

Things Past

Newsletter 75

May 2014

Mount Evelyn History Group Inc

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Dates for your diary

Mick Woiwod will speak on his book *Paradise Lost, on and around the great Moorool* Saturday 17 May, 1.30pm Hardy House, 49 Birmingham Road Mt Evelyn. The *Moorool* of Woiwurrung legend was a great lake formed by the damming up of the Yarra.

Museum Collections Store visit, Wednesday 14 May, 10.30am, Council depot, Nelson Road Lilydale (opp. Anderson Street, Melway 38 G2). RSVP to Paula by 12 May.

ANZAC 99 years on

2014 marks a century since the outbreak of World War I and 99 years since the landing at Gallipoli. A record crowd gathered at Mt Evelyn's RSL Memorial Garden to pay tribute to our servicemen at the ANZAC Day Dawn Service.

Cr Maria McCarthy and artists Brad Colling and Jesse Nicholas unveiled the new ANZAC mural overlooking the Memorial Garden. The striking design depicts a Digger, seen in silhouette, looking out across a landscape of distant ridges towards the 'Rising Sun' emblem of the AIF.

Tony Smith MP made a special announcement on behalf of the RSL. Each year the Federal Branch of the RSL honours up to seven outstanding individuals with the Anzac of the Year Award.



The ANZAC mural, based on the AIF 'Rising Sun' emblem, was painted recently by Brad Colling and Jesse Nicholas as a gift to the Mt Evelyn community. Below, the mural from across the RSL Memorial Garden. Photos Kevin Phillips.



Mt Evelyn's Gary Park received the award in 'recognition of his leadership, guidance and encouragement to the youth and local community of Mt Evelyn through the Mt Evelyn Scouts'. Gary is the immediate past Group Leader of 1st Mt Evelyn Scouts. Under his leadership, Mt Evelyn grew to be the second largest Scout group in Victoria. Gary is now Region Commissioner, Mt Dandenong Region.

For the history of the 'Rising Sun' badge see: http://www.diggerhistory.info/pages-badges/rising_sun.htm

Mates parted by war

The photo below shows Mt Evelyn identity Robert Adams and his best friend, Claude Pitt. The Adams and Pitt families owned the land along the north side of York Road.

Claude enlisted in the 1st AIF in November 1916 and served with the 37th Battalion on the Western Front. He was with the unit only a month before he was killed in action at the Battle at Passchendaele on 12 October 1917. He was 23.

Robert Adams was forbidden to enlist because he was in a reserved occupation (brass foundryman) needed for the war effort. Robert later established the Do Drop In shop and dance hall and the Lilydale Bus Line.

Known in later life as 'Pop Adams', Robert died in 1990, aged 96. His grandson, David Williams, provided the photo of Robert and Claude. Given Claude's age, it was probably taken about the time he enlisted. Claude is listed on the Mt Evelyn War Memorial and Honour Board, and on the Menin Gate at Ypres.

From RSL Newsletter, Winter 2014



Robert Adams, above at left, with his friend Claude Pitt. Photo courtesy David Williams, forwarded by Anthony McAleer.

Pte Saxton's plaque goes home

Only two plaques from Mt Evelyn's Avenue of Honour were thought to survive. One, to Sgt J. Ellis, is in the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum. The other, to Pte R. O. Saxton, who was killed in action at Cape Helles in Gallipoli in 1915, was donated to Mt Evelyn RSL years ago. Strangely, the design of the two plaques did not match. Pte Saxton's name did not appear on the list of servicemen commemorated by the Mt Evelyn Avenue of Honour.

Recently the RSL undertook further research on the plaque in their collection. Military records showed that Pte Reuben Saxton came from Gilderoy, between Yarra Junction and Powelltown. Research by the Upper Yarra Museum and military historian Bob Sutherland revealed that Saxton was on the list of Launching Place WWI servicemen. His plaque was not from Mt Evelyn at all, but from the Upper Yarra Avenue of Honour. It is the only one known to be still in existence.



Pte Saxton's plaque in the RSL display case.

Mt Evelyn RSL members donated the plaque to the Upper Yarra Museum, which was felt to be its rightful home. Pte Saxton is also commemorated on the Yarra Junction War Memorial and the memorial at Cape Helles.

