

Things Past

Newsletter 91 September 2015

Mount Evelyn History Group Inc

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Dates for your diary

Launch of *Bill & Gwen Hardy, dynamos of Mt Evelyn community life*, Saturday 12 September, 1.30pm Hardy House, 49 Birmingham Road, Mt Evelyn.

The Yarra Valley Italian Cultural Group will launch their latest book, '*La Terra Promessa*' – *Italians in the Yarra Valley before 1945*, Sunday 4 October, 2.00pm at Silvan Public Hall.

Mt Evelyn Street Party, stall and writing competition: 1950s theme, Saturday 24 October.

Lilydale High School Reunion 1960-65. 50th reunion of the class who started in 1960 and/or finished in 1965. Chirnside Park Country Club, 2pm to 6pm Saturday 24 October 2015. See blog at: www.lhs50yearson.blogspot.com

The O'Shannassy Aqueduct in Mt Evelyn

As Jean Edward wrote in her article on the Aqueduct last month, Mt Evelyn's original aqueduct was the O'Shannassy, completed in 1914. Judy Kortekaas recently shared some fascinating photos with the History Group, including the two below, of the Aqueduct and Pipeline.

The first is labelled 'Mt Evelyn Old Channel Water Carriageway'. 'Old Channel' probably means that this was the original O'Shannassy Aqueduct.

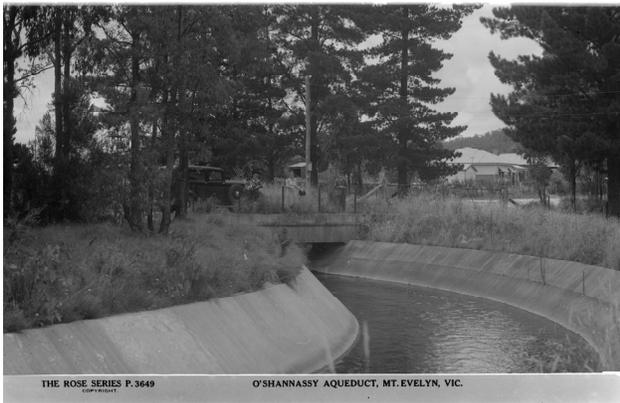
The location appears to be in the Channel Road area. The pine trees have been planted along one side but are still young. There is some native vegetation on the other side.

The photo below right, labelled 'Temporary Pipeline in Mt Evelyn', may date from 1933, when the Mt Evelyn section of the O'Shannassy Aqueduct was being widened to take the increased volume of water from Silvan Dam. The height and steepness of the hill suggest that the



Above left, 'Mt Evelyn Old Channel Water Carriageway'. Above right, 'Temporary Pipeline in Mt Evelyn'. Photos courtesy Judy Kortekaas.

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Above left, 'O'Shannassy Aqueduct Mt Evelyn Vic', Rose Postcard, State Library Victoria. Above right, 'The O'Shannassy Water-Race, Evelyn', Rose Postcard, Jean Edwards' collection.

photo was taken from near Swansea Road, looking up the hill towards Westhill. Remnants of the permanent iron pipe can still be found in the ground along the pipeline easement.

The Rose Postcard 'O'Shannassy Aqueduct Mt Evelyn Vic' (State Library) shows one of the bridges, either at Channel Road or West Hill Drive. The style of the motor car suggests a date in the 1920s.

Jean Edwards sent us the Rose Postcard, 'The O'Shannassy Water-Race, Evelyn' (not to be confused with the 1905 Water Race that carried Lilydale's water). The location in the postcard is not immediately recognisable but may be in the section between Monbulk and York Roads.

For a full account of the O'Shannassy system, see 'Heroes of the Aqueduct', <http://oshannassyaqueduct.weebly.com/the-aqueduct.html>

Vale Dot Millard

11/11/1913 – 10/08/15

Dot (Doris) Millard nee Johnson passed away on 10 August 2015, aged 101.

Dot and husband Theo Millard had one daughter, Barbara (dec.1972). They cared for two grandchildren and subsequently were Gran and Pop to seven great-grandchildren. See *Things Past* #58; more in a future issue.



Above, Dot Millard surrounded by her great-grandchildren and great-niece. Photo courtesy Jim and Helen Johnson.

ERL WWI Centenary Database

Eastern Regional Libraries WWI Centenary Database was launched at Croydon Library on 24 July. MPs from the four Federal electorates that provided the funding from the ANZAC Centenary Local Grants Program were present.

Kathy Smalley and volunteers have indexed local history books, monuments, honour boards and avenues of honour to create this database of over 10,000 names. Most names are indexed more than once, as they appear on several resources. The database includes the indexing of 131 local history books in ERL's collection. The address is: <http://local.erl.vic.gov.au/local.php?code=ww1>

Kathy would be pleased to receive feedback, email: kathy.smalley@erl.vic.gov.au

Noumea Creations

Yolande Pickett writes, 'I picked up this fruit bowl at the Mustard Tree Op Shop today and on the bottom it says, "NOUMEA CREATIONS, MT EVELYN, VICTORIA"'. Yolande has donated the bowl to the History Group.



