse of the real Australia – an ideal gift volume to send to friends overseas.'¹⁷

Janice Newton

(To be continued in a future *Things Past*).

¹² Images courtesy Gavin Campbell. Griffiths 1989, 346.

¹³ Email Gavin Campbell, 2023.

¹⁴ Notes by Gavin Campbell. The letters are lodged in the Australian Manuscripts section of La Trobe Library, SLV. See also Griffiths, 1989.

¹⁵ Personal Correspondence 30 June 2023 Gavin Campbell.

See also Griffiths 1989.

¹⁶ Griffiths 1989, 359.

¹⁷ Email Gavin Campbell, 2023.

Launch of *The Woodlanders of Walden Hut*

by Janice Newton with Karen Phillips and Paula Herlihy OAM

The stars must have been in perfect alignment for the day of our launch, Saturday 16 September. The weather was perfect, and a half-page article in the *Mt Evelyn Star Mail* helped attract about 50 people to Hardy House. These included representatives from Lilydale and District Historical Society and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria.

MEHG were most fortunate to have Dr Gary Presland (author of *First People* and *A Place for a Village: How Nature has Shaped the City of Melbourne*) launch the book. Professor Tom Griffiths from

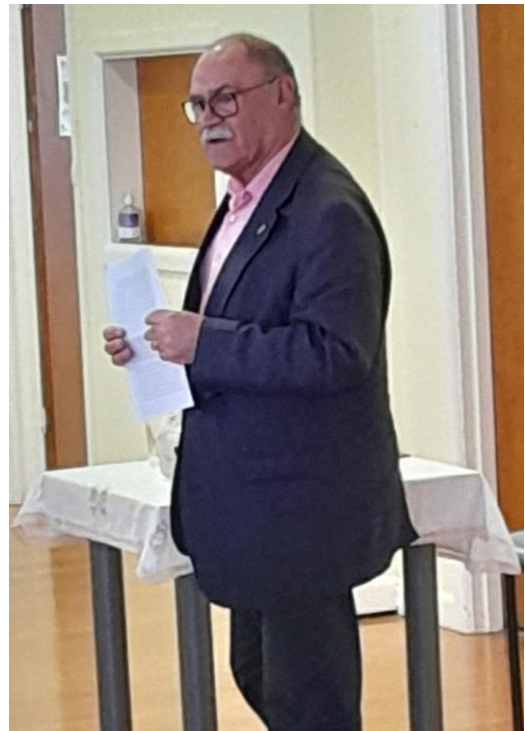


the Australian National University (author of *Forests of Ash* and *Hunters and Collectors*, who brought the 'Woodlanders' to our attention 30 years ago) and Kim Campbell (great-granddaughter of Woodlander Charles Barrett) were also willing to say a few words.

Professor Griffiths stressed that the Woodlanders of Walden Hut have local, regional and national importance. Just as artists of the Heidelberg School demonstrated through their art a growing love of the nature of their new nation, so the writers and naturalists who gathered at Walden Hut, through their fostering of an appreciation of birds and flora in particular, were significant in the story of the nation.

Kim Campbell found the book invaluable in enabling her to see how Charles Barrett's work and 'those of the Woodlanders fit within the narrative of Australian society and Australia's relationship with the land.' She was 'fascinated with how a strong network of male and female amateur naturalists and photographers helped

shift the public perspective on all things to do with nature.' Kim was especially gladdened that: *the area of their hut remains a green recreational space that people still get to walk past ... and enjoy the trees and frog song ... and this book shines a light on how this humble bark hut represented such a wonderfully rich slice of Australian history.*



Gary Presland launching the book

Dr Gary Presland, who edits *The Victorian Naturalist* and is the librarian/archivist of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria (founded in 1880), underlined the centrality of this institution to our story of the Woodlanders and followers.

The names that appear in this book are like those of old friends. Each of the principal Woodlanders—Charles Barrett, Claude Kinane, and Brooke Nicholls—were members of the FNCV, as was their mentor Donald Macdonald, and also those individuals, featured here, who followed in their wake—naturalists such as Alec Chisholm, Edith Coleman, Jean Galbraith, Arthur Mattingley, and Richard Trebilcock.

