



Things Past

Newsletter 20, September 2009

Mount Evelyn History Group Inc

A0051327F

P.O. Box 101 Mt Evelyn Vic 3796

www.mt-evelyn.net

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

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

Mt Evelyn Through Artists' Eyes exhibition, Mt Evelyn Exhibition Space during October. When it comes to stirring up heated debate, nothing does it better than Art!

Mt Evelyn 'Chinese Lion' Street Festival, Saturday 24th October. A group of Lion Dancers who regularly perform in Bendigo are Mt Evelyn residents. Don't miss seeing the Lion perform on its home ground. As in previous years, we will be holding a stall (under the Old Link verandah) and this will count as the History Group meeting for October. Please contact Paula if you can help on the stall. Contact details above.

History Week: Sunday 25th October to Sunday 1st November: see pages 4-6 below.

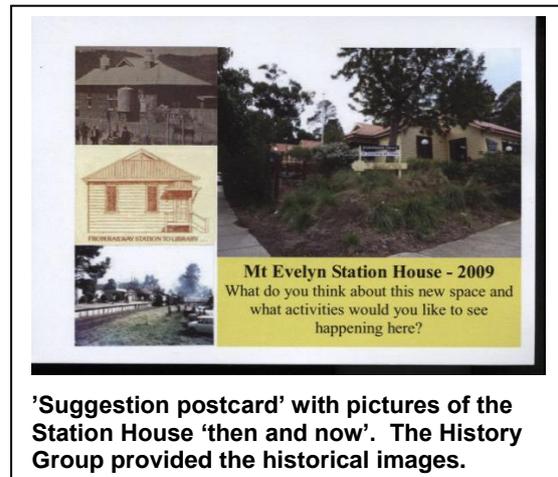
Mt Evelyn Station House re-opens

The refurbished Station House, comprising the Library, Community Link, Community Room, Exhibition Space and Café, was officially opened on Friday 28th August.

MP James Merlino filled in for the Hon. Richard Wynne, who was unavailable. Opening the new facility, James spoke of the changes that had occurred since the formation of the Mt Evelyn Township Improvement Committee (METIC) in 1998. He unveiled a plaque commemorating the opening.

Cr Tim Heenan agreed about changes for the better. When he came to live here 23 years ago, the question was 'why would you live in Mt Evelyn?' It has now become a desirable place to live, thanks largely to the voluntary work of the residents. Cr Heenan acknowledged the History Group for contributing the historical photos of the Station that have been combined into a collage on the wall.

Angela Savage from the Association of Neighbourhood Houses and Learning Centres (ANHLC) launched METIC's updated Township Plan. Angela, who



'Suggestion postcard' with pictures of the Station House 'then and now'. The History Group provided the historical images.

admitted to suffering from 'Township Plan Envy', praised METIC's representational structure. Covering many areas of community life, it has 'something for just about everybody'.

Wine, snacks and conversation followed the launch. The additional space and flexibility of the Community Room won general approval. The relocation of the Community Link seems to have both pro and cons. Having the information sources located in one building makes sense. On the other hand, some people feel that the intimacy of the old Link has been lost.

Residents are invited to give their opinions of the new facility and suggest further uses for it on postcards provided for the purpose.

Lorraine Fairweather, who remembered the Station garden, told us a delightful detail we hadn't heard before. There was a garden bed with the name 'Mt Evelyn' spelt out in succulents.

This feature could perhaps be recreated, for example in front of the platform with the Bollard People.

'Closing the Gap' workshop

Garry Detez, Indigenous Development Officer with the Shire of Yarra Ranges, presented a workshop on Aboriginal history and current policy in the Shire. The 'Gap' of the title was the 17-year difference in life expectancy between Indigenous Australians and the general population.

Garry began with an acknowledgement of the Wurrundjeri people as the traditional owners of the land and of the Elders, past and present. This form of acknowledgement was devised in consultation with the Aboriginal community and its use is much appreciated by them.

Garry was introduced to Aboriginal culture by his ex-wife and her family, who were from the Monaro people of East Gippsland. At the same time he gained an insight into racism. It was only from the 1967 referendum that the Aboriginal population was counted as human. Previously they were covered by the Flora and Fauna Act.