'Noumea Creations', makers or suppliers of ceramics, may have been located in the York Road/ North Avenue area but apparently no longer exists. Unusual name for a Mt Evelyn firm! Does anyone remember the business?

The Scholars: John and Mary Macdonald Part 2

Lacking access to the symphony orchestra concerts that they had enjoyed when living in Melbourne, the Macdonalds' leisure and self-education were based around the Athenaeum and State Lending Libraries, which would deliver books (many concerning travel) by rail. Local women looked somewhat askance at Mary's apparent prioritisation of reading over the domestic chores and the impossible standards modelled by the women's magazines of the time.

The children, however, remember a good mother who 'laboured with loving care, little money, poor facilities and limited supplies'¹ to produce creative costumes for fancy dress parties and to prepare such delights as kedgerree, meringues, watermelon punch and raspberry trifle. The Macdonalds also made time for community involvement.

The family attended the Presbyterian Church and became friends with Miss Hazel Lloyd, the Deaconess who later married Mr Robinson and moved to the coast. (In the 1990s Hazel and Mary continued their friendship through the Christian Poets Association.) Strong relationships were formed with other members of the Church such as Reverend and Mrs Scott, Pauline Koolmees and Eric and Heather Grey.

John continued to work in the city, often only returning home on the weekends, but between 1953 and 1955 took on the position of Secretary of the Mt Evelyn Progress Association. He remembered 'plastering the town' with handbills advertising a working bee and being the only person to turn up! Children's safety and recreation were key concerns of the Association at this time and they worked towards new playground equipment for the park between the tennis courts and kindergarten in Birmingham Road and a safe path for children to walk to Mt Evelyn Primary School. Working with people such as the President Harry Graham, Stuart Anderson-Smith and the Boy Scouts, they also tidied up the Avenue of Honour in Wray Crescent.

In 1956-7 John went overseas to study at London University for a year. While John was absent, Mary wrote regularly and later placed copies of these letters in the Lilydale Historical Museum.

Letters from home revealed that the children by early ages were proficient at catching the bus from Lilydale and attending, for example, the dentist and Brownies independently. When public transport plans failed, shopkeepers, Ministers, Deaconesses and Brownie leaders sometimes

¹ From eulogies.



Above, Isabel at the house on the corner of Bailey Road and Spring Road (Spring Street), c.1952-3.

rallied to babysit or even to offer a meal and a lift home, often quite late, given norms about early bedtimes in the 1950s. The children attended many Church social functions, Anglican and Methodist and Missionary as well as Presbyterian in Melbourne as well as Mt Evelyn. Excitement in that year included seeing the Olympics on television, the filling in of the yabby dam in the main street of Mt Evelyn and 'exposure' of Mt Evelyn Primary School teacher Jack Highett as a member of the Communist Party.

While most women were glad to return men's work to the men after the war, those who 'were used to being independent' could get leadership positions in voluntary organisations. Mary's letters to her husband bring out some of the political struggles within these organisations as well as the scope of volunteerism and the innocence and simplicity of much childhood recreation.

Mary herself was heavily involved in the formation of the Mt Evelyn Kindergarten, presented as a practical Second World War memorial for the township. She wrote a booklet on its history, acknowledging the role older women played. Mrs Adams (wife of 'Pop' Adams who ran the bus service) and her daughters (Joyce Evans and Jean Williams) and Mary and her mother were all known to each other through University High School in Melbourne. The Adams had hand-craft and business skills which helped in the raising of money. Older single women like the Misses Daniels did lots of 'fancywork' for stalls, fêtes and fairs.

During her husband's absence for nearly a whole year, Mary found life quite challenging. 'To begin with, we didn't have money for extras.' Pushing the heavy double pram with her new born twins up Bailey Road with the shopping was also difficult, as was cleaning the muddy shoes of the children walking to school. Mary and John also desired a more city-based schooling for their

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children approaching secondary school. After John's return from England in 1957, the family decided to move to Brighton Beach to stay with Mary's aunt's family.

Ultimately, after moving again to house sit for a friend, they made a shared purchase later in 1957 with Mary's mother of what has been the family home ever since in Middle Brighton. During the late 50s and early 60s Mary expanded her writing, publishing 'In Paths Directed', the story of her grandmother, Emily Churchward, and receiving payment for the many children's stories, plays and poems she had published in the Education Department School Paper.

In 1969 during a teacher shortage, Mary took advantage of the logic component of her philosophy studies and began teaching remedial mathematics. In 1970 she completed her teacher training at Melbourne University, then taught full time at Brighton High School (attended by her children) until 1979.