From RSL Newsletter, Winter 2014

Solar flare blasts radio link

The Turkey Amateur Radio Society provides communication for the Gallipoli site each year. They and the Wireless Institute of Australia have been preparing for the 2015 ANZAC commemoration. Aziz, their President, suggested we attempt to make contact this ANZAC Day as a rehearsal for next year.

Sunspot complex AR2035-AR2046 erupted on 25 April at 0032 Universal Time, producing an X1.3 class solar flare and an HF communications blackout on the dayside of Earth as we were attempting to contact Turkey. The explosion also produced a Coronal Matter Ejection (CME) but, because the blast site was so close to the sun's western rim, the CME did not hit Earth. **Fred Swainston VK3DAC**

Recollections of life in Mt Evelyn from 1949

The Freeman family came from England and settled in Mt Evelyn in 1949. Julie Stewart *née* Freeman remembers.

As a family from war torn London, we migrated to Australia, arriving at Station Pier in the middle of May 1949. We were sponsored to Australia by an old family friend on the Freeman side, Dick Knowles. He and his wife owned and ran the Mt Evelyn 'Outlook Guest House'. This was our first home in Australia. We then moved into rented accommodation in a part of a house next to the Bakery at the top of the shopping centre and later into our own home.

Mum and Dad bought a block of land in Hereford Road, opposite the 'Red Robin' shop. There Dad commenced building a two roomed dwelling for the family. Dad knew nothing about the Australian style of building. I do remember a big excursion to Melbourne one Saturday morning; by bus to Lilydale, then train to the city, where Dad purchased a book called "How to Build an Australian Home". This became a reference book: reading it each evening before putting it into action the next day. We all learned a lot as we all helped out by holding wood while Dad cut it, and then holding up frames while he secured them.

At this time after WWII, building materials were hard to come by and several times we had to wait for supplies. Gradually our dwelling took shape and we moved in. I remember our first Christmas Day there. The parents had been given an old one-fire wood stove. This they set up outside, and it was on this stove that Mum produced our first lovely Christmas Dinner. As there was no reticulated water service, we had to build a tank stand and put up a tank to hold water for our use. Under the



Above, the Freeman family at their house in Hereford Road, 1949. At that stage there were just two rooms and a porch.



Above, the Freemans' home Oriel House when completed, 1950s.

tank stand, Dad had set up a cold water shower area and a primitive laundry. Everything worked well for us and we thought we had a palace.

As time passed, we needed more space and Dad gradually built on additional rooms. We all thought it was a smart looking house when it was finished. It was called "Oriel House" – apparently the meaning of Oriel is a place of windows. The house was a credit to our Dad, who was a novice builder.

Dad, being a plumber with English qualifications, could not officially work as a plumber in Australia without gaining an Australian Certificate, which he never did. He got on well, working in a plumbing supply shop and later for the Melbourne & Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW).

Mum, being a bit bored at home, became friendly with 'Mrs Robbie', who had a green-grocery shop in the main street. She gave Mum a temporary job working in the shop. Mum enjoyed this experience in getting to know the local people.

My sister and I commenced schooling at Mt Evelyn Primary; my brother attended Lilydale Higher Elementary School. Before our crate of clothing and goods arrived from the docks in Port Melbourne, Mum bought my sister and me a pair of jodhpurs each from Hudson's General Store. We wore these to school with pride, not knowing, until told by numerous students, that these jodhpurs were worn when one had a horse! That accounted for the many questions that were asked us as to 'where is your horse tied up?' We were glad when our regular clothes arrived.

Another thing, that was a puzzle for me, was the pan toilets down the back corner of the school property. In the Mt Evelyn Primary

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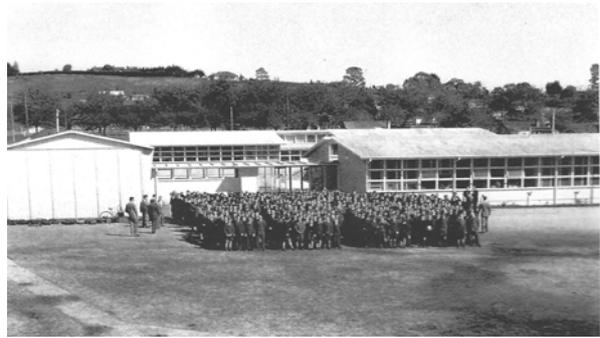
School Centenary History is a paragraph about me arriving at the school (p.52):

A past pupil, Julie Freeman believes she was the first English girl at the school, arriving in May 1949. She was constantly asked to "Come out the front" to read to the class and show how she did sums. She also vividly remembers discovering the old outside pan toilets and thinking, "why save it in a can?" She had been to a big London school before emigrating, and was not used to rural ways.