We were asked about our own ethnic heritage. Most people had some sense to attachment to a place, which might be where they grew up, where they lived for the longest time, or where their ancestors originated.

The audience was then divided in two. Each group was asked to choose a tribal name, territory, language and totem, and identify elders, warriors, aunts, uncles and children. It was easy to see how a group displaced by European settlement would be both unwilling to leave their own territory and unable to move onto anyone else's.

Issues of traditional law and the Stolen Generations were also clarified.

Many of the problems of the Shire's present Aboriginal population can be traced back to the early days of settlement. Indigenous people from all over Victoria were sent to Coranderrk Reserve near Healesville. Breaking up the tribes made it difficult for them to practice their traditions. It also sowed the seeds of conflict between the groups that continues today.

Coranderrk residents farmed the land so successfully that it was taken from them by settlers wanting access to good land. In other words, they were punished for their success. In the 1880s, when Aboriginal people petitioned the authorities for land on which they could be self-sufficient, they were refused on the basis that the government would look after them. The culture of welfare dependency that is so often criticised was the direct result of 19th century government policies.

Garry said that the Rudd government's apology to the Stolen Generations had made a huge difference to Aboriginal people, but that the federal and state governments were not well placed to work at the grassroots level. That is the role of local government.

The Shire of Yarra Ranges apologised to Indigenous people in 1997 and released its Reconciliation Strategy in 2008. The Strategy includes the priorities of maintaining an Indigenous voice, cultural heritage, young people, health and wellbeing, and encouraging partnerships with the wider community to promote employment. The councillors, particularly Cr Tim Heenan, have been very supportive.

Garry presented us with a copy of the Shire's *Reconciliation* booklet and praised our booklet *Aborigines in the Northern Dandenongs*.

AGM and new committee

Our AGM, scheduled for 25th August, had to be postponed at the last moment due to the wild weather. The power was out at Morrison House and one of the old cypress trees fell across the roof.

Damage to the building was minor, but several vehicles were squashed very flat indeed. Nobody was hurt – almost miraculously, as one staff member was in her car at the time.

We finally held our AGM on Saturday 12th September, after Garry's talk. The new committee is as follows:

President Paula Herlihy
Vice President to be confirmed
Treasurer Kevin Phillips
Secretary Karen Phillips
Newsletter editor Karen Phillips

General Committee:

Bill Hardy, Nancy Low, Rosemary Baker, others as advised.

Changes to the Incorporation rules mean that the position of Public Officer has been abolished. Many thanks to Mary Golds for filling this role till now.

It was agreed not to proceed with affiliation with the Royal Historical Society at this time. We may reconsider it in the future. No vote was taken.

More on the 'Wattle Dress'

Thanks to Librarian Kathy Smalley for an article on the 'Wattle Dress' portrait of the Queen by Sir William Dargie.

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, Dargie painted a back-up version of the famous portrait in case the first was lost in transit to Australia. Interestingly, he painted this second version by copying upside down from the first. Seeing the painting purely in colours and forms, he could make an exact copy without being tempted to 'improve' on the original. The 'spare' portrait is now in the National Museum of Australia.

I'd assumed vaguely that the Wattle gown was Australian made, but it was in fact a creation of English designer Norman Hartnell.

Who Do You Think You Are?

An episode of the television genealogy program 'Who Do You Think You Are?' featuring a segment with Paula Herlihy is due for broadcast on SBS on Sunday 1st November.

Harry Leith

Robyn Taylor writes re the name Leithen or Leith, mentioned in the last



Not going anywhere: cars flattened by a huge cypress at Morrison House.

newsletter: 'With reference to the Newsletter (August), I grew up in Montrose and there was a Leith Road. It ran parallel to Sheffield Road North, where I lived.'

Harry Leith, whose name appears in the honour roll, may well have some connection with Leith Road. Whether he was the same person identified as a dispatch rider from the Army camp, we don't yet know.

