

# Things Past

Newsletter 67

September 2013

Mount Evelyn History Group Inc

PO Box 101 Mt Evelyn VIC 3796

A0051327F



## Dates for your diary

Anthony McAleer of Mt Evelyn RSL will speak on projects planned for the centenaries of WWI and ANZAC Day (2014-2015) and how MEHG can be involved. Saturday 28 September, 1:30pm Mt Evelyn RSL Hall.

History Group display on house research, Mt Evelyn Exhibition Space, October.

Mt Evelyn Street Party & History Group stall, Saturday 26 October, Wray Crescent.

## Map overlays

Kevin Phillips has been making further experiments with map overlays, as mentioned in *Things Past* 66. He projected J.A. Panton's 1865 sketch map of the Upper Yarra on to a Melway map and contour map.

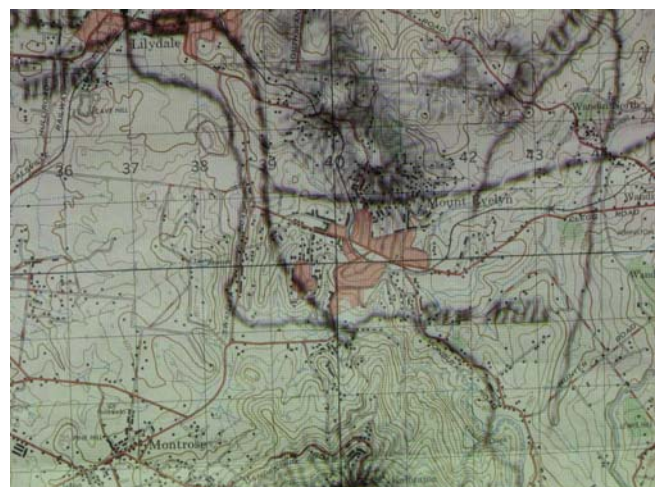
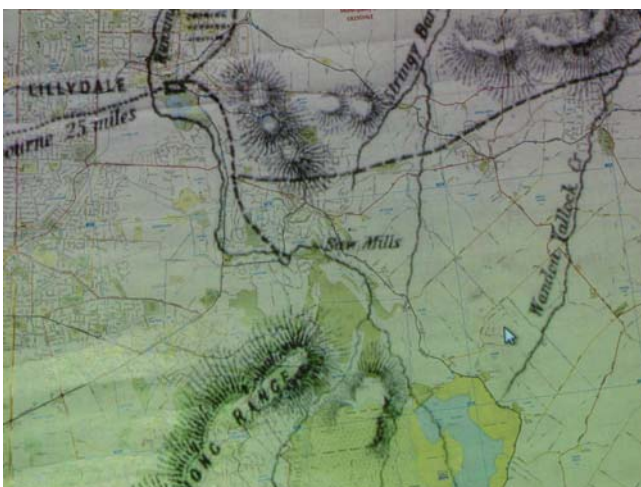
The section of the old map relating to Mt Evelyn, at right, shows 'Lillydale' (the original spelling), the Dandenongs, the Running Creek (Olinda creek), and the Stringybark Creek (named along the Little Stringybark, not the longer branch). The main ridge of Mt Evelyn is shown but not its westward extension.

The only signs of human activity are the saw mills at the Mt Evelyn Reserve site. A track leads south from Lilydale to the saw mills, crossing Olinda Creek at the site of the present York Road bridge. Projecting onto a contour map adds more details. This track would have



Above, part J.A. Panton's map showing the Mt Evelyn area. **1** Bullock Hill, **2** Billygoat Hill.

passed over the ridge near West Hill Drive and descended along the eastern part of Quinn Crescent. Why go over the bump when you could follow the creek flats? The two main sites



Above, map overlays of Mt Evelyn. Left, Panton's map overlaid on Melway map. Modern roads can be compared with the tracks of the 1860s. Right, Panton's map projected onto a contour map. The track from Lilydale passes over the ridge to the saw mills, crossing the creek at the present bridge.

Continued p.2



for timber cutting in the 1860s were Billygoat Hill and Bullock Hill. The north-south track would have crossed the top of Bullock Hill. The map shows another track peeling off to the east, close to the route of Birmingham Road and Bailey Road, to the present Wandin North and beyond. This track would have passed just to the south of Billygoat Hill.

