

# Things Past

Newsletter 64

June 2013

Mount Evelyn History Group Inc

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## Dates for your diary

Yarra Valley Singers' annual concert, Sunday 23 June, 2pm Wandin North Community Hall.  
History Group general meeting, Thursday 27 June, 7.30-9.30pm RSL Hall Hardy House, 49 Birmingham Road, Mt Evelyn.

RSL Hall Committee meeting, Thursday 11 July, 7.30pm RSL Clubrooms.

Speaker: Euie Pullen will talk about re-doing the communication lines for Puffing Billy in the 1960s-1970s. Saturday 27 July (time TBA), RSL Hall Hardy House, Mt Evelyn.

## Who was G. Shaw?



Untitled drawing, pastel on paper, 265mm x approximately 205mm, signed 'G. Shaw 1913'. Gift of Bev Watkins.

Bev Watkins gave us this delightful original drawing of two workmen in a forest loading tree ferns onto a horse-drawn cart. The location could be almost anywhere in the Dandenongs.

The picture had been used as a backing sheet behind a framed family photo. Bev did not know its provenance. It has no title but is signed 'G. Shaw 1913'.

We have not been able to identify the artist. Paula traced a printmaker and art gallery director named Gerrard Gayfield Shaw (1885-1961) who lived in Melbourne in the 1930s, but he seems unlikely. The signature doesn't look like his.

On the other hand, the drawing was evidently the work of a trained artist, perhaps a professional. Can anyone identify this 'G. Shaw'?

*Ed.*

## ‘Excursion to Lilydale’ – 1908

A cool and pleasant afternoon on Saturday, 27th March, was partly responsible for the large number of members and friends (38) taking part in this excursion, most of whom came down by the 1.22 train from town. On arrival the party turned back up the line towards Mr. Mitchell’s limestone quarry.

At the entrance we were met by Mr. Mitchell, jun., who very kindly led us round the works, so that we might gain some information as to the method of producing the lime which is prepared in large quantities at Cave Hill. The quarry is an excavation on the northern side of Cave Hill, opened up nearly thirty years ago on the site of the original cave noted by Sir A.R.C. Selwyn on his map published in July, 1856. The note runs as follows: – “Limestone cave 120 feet deep. – Hard, crystalline grey and reddish limestone. Fossils, corals, &c. (Wenlock limestone?)” This cave yielded the early geological surveyors a small collection of fossils, chiefly corals, which, with its original label, “From a limestone cave in the parish of Yering,” is now in the National Museum, Melbourne.

We learned from Mr. Mitchell, jun., that when the cave was first opened it was hung with numerous stalactites, which must have presented a striking appearance; but, alas! the stalactites were speedily removed, and only a small portion of the original cave remains to view. In all probability there is another cave hidden away behind the quarry face, since Mr. Mitchell informed us that at one particular spot, pointed out to the members, several crowbars have been lost, having dropped into a cavity at about the angle made by floor and wall.

Further indication is seen in an extensive pipe of the overlying rock, which forms a huge “swallow hole” leading into the limestone mass. The limestone in this quarry dips at a steep angle (35°-50°). The bedding plane can be easily verified by the growth of corals, &c., such as *Favosites* and the various stromatoporoids, which may be traced along the planes of sedimentation in their relative position of growth.

A large proportion of the limestone is dolomitized by the action of the overlying old volcanic rock which covers this side of the Cave Hill. The dolomitized limestone contains some iron, which renders these altered layers conspicuous by their reddish-brown colour.

The opportunity was taken at this stage to point out to members the chief items of interest in regard to the quarry, one of the most important being the close relationship it bears in age – or, at any rate, its fauna – to that of Dudley and Wenlock, in England, and to that of the island of Gotland.

The fossils collected during the afternoon included – *Cyathophyllum* sp., *Favosites grandipora*, Eth. fil., *Syringopora* sp., *Heliolites* sp.; various stromatoporoids, including *Clathrodictyon* sp., *Euomphalus disjunctus*, J. Hall, *Trematonotus pritchardi*, Cresswell, *Trochus (Scaloetrochus) lindstroemi*, Eth. fil., *Cyclonema lilydalensis*, Eth. fil., and *Niso (Vetotuba) brazieri*, Eth. fil.

After witnessing some blasting of the limestone, the party inspected the overlying decomposed basalt, which is seen to rest on a bed of fine angular sand, and this in turn rests unconformably on the limestone. The sand in places has been partially dissolved, probably by heated and alkaline water from the overlying basalt, and re-deposited as chalcedonic concretionary layers and nodules in the uppermost part of the sand-bed.