From Kev's rain gauge

Rainfall for August 2009 in millilitres compared with Melbourne's August average:

| Mt Evelyn | Melbourne | Melb. Av. |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 66.4 | 41.4 | 50.2 |

Kevin's figures are recorded at our place on Hereford Road. There seems to be considerable variation within Mt Evelyn, as Jean Edwards writes:

'We keep rainfall records too, and while I expected there would be quite a variation across Mt Evelyn, it is apparently more than I anticipated.

Ours was:

June, 78.75ml; **July**, 117.25ml.

This compares with Hereford Road:

June, 61ml; **July**, 75.4ml.

Jean and David's property is in McKillop, so this large difference occurs over a distance of about 2Km.

Memberships due

Thanks to all who have renewed their History Group memberships this year. Memberships fell due at the end of the financial year. A renewal form is attached on page 7 below.

VISIT THE HILLS
FOR
ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES APPRAISALS

Saturday 31st October 2009

12 noon – 4 pm

Montrose Town Centre
Mt Dandenong Tourist Road
Montrose Melway ref. 52 D7

Appraisals available on coins, bank notes, military badges and medals, medallions & antiquities, clocks, watches, mechanical toys, kerosene lamps and related items, kitchenalia and general antiques.
Displays of antiques, collectables & Shire history.

Entry: Gold coin donation
Afternoon tea available

Brought to you by the
Yarra Ranges Heritage Network

History and Heritage. Things to see closer to your home in October and November ... History Week: Sunday October 25 to Sunday November 1st

Gulf Station Yarra Glen National Trust of Australia (Vic.) 1029 Melba Highway, Yarra Glen, Vic 3775. Enquiries: 9656 9800 or gulf.station@natrust.com.au

Healesville & District Historical Society Inc. P.O. Box 1381 Healesville VIC 3777. Open Mondays and Fridays from 1:30pm – 1:00 pm. Contact 5962 1655 hhsociety@optusnet.com.au or see www.healesvillehistorical.websyte.com.au

Lilydale & District Historical Society Inc. www.lilydalehistorical.com.au

Join the guides and enjoy the stories of bygone days that bring the history alive as you wander the cemetery and see who is behind the names or stroll the streets of Lilydale and admire the buildings occupied by the pioneers of yesterday. \$5.00 each per tour.

- Guided tour of the Lilydale Cemetery (meet at main gate, 120 Victoria Road) Wednesday 14th October at 10.30am
- Township Walk tour (meet at Athenaeum Theatre, Castella St) Saturday 17th October at 10.30am
- Guided tour of the Lilydale Cemetery (meet at main gate, 120 Victoria Road) Thursday 22nd October at 1.30pm
- Churches & Pubs tour (Meet at Athenaeum Theatre, Castella St) Sunday 24th October at 1.30pm

To keep alive the memory of the tours, *A Tour of the Lilydale Cemetery, Cemetery Tours Book Vol 2 and Vol 3* (\$3.00 each), *Our History our Heritage Walk* (\$2.00) and *A Walk Back in Time* (\$5.00) are available for purchase. Contact Ruby on 9735 0294 or Beth on 9739 5466

- See us at the Lilydale Library: Lilydale & District Historical Society members are now on duty at the Library to help anyone with a research query. Saturday and Sundays.
- On the airways: Radio Station 98.1 FM, second Tuesday of the month 9.30-10.00am.
- Lilydale & District Historical Society hold monthly meetings first Saturday of the month at 1.00pm, Athenaeum Theatre, Castella St.

Monbulk Historical Society Inc. 9756 6596. A photographic display and someone available to receive and share information about Monbulk and district at the Belgrave Library during History Week. Please contact the library or the number above for more details.

Montrose Historical Society Inc. P.O. Box 446 Montrose VIC 3765. Photographic display in Montrose Library for History Week. Antiques & Collectibles Appraisal Day (see notice this brochure). Historic Montrose Cottage (at Montrose Town Centre) will be open on 31st October.

Mooroolbark History Group 1987 – 2010. Inquiries: 9726 8740
mkstott@optusnet.com.au *Show and Tell Mooroolbark* evening, Friday 6th Nov. or afternoon Saturday 7th Nov. The Mooroolbark community is invited to bring along items of interest, Awards, T-shirts, photos etc. particularly and especially from the Mooroolbark Community Centre opening & the Red Earth Festival years. TBC contact as above.

