

Things Past

Newsletter 58

December 2012

Mount Evelyn History Group Inc

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Dates for your diary

NB: NO History Group meeting in December or January.

We will host the AOEHS meeting, Saturday 2 February, Hardy House. The authors of *Aborigines in the Yarra Valley and Northern Dandenongs* will give a presentation.

Farewell to a legend

The Mt Evelyn community was saddened by the passing of that great character, Dr William Hardy, on 24 November.

William Harry Hardy was born 30 June 1924 at Moonee Ponds. He grew up in Kensington and attended University High School. In the school's history he is described as: *Leader of school orchestra, acting sergeant major of cadets, president of aero club, prominent member of 'School Christian Fellowship', captain of Duff, senior swimming champion, captain swimming team, runner-up in athletics, prefect. Ambition: bomber pilot R.A.A.F.*

Bill enlisted with the RAAF in 1942. In 1943 he began his aircrew training, obtaining his pilot's wings later that year. He served as a flying instructor before being seconded to No. 6 RAAF Hospital, where he received medical training. Just after World War II ended he was sent to Madang in New Guinea where he flew in Catalinas with No. 111 Squadron – Air Sea Rescue Flight.

The medical training he received in the Air Force inspired Bill to take up a career in medicine. He qualified at a special Mildura campus of the University of Melbourne. He married Gwen Sutcliffe in 1949. They had three children, John, Peter and Chrissie.

In 1955 the Hardys bought 'Emsworth' in Hereford Road, where Bill set up practice as a GP. He delivered generations of babies (over 2500, he estimated) during the next 40 years. Many locals owe him their lives.



Dr William Hardy in his 'Butch' cap at a recent RSL event. People's memories of Dr Bill include his safari suits and his famous possum skin hat. Always attired to make the most of every occasion, Bill prided himself on preserving the lost art of tying his own bow ties. Photo courtesy Anthony McAleer.

The Hardys' life in Mt Evelyn reads like a history of the town itself. They were at the forefront of almost every good cause in the town for half a century. Their involvement included CFA, Scouts, St John Ambulance, Morrison House, the Melba Centre, Mt Evelyn Senior Citizens, Lilydale Rotary, the Athenaeum, the Memorial

Mt Evelyn History Tools Blog

We are proud to announce that our History Tools Blog is now online. Joan Vanderhorn has done a wonderful job in setting up this site at: <http://mtevelynhistorytools.blogspot.com.au/>

The site lists resources to discover your past in Mt Evelyn. Local and family history, biography, the histories of houses and of institutions (schools, churches, clubs etc) are interconnected. Joan has designed the blog to be your one-stop spot for Mt Evelyn research.

Tour of Appin

Karen and Adrian Mudge welcomed History Group members to their historic home Appin in Commercial Road on 24 November.

Printer James Paton Beveridge began Appin about 1919-20. The oldest log cabin contains the kitchen/dining room, with the living room and bedroom section a step lower down. Another cabin was built parallel on the uphill side and the space between them roofed over to make a passage. At least two smaller cabins, a rotunda and a stone gateway with the name 'Appin' are now on neighbouring properties.

Showing us around, Adrian described the challenges of preserving and updating the unique heritage-listed house: woodworm, asbestos, draughts, a tree that fell across the roof and a major possum infestation.

Karen and Adrian presented the History Group with a beautiful album of photos from their six years in the house. Paula produced informative historical notes about the property (available on request). Thanks to Karen and Adrian for a delightful visit, complete with home made scones for afternoon tea.



History Group members chat over afternoon tea in the log cabin at Appin. Photo Adrian Mudge.

Dr Hardy, from p.1

Kinder, RSL and History Group. Bill and Gwen were founding members of MEEPPA. When Gwen became the first female President of the Shire of Lillydale in 1976, Bill claimed to be the first male Lady Mayoress. We lost Gwen in 2001. Bill died in hospital on 24 November, just a few days after the RSL nominated him for a Yarra Ranges Council Lifetime Achievement Award.

Based on notes from Anthony McAleer

So the old Doc has passed. I remember getting my tonsils out in Dr Bill's surgery – my old man Douglas Gordon (Marian Adair's oldest brother) held me down in a chair & Dr Bill put an ether soaked pad over my mouth – next thing I knew I was home with a bit of a sore throat & could only eat drop scones. My sister Marian & I would sing 'Dr William H Hardy' every time we walked past his surgery on the way home from Mt Evelyn school – happy days.

Norm Gordon

Gwen was the first female councillor of the Shire of Lillydale as well as the first female Shire President. Many a time Doc would arrive at council meetings three quarters of the way through the meeting, often after delivering a baby at Lilydale Hospital and often still in his hospital garb! And always called out hello to everyone.

A great man.

Sue Thompson

Dr Hardy was a member of Rotary for decades. He was a Charter Member of the Lilydale Club and as one of the first members was inducted on 23 August 1965. He was President 1968-1969 and was made a 'Paul Harris Fellow (2 Sapphires)' in 1973. He received the Rotary 'Distinguished Service Award' in 1986. He was recently at the forefront of promoting the group's 'Bowelscan Kits', a test for detecting bowel cancer.