Adjusting the scale of the old map to fit the modern one is not too difficult. The tricky part is deciding which features to align. Roads can be re-aligned and town centres can shift. As mentioned last month, the map of the Coldstream area, when matched to Lilydale,

**Photos and map projection** Kevin Phillips  
**Maps**

Survey Map, Monbulk, 1960 (contour map).  
Shire of Lillydale, Melway, 1990.

Sri Lanka is a teardrop-shaped island off the southeast coast of India, about 200 km wide at its widest and 400 km long. A chain of islands links the north end of Sri Lanka to India. Connections have been close over the centuries. Sri Lanka is largely populated by two groups of Indian descent, the Sinhalese and the Tamils.

The exiled King Valagamba was protected by monks in the Dambulla Caves area in the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC and when he regained power he had the rock temple built in gratitude. There

For the visitor, the caves, statues and paintings are fascinating for their construction and the beauty of some of the statues is breathtaking. It is possible to follow the different fashions in depictions of the Buddha through the centuries, and interesting that the concept of the 'future Buddha', or messiah to come, is strong here and elsewhere in Sri Lanka.

The country is over 85% Buddhist and this philosophy underlies the behaviour of Christians, Hindus and Moslems as well as Buddhists. There is a gentleness and a genuine desire to help others, human and animal, that permeates behaviour and takes a while for a traveller to understand.

2



## In the Olinda Creek valley

Two interesting photographs taken in the Olinda Creek valley in the early 1900s have surfaced in the last few weeks.

Jean Edwards has a copy of Charles Barrett's, *The Australian Bush*, Cassell & Co 1943, which contains a photo of Walden Hut we hadn't seen before. The photo is undated but probably belongs to the period 1903-1907, when the hut was in regular use by the birdwatching group 'The Woodlanders'.

The owner, David Parr, let the hut to Barrett and his friends but refused to lease the land. He continued to cultivate fruit and vegetables on it, as shown below. I believe the young man in the picture is Charles Barrett himself.

The other photo, dated 1905, I came across by chance in the State Library catalogue. The summary states: 'Group of men and women with little boy, gathered at train line running through bush, large stack of timber piled beside track behind group, dense bushland in background. The line ran up the Olinda Creek Valley into the hill area south of Lilydale and was used to carry timber to the Cave Hill Limeworks.'

The scene then is somewhere along the Cave Hill tramway, probably at the large woodheap located about halfway between Hull Road and the pipeline track (Melway 38 H12). The points at the right of the photo were to a loop line where four empty wagons were left and four full ones picked up.\* One of the wagons can be seen on the line behind the group.

The photographer, James Paton Beveridge, built the log cabin Appin around 1919. According to his obituary, Beveridge did not



Above, 'Group portrait on timber train line, Olinda Creek Valley, Victoria', J.P. Beveridge, 1905, gift of Mr Ray & Mrs Betty Marginson, 2011. State Library.

arrive in Australia until 1912. The photo date of 1905 would therefore be incorrect.

The locations of both photos were on the creek flats between York and Hull Roads. Walden Hut was on the east bank of Olinda Creek, the tramway on the west. **Karen Phillips**

\* Ralph Alger, 'Reminiscences of the Cave Hill Tramway', *Light Railways* 111, p.8.

## Field Naturalists reports

Below are links to articles from *The Victorian Naturalist* dealing with the Mt Evelyn area.

'The "Camp Out" at Olinda Creek' 1884

<http://archive.org/stream/victoriannatural118841885fiel#page/110/mode/2up>

C.L. Barrett & E.B. Nicholls, 'Bird Notes from Olinda Vale' 1905 <http://archive.org/stream/victoriannatural21fiel#page/162/mode/2up>

C.L. Barrett, 'Bird Life on Olinda Creek' 1906 <http://archive.org/stream/victoriannatural2319061907fiel#page/84/mode/2up>

E.B. Nicholls, 'Excursion to Olinda Vale' 1907 <http://archive.org/stream/victoriannatural2319061907fiel#page/172/mode/2up>

C.L. Barrett, 'Lecture on wild life at home' 1907 <http://archive.org/stream/victoriannatural2319061907fiel#page/212/mode/2up>

'Reports' (Evelyn to Montrose) 1919 <http://archive.org/stream/victoriannatural3536fiel#page/41/mode/2up>

E.S. Hanks, 'Excursion to Wandin' 1929 <http://archive.org/stream/VictorianNatura45Fiel#page/231/mode/2up>

T. S. Hart, 'Excursion from Montrose to Mt. Evelyn' 1949 <http://archive.org/stream/VictorianNatura65Fiel#page/219/mode/2up>



BUSH HUT ON OLINDA CREEK, VICTORIA.