Dr Presland finished his speech by citing Aesop's adage that 'good things come in small packages', indicating that our book was one of these 'good things'.

[cont p 12](#)

Sisters Attend Presbyterian 90th Reunion En Masse

On Saturday 22 July a large crowd attended the 90th Anniversary at the Mt Evelyn Presbyterian Church, hosted by Pastor Miles Fagan. Sisters predominated, and many were children of parents featured in previous *Things Past* issues.

Daughters of Peter and Barbara Millard, Ros, Bev and Cheryl, came along. Bev and her husband Bill were thrilled to find there the Minister who married them, the Reverend Ronald McLean (aged 100). Daughters of flower farmers John and Pauline Koolmees, Helen and Jill, caught up with Catherine, daughter of neighbouring flower farmers Jim and Joan Marshall. Bonnie and Harry Neilson's daughters Helen, Gillian and Gaye were asked to light the birthday cake in honour of their mother.

I attended with my sister Gail, and caught up with daughters and son of Roly and Sheila Hudson (news-agents), Carole, Julie and Jim. Also present were Sue, daughter of



Carole (nee Hudson) and Ros (nee Millard)



Gillian (nee Neilson) helps with afternoon tea.



Former Sunday School colleagues, from left, Janice Newton, Julie (nee Hudson), Bev (nee Millard) and Bev's sister Cheryl.

grocers Lex and Peg Lillie; John, son of kindergarten play leader Gene Stroud, and many others.

Thanks to Pastor Fagan, Robyn Taylor and parishioners for arranging this event.

Janice Newton

Deaconess Hazel Lloyd

Among the history compiled for the Presbyterian Church's 90th anniversary, we received information on Deaconess Lloyd.

With regards to the Mt Evelyn Presbyterian Church, our - then - very new and quite young deaconess Hazel Lloyd (when she first arrived in the 1950s) certainly shouldn't be left out! Not sure whether Hazel was attached to both the Lilydale and Mt Evelyn parishes, but she certainly lived and did a lot of work in Mt Evelyn.

Hazel actually lived not far from us, in or near Bailey Road, and I recall that Mum was concerned about her potential loneliness/isolation from her own family and connections, so that she (Mum) got me to make a small cake to take to her early on. I still recall – and still have the recipe for – the cake I made on that occasion, because it was the first cake I actually made by myself! – Isabel Martini.

Hazel Bessie Lloyd (born 1927) seems to have come from the Warwick area of Queensland, and trained as a deaconess at Rolland House on a bursary. Rolland House was a training college run by the Presbyterian Church for deaconesses and missionaries, and was located on the site of the former St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Carlton. Janice Newton remembered the Deaconess in her blue uniform.

In 1961 Miss Lloyd married James Robinson and moved to the coast, but she appears to have returned to live in Mt Evelyn in the 1980s. She wrote and self-published three books: *Cosmoscope – Selected Poems* (Mt Evelyn, 1981?), *The Startling Truth and other true stories* (Mt Evelyn, 1984), and *Pensive Poems and Ridiculous Rhymes* (1992). *The Startling Truth* was illustrated by Faith Robinson, possibly the Deaconess's daughter.

The Proctor House



Bill and Clare Proctor in front of the renovated Proctor House, 21 May 2023. Photo Kathy Saric.

On 16 April this year, Discovery Community Care (DCC) opened their renovated facility in the former Proctor home on the Monbulk Road/McKillop Road corner. DCC General Manager Philip Hamilton said, 'DCC's mission is "to walk alongside people in the local community so that they can experience belonging, express their gifts and effect change in their lives and their community". Our hope is that people doing life tough will experience a sense of home and belonging when they visit this new facility.'

On 21 May, members and friends of Mt Evelyn History Group toured the house, guided by Kathy Saric from DCC. DCC has provided display boards on the Proctors inside the beautifully renovated house. The History Group later visited Mont De Lancey to view the Ralph Proctor display at the Museum there.

