



Newsletter 9, September 2008

Mount Evelyn History Group Inc.

A0051327F

P.O. Box 101 Mt Evelyn Vic 3796

www.mt-evelyn.net

Enquiries, membership & book sales: Paula Herlihy, herlihy@alphalink.com.au or phone 9736 2935 (leave message)

Newsletter & minutes: Karen Phillips, karen.m.l.phillips@gmail.com

Dates for your diary

Our **October meeting** will be the Scarecrow Scoutabout on **Saturday 25th October**.

Also on **October 25th** 12 noon, 70th Anniversary commemoration of the Kyeema aircraft crash on Mt Dandenong. The track to the memorial site is at Melway 66 E1. Lilydale Squadron of Australian Air League are participating in the ceremony and a book will be launched. It is hoped the Minister for Transport, Anthony Albanese, Minister for Youth, James Merlino and Mayor, Tim Heenan will take part. At conclusion of ceremony, the two DC3s remaining at Essendon (no DC2s now) will fly over the site.

Macarthur Job's book *Kyeema Airliner Tragedy* was released early in July. The text covers aspects of the events contributing to better Australian air safety and almost all double pages have a photograph, map or diagram. Publisher Nick Anchen, retail price \$25. Cover of book depicts a new painting by Norm Clifford, painting to be on display at Sky High Restaurant for a time. The Air League has received a grant from the Shire/Parks Victoria to erect an interpretive sign.

From Pat Hogan, Mt Dandenong & District Historical Society (Heritage Network minutes).

Victorian (Colonial) pre-Federation and Boer War military history talk

About 20 people attended Phil Garland's talk on Saturday 13th September in Mt Evelyn Community Room. Phil, who is from Sherbrooke Foothills Historical Society Inc (Upwey), spoke on Victorian pre-Federation and Boer War military history. He brought along a large sample of his private collection of guns, swords and bayonets, badges and other insignia, photographs, memorabilia, and artefacts of the period.

Phil had invited people to bring along any information or objects related to the period. His collection and knowledge is broader than just the Colony of Victoria. He had a relative at the Charge of the Light Brigade,



Phil Garland with items from his collection. Photo Paula Herlihy.

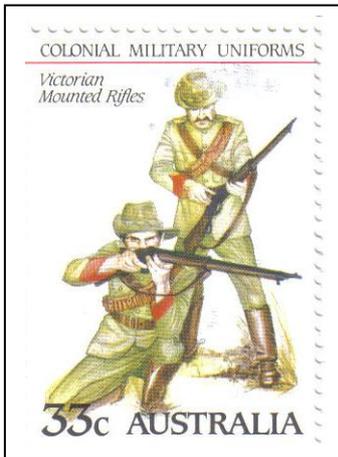


Antique weapons from Phil's collection. Photo Paula Herlihy.

for example, and at other notable engagements, and was able to answer questions about the era on the world stage. He also collects Scout memorabilia, and with the 100 years of Scouting making this topical, he fielded questions about Baden-Powell and Africa. Phil explained the loading and firing of the early guns, and illustrated how this procedure evolved into the bullets of later years.

Until Phil's talk I was unaware that colonial Victorians had fought in many conflicts prior to the federation of Australia, and in fact Victorians were the first colonial Australians to fight overseas, in the Maori Wars in New Zealand. Colonial Victoria had a navy, with one ship. The forces were volunteers, who were provided with

arms and uniform, and trained by retired British officers living in Victoria. Uniforms were often weird and wonderful. Phil had on display a photograph of the troops taken by Charlie Hammond at what is now Flemington Race Track. The Victorian colonials wore



a round-topped 'bush' hat with the brim turned up on the right hand side rather than the left, as the photograph clearly shows. Some colonial uniforms, including two Victorian, were depicted on Australian stamps in 1985.

Sherbrooke Foothills Historical Society Inc is currently collecting copies of works by Charles Hammond – paintings, photos and any information.

Paula Herlihy



Your replies

Thank you to members who answered our requests for information in the last newsletter and by email.

In reference to the Tramway in the Stubbs Avenue area, Janice wrote: 'My Dad told me there was an old bullock track path along the gully behind our place in Louisa Street, which I think may be Mitchells road?' This may have been a continuation of the track mentioned by Andy, but higher up the hillside. Jean wrote that 1915 was the year that the Roads Board stopped logs being hauled across main roads. This is when Keith Smith's father (who lived where Jean and David live now) stopped cutting timber for David Mitchell on the north side of Monbulk Road. The same may have applied to Swansea Road.

Regarding the nudist camp, Richard wrote: 'I vaguely remember being told as a youngster that the nudist colony was behind the Recreation Reserve where the Youth Camp is'. Others also thought this was the area. There may have been more than one nudist camp, for all we know. The camp in the David Road area mentioned in Ralph Alger's article may have been privately owned, not a formal colony (if 'formal' is the right word in the circumstances).

Gardens: Lindsay suggested Burnham Beeches in Sherbrooke and Edna Walling's Bickleigh Vale village in Mooroolbark as examples of gardens from around the 1920s.

For those not on email, we received the following request from Ashley: 'I'm in some need of direction on finding some old maps or the address of a hospital that was in Olinda in 1965: Brixham Private Hospital, Mills Road. I know there is a Mills Avenue in Sassafras, which is close to Olinda. Could this possibly be the street the papers were talking about? Also was there an Old Olinda Road in the area? I have already done a net search and been to the local library but found nothing. All I have is two newspaper articles from 1965, which mention the address of the hospital.

My great-grandfather went missing from the hospital in 1965 and was never found. The newspaper articles mention he was last seen on Old Olinda Road before he disappeared. My grandfather just recently passed away. He loved the bush and it was a wish of his to have his ashes spread into the wind of the great outdoors. So this is were the Olinda site may come in. My family is wondering if there is a suitable area nearby for him to be at rest near his father.'

Pat Hogan writes that there is now a house on the hospital site. It is on 'Mount Olinda', where are several interesting sites, now all behind private fences.

Small Equipment Grants

Paula intends to apply for a Federal Government Small Equipment Grant for a scanner and hard drive to copy and store our photos electronically for easy use. Thanks to those who replied to Paula's email and offered assistance.