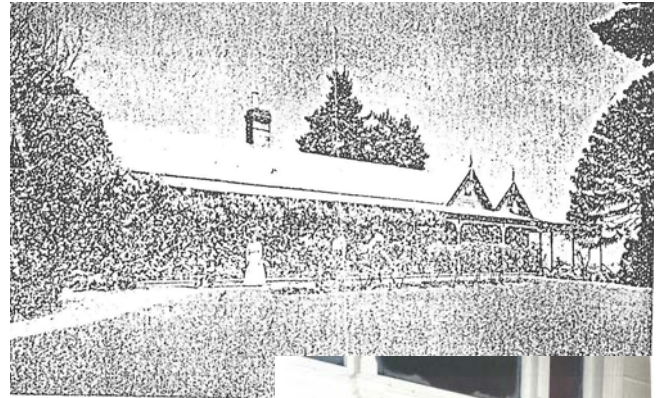
# A long association with Blythswood

Recently we had a visit from Diana Brelaz, great-granddaughter of John Blyth of Blythswood (now Westhill). Diana's family has had associations with the house over three periods of its existence.

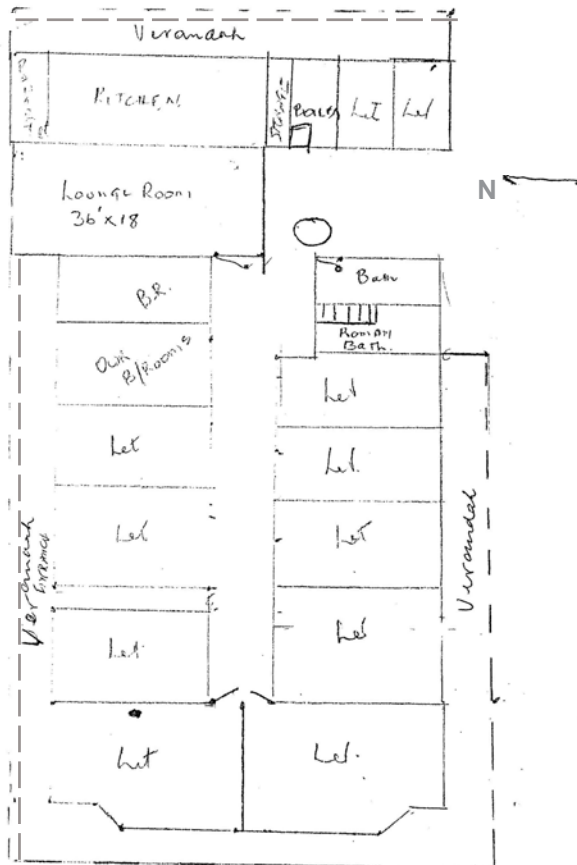
Her mother, Mrs Jean Deutgen née Blyth, was John Blyth's granddaughter and remembered the house as Blythswood. Diana and her brother Rolf stayed there as children in 1933, when it was the Pine Mont guesthouse.

In the early 1990s, Mrs Deutgen expressed a wish to see the old house once more. She and Diana were welcomed to Westhill by then owners Lindsay and Helene Gifford. The house would have been greatly changed from Blyth's time. The fire of March 1952 destroyed the eastern end and most of the south side.

Paula and Diana paid a visit to Westhill and met the present owner. He invited them to come back in summer, when the property would be looking its best.