I worked my way through primary education quickly. The Principal didn't know which grade to put me into, so I had promotion every few months and ended up being the only child to be allowed to transfer to the newly named Lilydale High School in 1951. I attended there for four years and achieved my Intermediate Certificate, doing the Commercial Course, as it was known then.

After four years of schooling, my parents thought I'd had enough education and I was told to get a job. This I did with the help of my brother, who had become an apprentice motor mechanic in Lilydale. He helped me by talking to the manager of the Lilydale branch of the E.S. & A. Bank. In January 1955 I commenced working at the Bank in Ringwood. I was perturbed by having to start work in the middle of January and complained to my parents that I hadn't had my summer holiday yet! I worked at the bank for two and a half years.

In 1956 I managed to obtain a position at the Lilydale High School, working with Mrs Chapman in the General Office. As I always wanted to be a teacher, this seemed a good alternative choice for me; here I worked until 1966. During this time the new building for the school, known primarily as the Annex and built



Above, opening of the new Lilydale High School, 1958.

down near Cave Hill, burned down one night. The whole school then had to relocate back to the old Clarke Street area. The school had to rent extra accommodation in nearby halls to fit the newly expanded number of pupils.

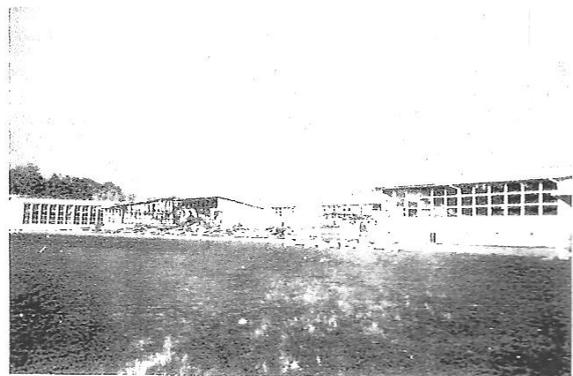
March 1954 was a memorable occasion, when the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh travelled by diesel train through Lilydale and Mt Evelyn on their way to Warburton. As students of Lilydale High School, we all assembled along the line to wave to the Royal train as it passed. The students were later given a commemorative medal of the occasion.

When the train was returning from Warburton, my mother heard it from home and excitedly raced down a track behind the Red Robin and toward the railway line, just in time to witness the Royal couple on the special balcony of the train. Mum, dressed in her apron, waved at them and they actually saw her and waved back. That was such a delight for Mum and she couldn't stop telling everyone about it later.

During my years in Mt Evelyn I started attending the Church of England and later became the instigator and leader of the Girls Friendly Society (GFS). At the same time the Church of England Boys Society (CEBS) commenced and the youth work flourished for



Above, Lilydale High School after the fire, 1957.



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Thanks to Greg Luke for this delightful card showing the original store in Wray Crescent.

DEATH OF A PIONEER

From our Mt Evelyn Correspondent.

Mr Charles Baker, one of our first selectors, passed away recently, after an illness of over nine months, at the age of 61 years.

Mr Baker was born at Doncaster, and his parents afterwards removed to Hawthorn. Forty years ago the family settled near Olinda Creek, about a mile and a half from Lilydale, and young Charles adopted the trade of a carpenter.

Twenty-five years ago he took up a selection on the Settlement [grant?] and married Miss Annie Smith, of Brunswick, and there added farming pursuits to his trade. He did a considerable amount of building work, being employed in this capacity for many years by Mr David Mitchell, of Cave Hill. Seven years ago, Mr Baker sold out the Settlement land, and with his wife and family went upon his selection at Mt Evelyn, just near Evelyn Station. He has seen the district change from its wild bushy condition to one of the most beautiful tourist resorts in Victoria. Mr Baker took part in all local functions for the benefit of the district, and gained for himself the name of a straightforward, honest man, whose word was as good as his bond.

The deceased leaves a widow and two children: Mrs Fred Bayliss, of South Yarra, and Mr Henry George Baker, who resides with his mother. The funeral took place at the Lilydale Cemetery, and was numerously attended by his old employers, relatives and friends, members of the Manchester Unity Lodge, Mt Evelyn Progress Association and School Committee, and the trustees of the Mechanics' Institute.

