

# Things Past

Newsletter 96

February 2016

Mount Evelyn History Group Inc

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## Dates for your diary

AOEHS meeting Saturday 20 February, 1.30pm Hardy House. Bronwyn Higgs will speak about *The Happy Hermits* and information that has come to light since the book was published.

History Group meeting Monday 21 March, 7.30pm at Hardy House.

## The saw mill at Mt Evelyn Reserve



Above, 'Dandenong Saw Mills', D.R. Long, August 1857. Oil on canvas, 66 x 104.5 cm, Rex Nan Kivell Collection NK11013, National Library of Australia. Reproduced with permission.

Operated by McDonald & Goodyear from 1855, the saw mill was located beside the Running Creek (Olinda Creek) at the eastern end of the present Mt Evelyn Reserve.

We never expected to find a picture of Mt Evelyn's earliest European settlement, but here it is: the saw mill established by McDonald & Goodyear, later run by Swift, on the site of the Mt Evelyn Reserve (see *Things Past* #88 & #95).

We can also trace a partial timeline for the saw mill.

We first hear of McDonald & Goodyear in September 1855.

*TO Builders, Contractors, and Others.-The subscribers respectfully inform the Public that they are ready to supply any description of hardwood timber, cut to order, at very reasonable rates, and can deliver it in Melbourne or vicinity by two weeks' notice from their Saw-mills, Running Creek, Dandenong. M<sup>c</sup>Donald and Goodger [sic], Annand's Timber Yard, corner of Brunswick and Leicester-streets, Collingwood.<sup>1</sup>*

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## From p.1

Hodgkinson's survey map, published in November 1855, showed the saw mills. Further advertisements appeared in 1855 and 1856, giving different names and locations for the timber yard.

*300,000 FEET Sawn Hardwood on Sale, below Melbourne prices, delivered at short notice in Melbourne, Heidelberg, or St. Kilda, from Running Creek Saw-mills, twenty miles from Melbourne. Timber cut to order any size or lengths. McDonald and Goodger, Timber yard, lower end Brunswick-street, Collingwood.*<sup>2</sup>

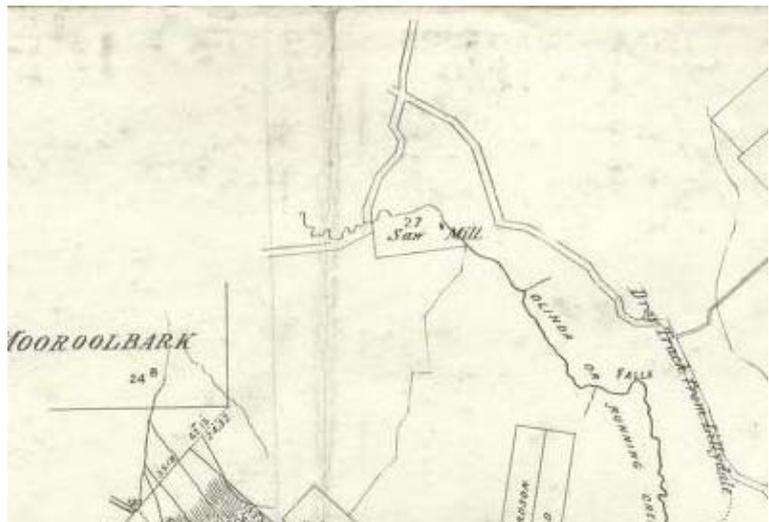
In May 1856, McDonald & Goodyear sought approval to build a tramway down the spur. Advertisements continued to appear for the remainder of that year.

*ORDERS Solicited for any quantity of sawn or hewn Hardwood, delivered in Melbourne, Richmond, or vicinity, from Running Creek Saw-mills. Red Gum supplied in any sizes. McDonald and Goodger, Dandenong Timber-yard, Stephen-Street, opposite Eastern Market.*<sup>3</sup>

The name 'Dandenong' applied both to the timber yard and to the area where the timber was sourced. The Dandenong district included all the area from the town of Dandenong to the Emerald diggings on the far side of the ranges.

The last of the McDonald & Goodyear ads that I could trace appeared in *The Argus* on 14 December 1856. It is not certain who was operating the sawmill when Daniel Long painted his picture in 1857. Sometime in 1857-1858, the mill changed hands. It was Swift's saw mill when John Collier came to work there in 1858. We next hear of Mr Swift in 1861, when he and one of his bullock drivers were witnesses in a court case.