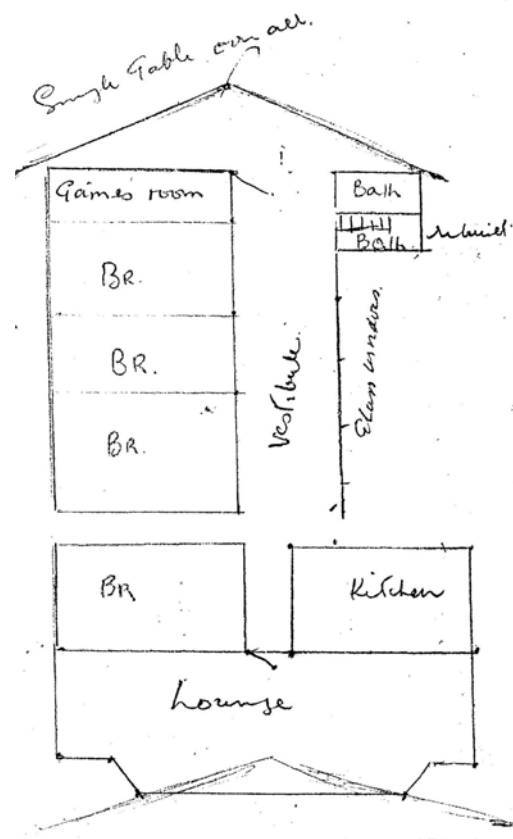


Above, the house when it was Pine Mont. Note the unusual twin gables. Photo from Mountain Spur real estate brochure, c.1916. Inset, Mrs Jean Deutgen at the entrance to Westhill, 1990s. Mrs Deutgen was then in her nineties. Photo courtesy Diana Brelaz.



Before and after. Mr John Jermyn, owner at the time of the fire, drew the above floor plan of Westhill as it was pre-fire. Most of the rooms were let to tenants. The 'Roman' sunken bath was no longer in use. The circle outside the bathroom was the well. Right, the house was much reduced in size after the fire of 1952.

Very rough: impossible to get to scale from memory.



See also p.5



## Blythswood bought and sold

The following newspaper extracts are quoted from Sue Thompson 'History of Westhill', 1993.

### Taking up residence

Mr and Mrs John Blyth and family are on their way back from Germany and will shortly take up residence at "Blythswood" (formerly "Timora" [sic] the residence of the late Mr Nicholson), on the Lilydale side of the Dandenongs. The carpenters are now busy putting the house in order.

*Lilydale Express* 28/8/1891

### Advertisement

FRIDAY NEXT 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH

"Blythswood" Evelyn

Near Lilydale

10 Minutes from Evelyn Railway Station

AUCTION SALE

of

Furniture and Effects

of MRS JOHN BLYTH

In consequence of being sold the Property

Including

Magnificent Horizontal Grand Piano

by Steinway and Sons

PIGS, FOWLS, JERSEY COWS,

JERSEY BULL, FARM IMPLEMENTS

TOOLS ETC.

On view Thursday prior

TUCKETT AND STYLES

TUCKETT AND STYLES

Auctioneers, 359 Collins street (Basement)

Advertisement, *Lilydale Express* 24/2/1911

### Correction

In *Things Past* 50, we said that John Blyth was born in Africa. This is stated in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* but is incorrect. According to genealogical information from Diana Brelaz, John Blyth was born at Garvald, Haddingtonshire, Scotland in 1825. **Ed.**

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/blyth-john-3017>

## Council news

Yarra Ranges Council has given approval to the name 'Beryl Phillips Nature Reserve' for the reserve on Stubbs Avenue. The proposal has now gone to the Registrar of Geographic Names for final approval.

The Warburton Trail working group is investigating rehabilitation of the historic competition sheds at the First Aid Post Reserve beside the Rail Trail.

**Information from Cr Maria McCarthy**

## Owl updated



The Owl mural at the Skate Park, above, has been repainted and looks spookier than ever. The murals represent the 'four elements', the Owl being Air. Photo Kevin Phillips.

## Warburton to Carrum Trail

In *Things Past* 56 we reported on the proposed trail from Warburton to Carrum. The Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail and the Dandenong Creek Trail to Carrum were then intended to connect via the Mt Evelyn Aqueduct Walk.

It has subsequently been noted that this route would make for a wild ride across the Olinda Creek valley. The reservation for the proposed Healesville Freeway corridor has been suggested instead. This would connect with the Dandenong Creek Trail at Heathmont.

How the trails would join up at the Lilydale end is not yet clear. Nor is it certain what would happen if the trail were built and the freeway then went ahead.