John and Mary Macdonald in the 1990s.

Mary was a keen and expert embroiderer and poet and attended many workshops. In her later years she was able to do some of the travel she had dreamt about, including to the South Pacific where ancestors of hers had been missionaries. She also wrote Christian poetry, at least three works of which were set to music by nationally-recognised liturgical composer Rosalie Bonighton (*Prayer for Pentecost 1993, Consider the Lilies 1996, Hallelujah! It is finished!*) She gave me a Christmas card as a parting gift with the following verse [at top right], appropriate to an Australian Christmas season.

Janice Newton

Thanks to Macdonald children for providing information and editing.

Next month, Mary's letters from Mt Evelyn.

The Season's Greetings

For you, this Summer:

May sunshine and warmth
Reflect God's glory and love
May flowers and fruit
Speak of his grace and goodness
May life-giving rain
Refresh body and spirit;
And may Christmas be truly
A season of peace, goodwill and joy
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Mary Mcdonald
(permission Katharine Macdonald)

As water is to fish

As I commented in a previous newsletter, it seemed strange that more people did not recall the Lion Seats. Katharine Macdonald had an explanation. 'There is a Chinese saying: "Fish are not aware of water".'

The seats were "there" and sat on. (To our generation not "highlighted" as different/unusual.) I suggest that that may be why people do not "specially remember" the seats.'

A date for the portrait

We have not been able to identify the well-dressed young man in the Athenaeum portrait (*Things Past #89*). We do have an approximate date for the painting, courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, London. 'The cut of the coat, with the deep V, was fashionable circa 1820.'



As the sitter doesn't look a day over 20, he would have been born about 1800 or slightly later. That rules out all our suspects so far. The young man is not Robbie Burns, Beau Brummell, Lord Melbourne or Lord Byron. To the question of who the artist might have been, the Gallery

researcher replied, 'As far as can be seen from the reproduction, it looks reminiscent of the work of Sir Martin Archer Shee, but I have found no record of it in our Shee files. Many artists were working in this style, popularised by Sir Thomas Lawrence, at this time. ...

When neither artist nor sitter is known ... it is unfortunately very difficult to research a portrait.'

The Drop Punt – by a kick historian

Jim Johnson from age 10 to 14, with only limited kicks gained at school in kick-to-kick, learned to kick a stab kick, a drop kick, a torpedo punt, a flat punt and invent his drop punt as a field pass kicked at full pace. Then at 15 in May 1949, with his first-ever own football, it took Jim only a couple of weeks to convert the stab kick into his stab punt. There was only a split second of timing to adjust to make this happen and that was to kick the ball just before instead of just after it hit the ground. Easy for Jim.

Similar to Jack Dyer, Jim had a paddock near where he lived. Lonely! It was at least two miles from any small town. Mooroolbark was one of those towns and it had one shop and a few houses. They had candlelight and tank water and no other services. The closest cricket ground was at Mooroolbark and the closest football ground was at Mount Evelyn a 2.5 miles walk to practice or play. Lilydale to school was a four mile walk for most of the around seven years Jim's family lived there.

Jim's recent research has revealed that one of the most famous full forwards of all time, Dick Lee of Collingwood, kicked a drop punt for goal. Dick called his kick for goal 'a type of stab-punt'. He is the first VFL/AFL player recorded as kicking the Drop Punt! 'He developed both the place-kick and "a type of stab-punt" in which he dropped the ball point-first and stabbed it like a shot arrow with hair-line accuracy. He says he always picked a spot in the crowd and took aim at it.' H.A. de Lacy, Sporting Globe, 21 June 1941.

Jack Dyer, Tigers coach and captain, 'is a deadly kick from 40-50 yards out of goal. He uses the stab-punt kick, dropping the ball point down and almost vertical, kicking it with the toe of his boot. "Dick" Lee, famous Collingwood forward, used the same type of kick. Dyer says he saw the value of the kick watching Collingwood, and learnt it from the Collier brothers. Sporting Globe, 31 March 1948.

Dyer incorrectly calling his Drop Punt a 'Stab Punt Kick' is most interesting, as he thought of using the 'stab punt kick' as a description but never ever thought of kicking a stab punt. The stab kick was invented in Tasmania in 1902. No one did anything extra with the stab kick till 15-year-old Little Jimmy Johnson, 5'2" (157.48 cm), weighing 8¼ stone (52.5 kg), converted it into his stab punt in May 1949. There is nothing to beat the low, skimming stab punt.

Jim's research has revealed the following information re other early players, mostly VFL/

AFL, to kick the Drop Punt in Australian Rules Football.

Hugh Hinks, who played for Carisbrook, invented the Drop Punt in 1907. The next recorded player to use it was Horrie Clover of Carisbrook then Carlton in 1920-24 & 1926-31. It was thought that Clover first saw the kick used by a team mate at Carisbrook and that he perfected it from there.