*False Pretences. — Thomas James was charged with obtaining a horse, saddle, and bridle under false pretences. Thomas Marshall, a bullock driver, deposed: 'I am in the employ of Mr Swift, of the Running Creek Saw Mills, on the Dandenong Ranges. On the 17<sup>th</sup> May the prisoner came to me and told me he had Mr Swift's order to go to a Mr Turner, on the Green Hills, and asked me for my horse. He offered to give me £1 for the loan of it, and said he would bring it back on the following Sunday morning. He failed to return, and I have never seen him or the horse since, until this morning. The prisoner did not pay me for the hire. I thought*



**Above, detail of John Hardy's survey of the Dandenong State Forest showing site of the saw mill on Lot 27 (the Mt Evelyn Reserve). The map is undated but the government ordered the survey in 1867.**

*he was a friend of my master, or I would not have lent him the horse.' Mr Swift, the "master" referred to, denied that he gave the prisoner any such instructions as had been imputed to him. The Bench, considering that a sufficient case had not been made out, ordered the prisoner to be discharged.*<sup>4</sup>

The report above shows that Swift took over the Running Creek Saw Mills and did not operate a separate mill. As we saw last month, there were newspaper reports of visits to Swift's mill in 1868 and 1869. By 1872, *Herald* editor and part-owner S.V. Winter owned Lot 27, from which the mill had operated. We can conclude that it ceased operations between 1869 and 1872. The best timber had been cut out by then. In all, the saw mill lasted no more than 17 years.

There was another saw mill with a similar name. In *The Age* 26 March 1858 an ad appeared for large quantities of cut timber 'direct from the Mount Dandenong Saw Mills' to be auctioned by Kelson & Hardwick in St Kilda on behalf of Ashley & Heales. The 'Heales' in question was Richard Heales, later Premier of Victoria 1860-1861 and namesake of Healesville. Around 1856 Ashley, Heales and Carter had bought the sawmill established by J.R. Beilby on the site of the Ferntree Gully Hotel.<sup>5</sup> I needed to rule out the possibility that Ferntree Gully, and not Mt Evelyn, was the scene in the painting.

I contacted Sherbrooke Foothills Historical Society in case they could identify the site of the painting in their 'territory'. Secretary Tom Hodgson sent John Hardy's survey map of the Dandenong State Forest, which shows the sawmill on the

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# The Secret Life of Hoarde... errr Collectors

## Part 1. Stamps

My stamp collection is principally of Australian stamps. There is also a sizeable number of British Commonwealth and the World, inherited from my Aunt Ruth (Evelyn Ruth Tucker), who inherited them from her mother Mary (Mary Hooper Vincent), my grandmother. I add stamps to the World collection when they cross my path, but I actively seek out and purchase stamps for my Australian collection.

Stamp collections are great sources of information. I know of many countries, and the politics that created them and destroyed them, through sorting out their stamps. I have learnt about places in countries to visit, and plants and animals to look out for. I learn a country's alphabet, and how they describe themselves in their own language. There is always a puzzle, a quest, to locate and place any given stamp. And there is the detective's 'Cold Case' file – an envelope marked with a large question mark, containing stamps I have not yet identified.

For me though, working on my stamps brings forth memories of happy times working with my grandmother and my aunt. And the friends who collect. And the children I have passed my spares to. Collecting stamps has made me some interesting friends, like Carol Papadimitriou who volunteered at Morrison House and had an excellent Cyprus collection. And Ralph Reid, compiler and publisher of *A Bibliography of Australian Family Histories and Genealogies*, who sends me stamps from people who purchase his publications. We have never met, but I look forward to Ralph's letters.

As a teacher and teacher educator, interested in improving intelligence and achievement, I encouraged my sons to collect stamps and coins, because classification and seriation skills are useful skills for life.



Our state, Victoria, has a special place in the history of Australian stamps.

'Victoria rejected the conventional wisdom accepted in most of the colonies of the British Empire to have postage stamps printed in England and shipped ready to use to the colony

– instead, the colonists in Victoria decided to print their own stamps, using the manufacturing capabilities available to them at the time. This independence led to many variations in quality, plate production techniques, printing methods, paper supplies and other parameters that all contributed to the rich philatelic smorgasbord found in the stamps that emanated from the colony.'<sup>1</sup> See Queen Victoria stamps, below left.