Mt Dandenong & District Historical Society Inc. P.O. Box 158 Olinda VIC 3788. Phone 9751 1409 (BH) or 9755 3802 (AH). Visit us at our Open Day at Farndon's Community Hall, cnr. Farndon's Road and Falls Road Mt Dandenong on Sunday the 18th of October, noon until 4pm. There will be a display of photographs and maps of the Ridge, Kalorama, Mt Dandenong, Olinda, Sassafrass, Sherbrooke, Ferny Creek, and Tremont.

Upper Yarra Living History Group 34 Edwards St Wesburn. Contact lkennedy@iprimus.com.au or visit www.livinghistory.org.au See our display at the Antiques & Collectables Appraisal Day!

Mt Evelyn History Group Inc. P.O. Box 101 Mt Evelyn VIC 3796
herlihy@alphalink.com.au *Mount Evelyn Through Artist's Eyes* exhibition in Mt Evelyn Exhibition Space and Café, Wray Crescent, Mt Evelyn. Month of October.

Sherbrooke Foothills Historical Society Inc. Contact 0401 010 626 or philland@nex.net.au for more information.

Photographic display during October - Belgrave
 Photographic display during October – Upwey

Southern Sherbrooke Historical Society Inc. Original St Martin's Church Hall, Colby Drive, Belgrave Heights 3160. The Society will hold a display at All Saints Carlotta Tye Memorial Church Selby as part of the Selby Spring Arts Festival from 23rd October until 25th October. In the 2nd week of November, the Society will offer an Oral History Workshop for a full afternoon, \$5 includes afternoon tea. For more information, contact Susan on 5968 3762 or Marian on 5968 3762, or sthnsherbrookehs@yahoo.com.au

Upper Yarra Cemetery Information Stall at St Mary's Market, 3360 Warburton Highway, Warburton on Saturday October 17th, 9am – 1 pm.

Upper Yarra Valley Historical Society. The Yarra Junction Museum, Old Railway Station, Warburton Hwy., Yarra Junction VIC 3797. 5967 2167

Wanderslore Sanctuary, Trust for Nature, Warburton Highway, Launching Place. Wanderslore contains a restored railway worker's cottage which was the studio of artist and teacher Constance Coleman. Contact Geoff Durham 9523 5559 or gadurham@bigpond.com for details of the Annual Open Day on Sunday 18th October. There are also Friends Days on October 18, November 15 and December 20.

Wandin & District Historical Museum Society Inc. Mont De Lancey Wellington Road, Wandin. P.O. Box 316, Wandin, Victoria, 3139 Ph: 5964 2088 OPENING HOURS FOR VISITORS: Weds to Sun 10:00am to 5:00pm Open all public holidays except Good Friday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Eve. www.montdelancey.org.au

Yarra Ranges Regional Museum. The Museum is currently closed for rebuilding, but may be contacted via museum@yarraranges.vic.gov.au PO Box 105, Lilydale, 3140. *You're History, Your Celebrations* digital photographic exhibition, August to October at Burrinja Art Centre, Lilydale Library, Belgrave Library, Yarra Junction Community Link, Upper Yarra Arts Centre, Mt Evelyn Library, Mooroolbark Community Arts Centre and Healesville Memorial Hall. Memory Bank photo collection (1950 – today)

Yarra Glen & District Historical Society Inc. c/- Yarra Glen Post Office Yarra Glen VIC 3775 yarraglenhistorical@live.com.au

Yarra Valley Railway. www.yarravalleyrailway.org.au P.O. Box 203 Lilydale VIC 3140

MOUNT EVELYN HISTORY GROUP INC MEMBERSHIP FORM 2009-2010

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO
The Treasurer, Mount Evelyn History Group Inc.
PO Box 101, Mt Evelyn VIC 3796

Name(s)

Address

Postcode Phone Email.....

Special Interests.....

Subscription \$5 p.a. per person

Please enclose cheque payable to *Mount Evelyn History Group Inc.*