In connection with the latter, Mr Baker had proposed, when the material was purchased, to initiate a building bee, and push the construction so that the hall might be opened before the end of 1915.

Ringwood & Croydon Chronicle, 12/2/1915

Charles Baker's land was on the corner of Hereford and Birmingham Roads. A very old cottage on Glenview Road was demolished to make way for the present units; it may have been Baker's house. The Mechanics Institute was not built until after WWI.

Clegg's jam factory goes bust

Newspaper references to court proceedings document the failure of Enoch Clegg's jam factory in 1886. This does not seem to be the factory on his father's land (TP71), as Enoch's address is stated as Lilydale, not Wandin.

'New insolvent: Enoch Clegg, of Lilydale, jam manufacturer. Causes of insolvency— Not having the means to meet bills given for accommodation. Liabilities, £1,473 0s. 7d.; assets, £268 10s.; deficiency, £1,186 10s. 7d. Mr. Jacomb, assignee.' **Australasian**, 3/7/1886, p.29. After further proceedings:

'INSOLVENT COURT. Friday, Feb. 4. (Before His Honour Judge Molesworth.) RE ENOCH CLEGG. On the application of Mr Sabelberg, an order was made for the release from Court of the estate of Enoch Clegg, of Lilydale, jam manufacturer, the creditors having accepted a composition of 1s. in the £1.' **The Argus**, 5/2/1887, p.10.

This financial disaster may help to explain why the Clegg family scattered. Enoch's parents returned to the suburbs to live. Enoch took on a 3 year contract to deliver mail to South Wandin in 1896, but moved to Fremantle in 1897.

From p.4

many years. The GFS and CEBS had many combined outings and it was great fun for all. I left Mt Evelyn and moved to Croydon in 1959 after being married in the Church of England and having the Reception at Chateau Wyuna.

After all three of us children had moved on, and my parents moved to Croydon, Dad divided the Mt Evelyn home, turning it into three self contained flats. The house was sold in 1965 and my parents later moved to Queensland for their retirement.

I noticed on a recent visit to Mt Evelyn that our old Hereford Road house had been demolished and replaced with a number of very smart looking units [38 Hereford Road]. Mt Evelyn has become a lovely village with very friendly people, and we thoroughly enjoyed our day there.

Thank you for emailing the newsletter *Things Past*. I enjoyed the articles on the Watkins family. I remember them so well. They were friends and we had many happy outings together. Graeme had a car, a rarity in those days, but it was a star attraction back then! Many a time I was invited to their home for a meal and social evenings. Sorry to hear that the family is now all gone. **Julie Stewart**

Snippets

'The Outlook' sold

The historic Mt Evelyn property The Outlook changed hands recently. The new owner's sister owns another significant property, the former Union Church in Watkins Crescent.

Burdap Drive

The name put forward by the History Group for the road leading to Yarra Hills Secondary College and the Athletics facility has been accepted. The road is now called 'Burdap Drive'. *Burdap*, the Woiwurrung word for 'good', was Joan Vanderhorn's suggestion.

Cave Hill

Documents relating to the planned redevelopment of Cave Hill are now online: <http://www.plancavehill.com.au/We-want-to-hear-from-you/documents>

The Conservation Management Plan by Lovell Chen includes a detailed history of the site and many interesting photos. The Environmental and Flora & Fauna Assessments are also available.

The area has been assessed for its significance for the Powerful Owl, Wedge Tailed Eagle and Eastern Grey Kangaroo. Small numbers of the nationally significant Grey Headed Flying Fox were recorded. The Glossy Grass Skink is potentially present in remnant vegetation.

There is a brief Geology Report but we hope for more detail about the geology eventually. All of the documents provided so far seem to take for granted that the quarry pit will be filled in, without explaining the basis for the decision.

From Kev's rain gauge



Unstoppable force meets immovable objects. This metallophagous oak at Lilydale station, above, is quietly swallowing two sections of steel rail and a chain mesh fence. Photos Kevin Phillips, April 2014.

Rainfall for April 2014 for Mt Evelyn, McKillop, Melbourne and Melbourne average.*

Mt Ev	McK	Melb	Melb Av
84.9mm	99.5mm	70.0mm	57.3mm

* Melbourne figures Bureau of Meteorology: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/>

Kevin Phillips

Contact us

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