Ralph Proctor's story is told in the book *Aim High: Proc's Journey*, written when he was 89. In 1941 Ralph enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force. At the end of 1945, after flying in support of the D-Day landings in Normandy and Operation Market Garden (Battle of Arnhem), Ralph returned to Australia and married his girlfriend Helen Stevens. They purchased the twenty-acre block of vacant land at 89 Monbulk Road, with a vision of establishing 'Woodleigh Farm' as a berry and fruit farm to support themselves and their anticipated family.

Ralph and a farmer friend who knew about building constructed a two - bedroom home. Ralph and Helen went on to have seven children, including two sets of twins, so the house was extended twice to accommodate the family: Marion, Keith, Clare, William (Bill) & Frank, Kate & Gwen. Daughters Marion and Clare attended the launch on 16 April; Clare and Bill attended on 21 May with Mt Evelyn History Group. Ralph took outside work with the Department of Agriculture, as the farm could not support the family of nine.

He did the heavier farm work on the weekends, as well as extending the house. Ralph joined the Mt Evelyn State School Committee, the Silvan Fruit Growers Association, the Memorial Kindergarten Committee, Mt Evelyn Scout Committee, Mt Evelyn Progress Association, the Red Cross Door Knock Appeal and the Lilydale Bowls Club. Helen was heavily committed with domestic work, harvesting and packing the fruit, besides caring for the seven children, but she was a member of the Mt Evelyn State School Mother's Club. When she fell seriously ill, local people took the children in until she regained her health. Good friends included Bill and Gwen Hardy, and Ian and Betty Parker.



Some of the Mt Evelyn History Group tour group , 21 May 2023. Part of the Ralph Proctor display on the far wall. Photo Kathy Saric.

Found Objects

On Saturday 15 July we had a fascinating 'Found Objects' session organised by Joel Munroe, at fourteen our youngest member. The venue was the Mt Evelyn Community House Art Shed (formerly the Youth Enterprise Shed or YES shed), and the packed attendees agreed it was an ideal venue for the display.



Joel Munroe with items from his collection of found objects.

Joel's grand-parents live on the land his great grandparents moved to in 1951 (see *Tracks to Trails*, 2nd ed. pp.177-178). They lived in an original one room earth-floored shack in Glenholme Avenue, while Joel's great grandfather, Gheorghe Miutescu, built a home for them from timber purchased from Millards and carried by hand to the site. Joel has been able to dig through the old rubbish heap on the land and retrieve items which illuminate his great grandparents' life and times. Joel also researches his family online and has toured Cave Hill where his great grandfather Gheorghe worked.

Joel has grouped his finds into categories such as 'bottles' and 'metal'. Audience members enjoyed reminiscing about some of the objects, and answering some of Joel's queries about his collection.

Joel's collection was the main attraction of the afternoon, but members were asked to bring along an interesting 'found' object. At the end of the session, each had a few minutes to show their item and answer questions.

Marion Stott showed two fascinating objects and asked those present to guess what they were – an egg weighing device and a suspended vase. Jean Edwards showed an Aboriginal throwing stick, and two magazines with articles by Woodlander Charles Barrett. Paula Herlihy showed two fire bricks used in a fireplace in the original shack on her land. Kevin Phillips brought a large cast-iron kettle and a glass lemon squeezer, both dug up from his back yard when he was building his house. Peter Paterson displayed an article he found pasted in a family scrap book describing Mt Evelyn. Mary Golds showed an unusual brass lion, with a paw on a ball, Chinese style, which she had had chromed.

Rosemary Baker displayed a framed Christmas card received in 1932 by her grandfather, who worked for the 'Colonial and Continental Church Society'. Sent by the Reverend Latham in Madras (now Chennai), India, it was a sketch of Indian village scenes printed on paper made from bamboo.

Paula Herlihy

The Proctor House

from p 8

DCC has created vegetable plots on the grounds around the house, and operates a food bank from a large shed, where food is collected and distributed. Their hope is that this facility will honour Ralph and Helen's legacy in being used 'seven days a week as a community hub, for people to connect over meals and express their gifts over shared interests such as the community garden – to cultivate and grow something together as a family like Ralph and Helen did. Not just fruit and vegetables, but something much more meaningful – bonds of interdependence and trusting relationships that last for generations.'¹⁸

Paula Herlihy

¹⁸ Philip Hamilton's notes for the Launch on 16 April.