Margi Sank

Another memory occurs to me that is particularly relevant to the History Group: shortly after I joined MEEPPA (1977) – while Gwen was on Council – there was a proposal to re-name streets in Mt Evelyn. For example three streets had the name 'Fern', which made it difficult for Bill as a doctor and for other emergency services. That was when Hazel Street came into being (middle name of Mr Smith of 'The Springs'), Watkins Crescent and many others. A great many of the names were derived from people of early note.

Jean Edwards

Fernvale Road became Falkingham Road, Ferndale Road became Forge Road and Fern Avenue was renamed Kemp Avenue. Fernhill Road remained unchanged.

Ed.

Dot Millard and family

Ros and Vince Willcocks sent us the Buckmaster portrait of Mrs Dot Millard (right) and family photos. Ros is Dot's niece; her mother, Jean Wisby née Johnson, was Dot's twin sister (see photo p.4).

After Dot's husband Theo returned from WWII, they started a grocery business in Mt Evelyn. Timber, at first a sideline, proved so popular that it became their main business. Building materials were scarce after the war but Theo knew a timberman in Healesville who agreed to supply him. Such was the demand for timber and joinery that Millards was the town's largest industry in the 1950s-60s. The Millards came to Grantully Street in 1951. Theo's parents, Oswald and Bertha Millard, lived in Snowball Avenue, as did Noel and Irene Phillips (Dot's sister and brother in law).

Dot's name is Doris, although over the years the family have all taken to calling her 'Gran'. Gran celebrated her 99th birthday on 11 November. This was followed by an afternoon tea at the Windsor. It turned out that the Windsor was a fitting venue in that the foyer is lined with Buckmaster portraits.

Thanks to Ros & Vince Willcocks



Above, a regal portrait of Mrs Doris 'Dot' Millard by Ernest Buckmaster, 1950s (permission Buckmaster family). The painting, which hangs in a stairwell, had to be photographed from above. Thanks to Joy Carrick for photoshopping the image.



'Gran', Doris Millard, at her 99th birthday afternoon tea at the Windsor Hotel, 11 November 2012.

Mrs Ingpen

Former History Group member Mrs Trish Ingpen passed away on 16 November. Jim and Trish Ingpen bought the Big Star Grocery in Wray Crescent in 1973. The store became Foodland, then Supa IGA in 2000. Their home was at 47 Hereford Road, the clinker brick house with the high wooden fence and camellias. They moved away from Mt Evelyn some years ago. Sons Gemmell and Tony took over the IGA franchise, now run by Tony.

The Last Light Horseman

Anthony McAleer's book *The Last Light Horseman* on the life of Trooper Joe Clark was launched at Hardy House on 11 November, following the Remembrance Day ceremony. See the latest RSL newsletter for an account of the launch and our display on the same theme. Copies of the book are available from Mt Evelyn Post Office.



Above, Theo and Dot Millard c.1950. Inset, letter from Theo to the Progress Association, courtesy Jean Edwards.

Below, the Millard family in their backyard in Grantully Street, Christmas 1951. The photo shows an uninterrupted view towards Silvan.

Standing, L to R: lady unknown, Theo Millard as Santa, Oswald Millard (Theo's father), Ellen Johnson (Doris's mother), Bertha Millard (Theo's mother), Noel Phillips, Irene Phillips (née Johnson, Doris's sister), unknown, Ted Hyland.

Seated, L to R: unknown child, Jean Wisby (née Johnson, Doris's twin), Audrey Danger (née Snell), unknown, Doris Millard (née Johnson), Alec Danger, Rosslyn Wisby (Ros), Barbara Millard, Loris Wisby.

Ros would be grateful if someone could identify the 'unknowns' in the photo.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all members and friends of Mount Evelyn History Group

O'Shannassy and Silvan

Megan Sheehy has drawn our attention to a great website about the O'Shannassy water supply system, 'The Heroes of the Aqueduct': www.oshannassyaqueduct.weebly.com

Ian Stewart popped into the Museum today to let us know about a new resource available online for anyone interested in the aqueduct (Yarra Ranges) or more generally the water supply to Melbourne. Ian has been researching this topic for many years, and has some great oral information from people who worked on and with the aqueduct over the years.

Another site of interest is Bob Padula's 'Silvan Reservoir Pictorial Heritage'. There are photos of relics of the flying fox from Mt Evelyn. The text mentions the surprising fact that a second reservoir was planned for Silvan in 1930. It would have flooded the lower parts of Lyrebird Gully and Rifle Range Gully, involving compulsory acquisition of several small farms. The plan was abandoned after opposition from locals. See: <http://bpadula.tripod.com/silvan/>

From Kev's rain gauge

Rainfall for November 2012 for Mt Evelyn, McKillop, Melbourne and Melbourne average.*

Mt Ev	McK	Melb	Melb Av
48.5mm	54.25mm	36.6mm	60.4mm

* McKillop readings courtesy Jean Edwards. Melbourne figures from Bureau of Meteorology website.

Kevin Phillips

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