Len Metherell, who made his debut in 1930, also used the drop punt and indicated that he had learned it from his father at Subiaco, WA.

Collingwood's Collier Brothers used the drop punt as a short pass of around ten yards in place of a hand pass. They only used it to pass the ball to each other over the head of an opponent. The Collier Brothers and Jack Dyer may have seen Len Metherell using his Drop Punt.

George Goninon kicked eleven goals one behind with drop punts in the 1951 Semi Final Geelong against Collingwood. He only used the Drop Punt as a kick for goal.

Next recorded use was by Jack Dyer. 'Another Dyer oddity is the drop-punt, a kick which is one of the strangest in football history. ... It's long odds against him missing when he's within 40 yards. Jack watches the ball closely as he drops it vertically on to his toe. Still vertical, the ball is kicked off the toe and instep and back-spins as it flies (most kicks spin forward). The Daily News Perth, 28 June 1949.

The really great exponent of the drop punt for goal was Peter McKenna of the Magpies 1965/75.

A series of slow-motion pictures of Jack Dyer in action from the Sporting Globe Football Book 1948 inspired Jim Johnson to develop his version of the drop punt in 1949.

Jim from age fifteen played eleven seasons of open age First Eighteen Football. He missed only one match through injury during these eleven seasons. Jim played football where he chose to play and at no time played for 'money'. He had invitations to Box Hill in 1950 and 1956, Prahran in 1956 and Richmond at sixteen years of age in 1950. He chose not to try to play at any of these clubs.

Teams Jim played for were as follows.

Mount Evelyn First Eighteen in the Yarra Valley Football League 1949, coached by Harold Maskell ex Geelong & Carlton.

1950, Melbourne High School 1st Eighteen Football Colours.

1950-1953 Ringwood.

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A practice session at Richmond Oval in 1950 left Jim unimpressed.

'I had said "no" when asked if I would like to train at Richmond. I was again approached by Mr Pratt at Ringwood and told it would only be for convenience as I was travelling to practice at Ringwood and then travelling home to Oakleigh. I thought that was a good idea.

I attended training with the Richmond Seconds and during circle work a ball was coming towards me. All I had to do was keep running, looking back over my right shoulder and I would mark it. Good except a "courageous" person came out of the darker centre of the ground, on my blind side, and "took me out", trying to mark over the little guy. I was not hurt, as I saw the player in the last seconds and "went with it".

Graham Richmond came over to me while I was changing after training and suggested I come back when I was older. I was one-eyed Collingwood and walked away from the ground saying to myself "I wouldn't play here if you paid me".

Anyway they looked at my skills so closely that they did not see, on Jack Dyer's home ground, the class disposal that was in front of their eyes. Granted it was in very ordinary light and that in bright sunlight others had difficulty seeing how I was kicking the ball. I of course was not going to say, 'Look what I can do'. But on what I thought at the time was the so-called "Home" of the drop punt?

1952 Jim played in the Fifteenth National Service Battalion G Company First Eighteen.

1954/58 South Belgrave, including Inter-competition Team First Rover. Two Best & Fairest and two Runner up Best and Fairest. Team Vice-Captain 1957-58. In the South Belgrave 'Sixty Years of Football' published in 2005, Jim is listed as one of the Club's Heroes.

1956 Peter Linden former Olinda Player's 'Best Ten Year Post War Mountain District Football Team' included Jimmy Johnson of South Belgrave on the wing.

1960 Jim Played in Croydon's Premiership Team. Writing in 1960, football reporter Frank Casey took a while to work out that Jim kicked the ball before it hit the ground. Casey, with Dr. Graham Corr, who was the designated writer for the Ringwood Mail, were the only writers in eleven seasons to get that part close to correct.

See also:

Jim Johnson

www.magpies.net/nick/bb/viewtopic.php?t=77428

'Dick! Dick!-Dick-e-e-e!' nla.gov.au/nla.news-article180301517

The First Drop Punt? www.footyalmanac.com.au/the-first-drop-punt-recent-research-from-a-kick-historian/

Things Past #44

Warming their frosty feet



A mob of roos enjoying the morning sun near Olinda Creek, 19 July 2015. Temperature -2°C. Photo Kevin Phillips.

From Kev's rain gauge

Another soggy month, Mt Evelyn for once wetter than McKillop. Melbourne continues drier than average with year to date 306.6mm, compared to Mt Evelyn 615mm and McKillop 622.75mm.

Rainfall for August 2015 for Mt Evelyn, McKillop, Melbourne and the Melbourne average.

Mt Ev	Mck	Melb	Melb Av
137.6mm	110.1mm	38.0mm	50.0mm

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

Kevin Phillips

Contact us

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