Memories of David Mitchell Cave Hill Lime Works, part 2

(Continued from *Things Past* #130)

Work Hazards

Janice Newton remembers being a little shocked on a geography excursion to the works in 1966, when she observed and experienced in the bagging room the dusty/lime dust infused air and the workers perhaps making use of handkerchiefs around their mouths, but little else. According to his daughter, Mr Miutescu used to have terrible cracks on his hands because of the lime eating into his skin.¹⁹

Peter Wilson²⁰ was unaware of any hazardous pranking at the quarry and could not recall many work-related tragedies. One worker, Bags Martin was run over by a car and killed while walking home from his shift. *The Lilydale Express* reported fatalities in 1904 and again in 1938 when a rock fall killed Francis Bishop. Earlier David Mitchell's brother John was killed by a log roll and Andrew Wilson lost an arm in 1889.²¹

Joe Black, a 'powder monkey' whose son also worked for David Mitchell as a fitter and turner, had both his hands blown off when laying a blasting charge in January 1949.²² He continued to work in some way, using an artificial arm/claw operated by his shoulder muscles. The town and the Lodge at the back of Berry and George Streets rallied to support Joe and his family. At that time the townspeople all knew each other – it was an event if someone unknown walked down your street.

In 1972 an accident with a winch and load of rock killed Hughy McKay.²³

Links with Mt Evelyn

The bushy town of Mt Evelyn, with a population made up of WOs [Worn Outs] and WEs

[Weekenders] until the 1960s and 1970s, had a far less stable population than Lilydale.

The David Mitchell Lime Works at Cave Hill have been linked historically to Mt Evelyn by timber tram tracks delivering tons of firewood for the insatiable kilns of the works. The Varty family from Inverness Road, Daniel Morrison from Hereford Road and James Mackin or his son from the Olinda Vale Settlement were each involved in cutting or carting wood for the tramway.²⁴ But some families also worked at the Estate, a few of whom were new migrants arriving after the end of WWII (1939-45)²⁵.

In the early 1950s, Cave Hill gave Romanian Gheorghe Miutescu a job as a fitter and turner. Gheorghe had worked 20 years in the Navy and become a Chief Engineer before migrating. He left the family's one room shack in Glenholme Avenue early in the morning and arrived home late at night, walking much of the way. Sometimes the local butcher, Charlie Stubbs, saw him and gave him a lift. Gheorghe's daughter Mary was offered a ride to the bottom of the quarry but was too frightened to take it up. 'I remember Dad saying I could hop in the big truck to the bottom of the pit but I was too scared.'



Bottom of pit

Centenary Publication 1978 Lilydale Museum ²⁶

¹⁹ Email, M Golds to J Newton May 2023.

²⁰ Interview with Peter Wilson by Janice Newton, 23 March 2023, lodged at Yarra Ranges Regional Museum and Lilydale & District Historical Society. Index to *Things Past* contains many references to David Mitchell and the Estate.

²¹ Herlihy 'Was your family connected ...'

²² Herlihy 'Was your family connected ...'

²³ Herlihy 'Was your family connected ...'

²⁴ Herlihy 'Was your family connected ...'

²⁵ See 'Found Objects', p 9 in this edition of *Things Past*.

²⁶ <https://nelliemelbamuseum.com.au/cave-hill-quarry-dame-nellie-melba-museum/> 12 June 2023.

A former qualified archaeologist, Hungarian Mr Alexander Gallus was obliged to work as a labourer at the David Mitchell Estate. Determined that the children should do well in Australia, he asked Mr Moriarty, a poet and architect, and his school teacher wife if they would check the Gallus children's homework.²⁷ In his own lifetime in Australia Mr Gallus senior became a teacher, commentator, famed for his excavation of Koonalda Cave, South Australia and President of the Victorian Archaeological Society.²⁸ His son, Alexander, became a Professor in the Flinders University Medical School.²⁹

Unlike the displaced Europeans who had to take work beneath their qualifications, for some from Mt Evelyn the Lime Works provided valuable long-term employment. Robert (Bob) Reed from Mt Evelyn worked for 10-12 years in the kiln of the works at Cave Hill. Allan Mays also had a large family providing workers, particularly drivers, at the Estate.³⁰

Peter Wilson's working life

Peter's mother was the job getter in their family. After three years at Burwood Technical School Peter was eager to get work, as were his friends and brothers. His mother tried to line him up to work as a carpenter at Theo Millard's joinery in Mt Evelyn but he wasn't successful. Then she announced that she had found him work as a motor mechanic at an East Ringwood garage. Peter knew nothing about cars, as at the Technical School he had done subjects such as woodwork. The night before he started his new job, his father showed him where the gear box was in the family car.