A fine view of the Dandenong Ranges, and also of the Main Divide, was obtained from the eastern side of Cave Hill, whilst beneath our feet lay a remarkable bed of quartzite, in part conglomeratic. Crossing the paddock, and taking the road in a westerly direction, we next visited a notable example of a low tuff cone of the older volcanic. This point of eruption is in remarkably good preservation, considering its age and the material of which it is constructed.

The interior of the crater is now used as a fruit and vegetable garden. The Melbourne road cuts through one side of the cone, which enabled us to see very clearly the tuffaceous material of which it is constructed – a fine reddish-brown ash with small scattered lapilli. Across the road in an adjoining paddock there is a section showing another tuff deposit, the material of which is of an ash to brown colour, and appears to be a finer material than that seen in the road cutting.

The members then returned to Lilydale, and a contingent caught the early train to town. Those who remained for the later evening train were most kindly entertained to tea by one of our members, Miss Rollo, who also, earlier,

**Continued p.3**



From p.2

placed the members under obligation by suggesting the extension of our walk to take in the interesting tuff cone, which proved so instructive an item in our programme. F. Chapman, 'Excursion to Lilydale', *The Victorian Naturalist* 1908 (reference below).

During another excursion to Cave Hill in 1928, specimens included 'a remarkable block of limestone ... which consisted of a closely felted mass of lime-secreting algae. This alone would afford much material for future research for palaeobotanists.' (F. Chapman, 'Excursion to Cave Hill quarry, Lilydale' (reference below).

Several species, described from fossils specimens found at Cave Hill, have been named *lilydalensis* after their place of origin.

An article from 1945 describes unusual mineral specimens found in the basalt on the southern face of Cave Hill. (A.C. Frostick, 'Hyalite from the olivine-basalt, Cave Hill, Lilydale', *The Victorian Naturalist*, Vol. 62, 1945, pp.141-145).

The volcanic crater visited by the group was probably the hollow between 'The Briars' and Maroondah Highway (Melway 37 J6-K6). The naturalists visited the crater again in 1918 and reported that an orchard had been planted in it. The fruit trees remained at 'Crater Hill' until the area was subdivided a few years ago. The crater is now part of a housing estate.

*The Victorian Naturalist* is the journal of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria. The 1908 article was included here with permission from Editor Dr Gary Presland, who added: 'You may also be interested to know that, in addition to the reports of the 1928 and 1945 visits, TVN contains a number of further mentions of Cave Hill. Visits to the quarry site seemed to have been a regular outing for the Field Nats. I have pasted below the entry from the "Excursions" file for Cave Hill, which may be of some assistance.'

### Cave Hill Quarry, Lilydale

Visit date	Reference
27.3.1908	VN 26 pp.7-8 1908
10.10.1914	VN 31 pp.101-102 1914
19.1.1918	VN 34 pp.173-174 1918
17.4.1920	VN 37 p.39 1920
17.3.1928	VN 45 p.10 1928
7.3.1931	VN 48 p.19 1931
10.2.1934	VN 50 p.260 1934

Read articles online at: <http://www.archive.org/search.php?query=creator%3A%22Field+Naturalists%27+Club+of+Victoria%22>

## A rock with a past

Outside the gates of the Cave Hill property is a rock about one metre square with round holes bored into it. A sign hanging between a pair of ash trees nearby labels it 'FLY ROCK'. Frank Robinson explains:

*I would suggest that this is a rock that has been thrown from a blasting operation in the quarry. The holes in the rock would have been for putting explosives down.*

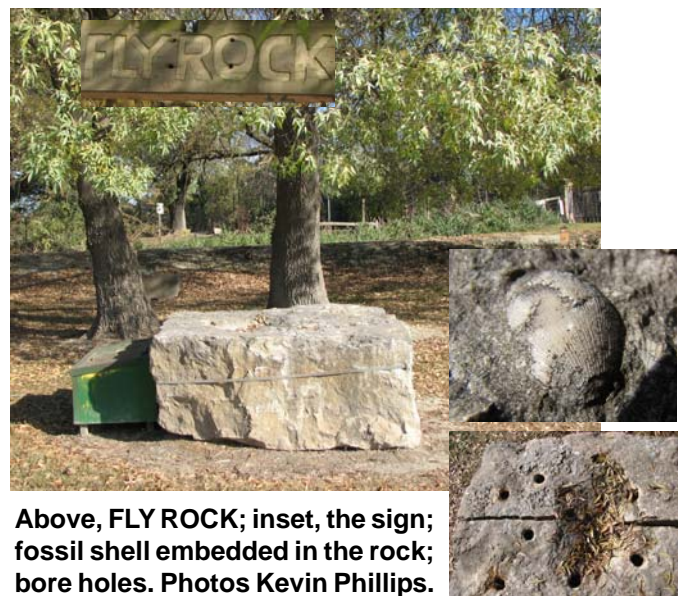
*Before a blasting operation in a quarry, a pattern of holes are drilled down (usually vertically) into the rock. These boreholes are then charged with explosives, but only part way up. Inert material, e.g. sand and/or fine gravel, is then poured down the hole on top of the explosive – this is to keep the gases produced from the explosion in the hole longer and enable the energy from the explosion to do more effective work in shattering the rock.*