**Information from Jason den Hollander,  
Bicycle Network Victoria**

## Answers on wooden structure

We have had some knowledgeable replies about the wooden structure at St Mark's Holiday Camp.

*I think you will find it was a water tank stand. My father & I built one very similar to it on our orchard at Main Ridge many years ago. Tank is missing.*

*4 posts, one in each corner and cross stays for support.*

**Chris Thiele**

Ian James agreed. The platform joists appear to be spaced about two hand spans (40cm) apart, which was usual for this type of structure. Ian agreed that the building with chimneys in the background would have been the kitchen. A chimney over a stove was usually built with 'shoulders', as in the photo.

From p.2

For example, when our tour group visited Dambulla Cave Temple, we were approached by a lady offering us beautifully prepared fruit on a platter. Our guide Bala explained that it was her son's birthday; she had brought him to the temple and was offering us food on his behalf. The unspoken underlying belief is that such kindly actions towards strangers generate merit.



**Reclining Buddha, Dambulla Caves. Buddhist ideals permeate Sri Lankan society.**

When we had struggled to the top of the 200m high Sigiriya ('Lion Rock') Fortress, following a tough climb to its base, our guide produced crackers, cream cheese and oranges which he had carried up as a light lunch for us. He was embarrassed when we wanted to thank him and only muttered that he wanted to do it. Finally we understood that his motivation was kindness. It was never stated overtly, but eventually we picked up that if he mentioned that he was earning merit, merit was not earned, because he would be acting from selfishness. Our guide was Roman Catholic, but this urge to kindness is experienced repeatedly and endears Sri Lanka to the visitor. Sigiriya Rock Fortress is a UNESCO World Heritage site and the most visited historic site in Sri Lanka. The visitor is regaled with the history of its construction, involving the mean-spiritedness and lies of a woman, leading to patricide. The story goes that King Kassapa I (477-95 BC), who killed his father, built the fortress on top of the rock as a vain attempt to have heaven on earth, since everyone knew he was going straight to hell on his death!

The environment around the Sigiriya may have been inhabited since prehistoric times. There is evidence that the many rock shelters and caves in the vicinity were occupied by Buddhist monks and ascetics from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC.

**Text and photo Paula Herlihy**

## Minute and rate books

Pre-amalgamation Council minute and rate books are in the process of being transferred to the Public Records Office Victoria (PROV), 99 Shiel Street North Melbourne 3051.

Once transferred, an index of all available records will be easily searchable on the PROV website <http://prov.vic.gov.au/> Descriptions of their content will be given on the website.

There are three different methods to access these records:

- \* On request, Council can take out a 60 day loan of the required bulk records through PROV's 'Issues Office'. History and heritage groups should contact Neil Kilborn IM Officer (Archives) Yarra Ranges Council, tel. 92946210 [n.kilborn@yarraranges.vic.gov.au](mailto:n.kilborn@yarraranges.vic.gov.au) to initiate this process.

- \* Request individual records online or in person through standard PROV public record access processes. Interested groups should contact PROV to initiate this process.

T: 9348 5600 F: 9348 5656

E: [enquiries@prov.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@prov.vic.gov.au)

- \* History and heritage groups can be provided the facilities and supervision to digitise desired records onsite at PROV in North Melbourne. Interested groups should contact PROV to initiate this process.

**Georgia Melville, YR Regional Museum**

## From Kev's rain gauge

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

Mt Ev	McK	Melb	Melb Av
81.4mm	107.25mm	57.0mm	50.1mm

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

**Kevin Phillips**

## Contact us

Editor: Karen Phillips  
[karen.m.l.phillips@gmail.com](mailto:karen.m.l.phillips@gmail.com)

**President:** Paula Herlihy  
[herlihy@alphalink.com.au](mailto:herlihy@alphalink.com.au)  
or telephone 9736 2935 and leave message

**General enquiries:**  
[historygroup@moutevelyn.vic.au](mailto:historygroup@moutevelyn.vic.au)

**Postal address:**  
Mount Evelyn History Group Inc., PO Box 101,  
Mt Evelyn, VIC 3796.

**Website:** [www.mt-evelyn.net/historygroup](http://www.mt-evelyn.net/historygroup)

**Mt Evelyn History Tools Blog:**  
<http://mtevelynhistorytools.blogspot.com.au/>