Peter's older brother worked in the bagging room at the lime works and Peter himself, after gaining skills as a mechanic and work at a garage nearby, contracted to repair the large unregistered 4WD vehicles of the quarry, without the need for them

to be driven on a public road. Like many young workers he was pranked by being sent to fetch striped paint or a 'long weight'.

In his own life Peter never worked an 8 hour day. He always did overtime and inherited his father's strong work ethic. He now helps two former employees in a voluntary capacity building houses on cattle stations near the corner country of South Australia/NSW.

Recent Developments at Cave Hill

At one time there was consideration given to moving the railway line so that the David Mitchell Estate could gain access to more limestone beneath the tracks and on the other side. In 2002 however the Mitchell family sold the company to Unimin Australia, and in 2015 the company ceased operation. Soon afterwards it was sold to Sibelco Australia and in 2017 to a consortium through Intrapac Property.

Preparations and planning are now in place for a 3300-house development on 143 hectares of re-zoned land. It has been named 'Kinley Estate' because this 'rolls off the tongue' better than the historically significant name embodying over a century of settler memories and probably millennia of Indigenous stories of 'Cave Hill'.³¹

A future issue of *Things Past* will feature a list of those many Lilydale and Mt Evelyn families who worked for the Mitchell family.

Janice Newton

Launch of *The Woodlanders ...* from p 6

MEHG provided afternoon tea with a special Woodlander Launch cake and beautiful native Australian table decorations; pamphlets on the sign at the Walden Hut site, and the history of the hut and site; as well as an extraordinary display of antiquarian books by the Woodlanders, their mentors and followers mentioned in the book.

cont next page

²⁷ M Golds 'A Migrant Child,' J Newton, K Leadbeater Phillips and P Herlihy *Tracks to Trails* 2001, 101, 177.

²⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandor_Gallus 9 June 2023.

²⁹ <https://www.flinders.edu.au/people/alexander.gallus> 9 June 2023.

³⁰ Walter (Whoopy) Mays had given 28 years service in 1965. Herlihy 'Was your family connected ...'

³¹ Interview Peter Wilson March 2023, Lilydale Quarry Redevelopment.

Afterwards a smaller contingent drove down to view the newly erected sign at the site of Walden Hut. Amazingly, Yarra Ranges Council staff had



Kim Campbell, great grand-daughter of Charles Barrett, cutting the Woodlander Launch cake.

pulled out all stops to complete the impressive sign (and mow the surrounding grass) just the day before our launch.

Thanks in particular to John Petersen, Bronwyn Grass, Yvette Hogan, Adam Slater, Megan Sheehy and Kevin and Karen Phillips. Sign Express made and installed the sign, which is located on the Olinda Creek Trail west of Swansea Road, near the

intersection with Marne Road. *The Woodlanders of Walden Hut* is available from Amazon.com as a print-on-demand publication.

Request for Information

MEHG has been asked to write a history of the Recreation Camp in Tramway Road near the Recreation Reserve. If Readers know the names of any Managers of the Reserve or have memories of visiting the camp there please write to mtevelynhistorygroup@gmail.com or contact Janice Newton directly by writing to 8 Fincham St, Mt Pleasant, 3350 or ringing 0437573586.

From Kev's Rain Gauge

Rainfall (in mm) for Mt Evelyn, McKillop, and Melbourne for the last 3 months.

		Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23
Mt Evelyn	Mt Evelyn	64.2	50.0	143.6
McKillop	McKillop	71.6	49.4	158.5
Melbourne	Melbourne	22.4	10.8	75.8

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

Kevin Phillips

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