*If too much explosive is in the borehole (particularly too close to the surface), large pieces of rock can be thrown into the air by the explosion; these are referred to as 'flyrock' or 'fly'.*

*After the blasting operation, any rocks found with boreholes in them need to be checked that there are no explosives left in them – the borehole is usually cleaned out to confirm this.*

*You queried why the rock was 'such a neat square shape'. ... There may have been cracks in the rock prior to the blast – this would weaken the rock and the gases from the explosion would tend to take the path of least resistance and expand any cracks, causing the rock to split along the line of the cracks.*

**Frank Robinson is an explosives expert.**



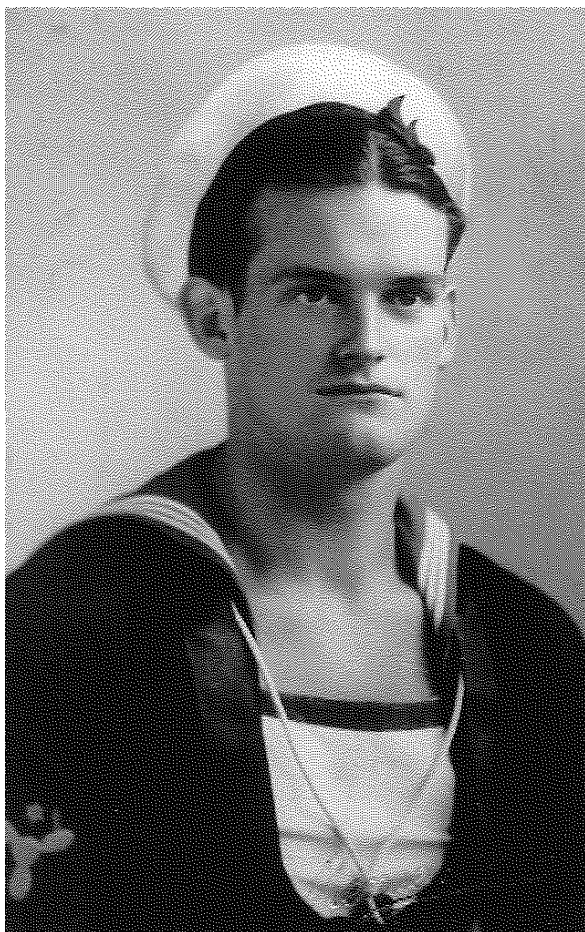
Above, FLY ROCK; inset, the sign; fossil shell embedded in the rock; bore holes. Photos Kevin Phillips.

## Jack Hull of the Militia & Navy

John Cameron Hull was born in Lilydale and was living in Mt Evelyn when the Second World War began. In 1942, just after he turned eighteen, he was called up as part of the Defence Act to serve with the Militia under the compulsory military training scheme.

The Militia's role during this time was to provide the base upon which a force would be easily raised, while at the same time improve the nation's overall preparedness for war by undertaking defensive duties at strategic locations around Australia.

Allotted to the 46th Battalion he was sent with this unit to Queensland to conduct garrison duties during the period when an invasion by Japanese forces seemed a real possibility. By late 1942 however the Australian Military Forces decided to amalgamate a number of militia units and the 46th Battalion was merged with the 29th Battalion to form the 29th/46th Battalion. It was around this time that Jack's period of Militia training finished. He left the Australian Army and very soon after enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy.



Above, Jack Hull in naval uniform, WW II.

He undertook his initial training at HMAS Cerberus, where he was trained to become a stoker. After further training at HMAS Penguin he was sent to Queensland where he served for a time on a merchant ship, SS Burwah, that was being used for troop transport. He then spent quite a few months serving at the Naval bases at Moreton Island, Thursday Island and Magnetic Island.

In April 1945 he was transferred to HMAS Diamantina, a River class frigate commissioned that year. During July and August 1945, Jack served with the Diamantina when it provided fire support to the Australian Army operating in Bougainville. More importantly, when the war ended, Jack was present when the ship carried officers of the Japanese Imperial High Command to the surrender of Torokina on 8 September 1945. The ship was also involved in the surrenders of Nauru on 13 September and Ocean Island on 1 October; both ceremonies were conducted on the ship's quarterdeck.

In 1946 the HMAS Diamantina was based in Sydney but undertook patrol operations in the water off New Guinea. In August 1946 the ship was put into reserve and soon after Jack was discharged from service, his last posting being at the Victorian naval base HMAS Lonsdale. Today HMAS Diamantina is on display at the Queensland Maritime Museum.

In 1994 Jack's name was added to the Mt Evelyn Honour Board for being a resident who served in World War II. Later his name was also added to the Shire of Lillydale World War II Honour Board that today hangs in the foyer of the Athenaeum Theatre in Lilydale.

Jack passed away on Tuesday 8 May 2013 at Wantirna, aged 88.

*Anthony McAleer*

## Howitzer for Memorial Garden

We've had word that the US Government have approved for us to have the howitzer (they have to give the okay for some reason). It is now being 'de-militarized' and we will be told soon when it's ready to be picked up.

The majority of those we canvassed thought the gardens were the best place. We are looking at having it on the low part of the park – alongside the chain fence that faces the bus shelter.

*Anthony McAleer*



## Road name updates

Last year the History Group was asked by then Councillor Tim Heenan to suggest a name for the road that runs through Morrisons Reserve, past Yarra Hills Secondary College and the Special Development School, to the Athletics Facility. From our various suggestions, Council decided to propose 'Burdap Drive'. *Burdap*, a Woiwurrung word for 'good', came from one of Joan Vanderhorn's suggestions.

Local Indigenous groups have supported the use of the name. Council has now started the wider consultation procedures required to name the road 'Burdap Drive'. Council is awaiting comment from Mount Evelyn Special Developmental School and Yarra Hills Secondary College, as the addresses of these two properties will be directly affected by the proposal.

The History Group has written in support of the name 'Beryl Phillips Nature Reserve', proposed by MEEPPA, for the bushland reserve on the Stubbs Avenue/ Fuller Road corner (Melway 118 A11). Beryl was a tireless campaigner for the environment, social justice and Reconciliation. Beryl's niece has said how pleased she would be for her aunt to be commemorated in this way. After the consultation period, a report will be prepared for Council to consider the proposed naming. This is expected to occur mid to late June.

'Owl Land Way' has been mooted as a possible name for the Government Road leading from Hereford Road to the Owl Land. Surprisingly, 'Owl Land Reserve' counts as an 'unofficial' name. Though it appears on Council's signage, the name has never been registered with the Registrar of Geographic Names.

The name 'Baldwyn Reserve' has been suggested for the reserve at the corner of Newton and Kemp Avenues (Melway 118 C10). Mr Alan Baldwyn was a former owner who subdivided his property and donated the reserve land in the 1970s. Council has not yet received any formal application for the name.

**Information from Yarra Ranges Council**

## Name changes

Thinking about road names (and having been present at the meetings of MEEPPA where Gwen and Bill Hardy proposed the re-naming of many roads after early residents of Mount Evelyn), and having seen the signage in

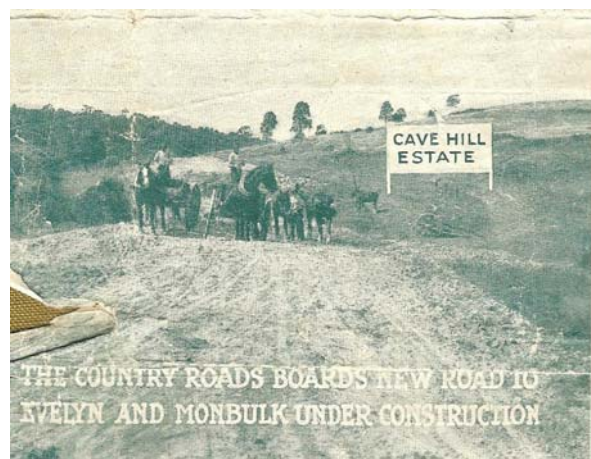
Richmond where, under the street name is a second sign which indicates the historical significance (e.g. '1st mayor of Richmond'), I wonder whether the History Group might consider an approach to Council and/or possible funding for something similar here.

By the way, the road we live on has officially (although we have never been notified – just had mail not delivered!) changed names while we have lived here – Lilydale-Monbulk Road, Silvan Road, Monbulk Road. When we built, our neighbour, Ralph Proctor, said that their children could use a different road name each – 7 names! These included Main Road and McKillop Road.

**Jean Edwards**

John Hardy's 1868 survey of the Dandenong State Forest shows Monbulk Road as 'Dray Track from Lillydale'. Jack Lundy-Clarke marks it as '1855 track of pioneers'.

**Ed.**



Above, another road with a confusing name, 'Evelyn Monbulk Road' (now Hereford Road), under construction. Cave Hill Estate Plan, 1924.

## Fernhill Extension Estate

One of our old subdivision plans, headed 'Fernhill Extension Estate', shows the Fernhill Road/ Wattle Valley Road area. The land would have been part of Robert Thornton's selection. The estate agent is J.G. Chew of Collins Street Melbourne and the solicitor is Mr A.E. O'Connor, 899 High Street Thornbury (Ada and Bertie O'Connor's son Alf, *Things Past* 63).

The plan, undated, is possibly from the 1930s. An 'old bridge' is marked on a watercourse north of Wattle Valley Road. This tributary of the Little Stringybark Creek does not appear on Melway maps. O'Connor Avenue already has its current name on the plan. For the most part, street names commemorating local families date from the 1970s, as Jean recalls.

**Karen Phillips**

## The etiquette of visits – 1875

Friendly calls should be made in the forenoon, and require neatness, without costliness of dress. Calls to give invitations to dinner-parties, or balls, should be very short, and should be paid in the afternoon. Visits of condolence require a grave style of dress.

A formal visit should never be made before noon. If a second visitor is announced, it will be proper for you to retire, unless you are very intimate both with the host, and the visitor announced; unless, indeed, the host express a wish for you to remain.

Visits after balls or parties should be made within a month. It is customary to enclose your card in an envelope, bearing the address outside. This may be sent by post, if you reside at a distance. But, if living in the neighbourhood, it is polite to send your servant, or to call. In the latter case a corner should be turned down. A lady does not put her address on a visiting card.

When a new visitor appears in a drawing-room, if it be a gentleman, the ladies bow slightly; if a lady, the guests rise. A lady is not required to rise to receive a gentleman, nor to accompany him to the door. The last arrival in a drawing-room takes a seat left vacant near the mistress of the house.

Never appear in a drawing-room with mud on your boots. Scrape your shoes and use the mat.

Hold your hat in your hand, unless requested to place it down. Then lay it beside you. The gloves should not be removed during a visit.

Never stare about you in a room as if taking stock.

Request the servant, during the visit of guests, to be ready to attend to the door the moment the bell rings. Be hearty in your reception of guests; and where you see much diffidence, assist the stranger to throw it off.

When you introduce a person, pronounce the name distinctly, and say whatever you can to make the introduction agreeable, such as 'an old and valued friend', 'a schoolfellow of mine', 'an old acquaintance of our family'.

When your visitor retires, ring the bell for the servant. You may then accompany your guest as far towards the door as the circumstances of your friendship seem to demand.

**From *Enquire Within*, MDCCCLXXV**

## Art & bicycles

It seems an odd combination, but we found this notice of raffle winners in *The Argus*:

*MT. EVELYN ART UNION*

*Art union and bicycle raffle held by Mount Evelyn Red Cross branch resulted: – Painting by James Quin [sic], No. 1,503, Mrs Cuming, Glenthompson; painting by E.J. Wymer, No. 1380, Hugh Frazer; etching by Buckmaster, No. 234, W. Wallace, Lilydale; bicycle No. 1,161 Donald Mepstead, 147 Swanston st., Melbourne.*

*The Argus*, Tuesday 9 September 1941, p.3  
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/8203639>

Ernest Buckmaster and Edward Wymer were Mt Evelyn artists. One of James Quinn's paintings of Cave Hill can be found on pages 114-115 of Marian Aveling's book *Lillydale: the Billanook country*. **Ed.**

## Avenue of Honour

Of the former Avenue of Honour (1923-1983), Jean Edwards informs us that the trees were mahogany gums, *Eucalyptus botryoides*.

'Indigenous to East Gippsland and south east NSW but a frequently planted tree in public gardens and streets at that time (the first flush of "Australian" planting). Often considered second best to the WA flowering gum.'

**Jean Edwards**

## From Kev's rain gauge

Rainfall for May 2013 for Mt Evelyn, McKillop, Melbourne and Melbourne average.\*

Mt Ev	McK	Melb	Melb Av
80mm	91mm	36.6mm	55.8mm

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

**Kevin Phillips**

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