Following Federation in 1901, Australian (as opposed to Victorian) philately began on 2 January 1913 with the issue of a red one penny Kangaroo and Map. The design was adapted from the entry by William Blamire Young (1862-1935)



that won the Stamp Design Competition (below). This was the first definitive stamp with the sole nomenclature 'Australia'. It did not feature the monarch's head, rebels that we Victorians were!

The Fisher Government of the time had in its ranks a number who strenuously opposed the incorporation of the monarch's profile on Australian stamps. Initially the design was ridiculed, with a tuft of grass re-interpreted as rabbit ears poking out of a burrow (I remember my grandmother and father telling me that story), but it was modified to the final design *sans* rabbit ears shown at right.

One of the first acts of the Cook Government, sworn in on 14 June 1913, was to order a series of postage stamps designed with the profile of George V. The Postmaster-General's Department then kept both basic designs on issue – 38 years for the Kangaroo and Map design and 23 years for the George V.



The year of Federation, the birth of Australia, was also the birth of Mt Evelyn. In that year the train line created a railway station, 'Olinda Vale'. The township that became Mt Evelyn grew up around the station.

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## The saw mill, from p.2

'Olinda or Running Creek'. Tom identified Mt Evelyn as the probable site for the painting:

'The hills in the background look the right distance away, and were known as the Dandenong State Forest at this time. The mill site is probably somewhere in the Mt Evelyn Reserve ... on the western side of the Olinda creek just before it turns westward after flowing north.'

That would place the mill site to the east of the upper oval, or possibly under it. There is a spot where large rocks have been embedded into the creek bank. It could have been the site of the dam and/or water wheel belonging to the saw mill. The hills visible from Mt Evelyn Reserve appear to match the landscape in the painting, far more so than the Ferntree Gully site. Long's painting agrees fairly closely with the description of McDonald & Goodyear's mill: 'a sawmill, dam, five slab huts, stable and loft, stockyards and a fenced garden'.<sup>6</sup> The painting shows the mill building, two slab huts and possibly the stable in the distance. Even the fenced garden is shown. The track in the foreground could be the ruts left by bullock drays or even be part of the tramway.

The landscape, the name and the description all match. It is almost certain that Long's painting represents the Running Creek Saw Mills at the present Mt Evelyn Reserve.

English-born Daniel Rutter Long (c.1803-1886) trained as a pharmacist and emigrated to Port Phillip with his wife and family in 1840. By 1843 he had a chemist shop in Bourke Street and later erected a pharmacy on the corner of Bourke and Exhibition streets. Long took up painting in 1857, when he retired from the business.

The State Library Victoria has Long's sketchbook with watercolours of Gippsland scenes. The National Library of Australia has several of his works, including the saw mill painting.<sup>7</sup> View the painting online: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-134303393>

**Karen Phillips**

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> *The Argus* 17/9/1855. The spelling 'Goodger' is used consistently in the advertisements. The name appears on the Parish Plan as 'Goodyear'.

<sup>2</sup> *The Argus* 10/12/1855.

<sup>3</sup> *The Argus* 15/9/1856.

<sup>4</sup> *The Age* 6/6/1861.

<sup>5</sup> H. Coulson 1982, *Story of the Dandenongs*, Cheshire, p.24; p.42.

<sup>6</sup> Report of City Surveyor James Blackburn 1857, in J. McLennan, *Montrose: Settlement in the Foothills*, p.12.

<sup>7</sup> Based on State Library Victoria information.

## A saw mill on a modest scale

Timber cutting continued in Mt Evelyn after the closure of Swift's saw mill until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Apart from the huge quantities of wood cut for the Cave Hill lime kilns, it was mainly on a smaller scale, as shown by these photos of Bladen and Hull's saw mill on Inverness Road.



Above, Bladen and Hull's saw mill at the top of Inverness Road, Mt Evelyn.



Above, Bladen and Hull's horse team hauling logs in the Kalorama-Mt Evelyn area. Both photos probably date from around the turn of the century. Photos courtesy Judy Kortekaas.

## 400 foot eucalypts

The article 'A Day's Ramble among the Spurs of the Dandenong' (quoted in #95 – 'Dandenong', not 'Dandenongs', is correct) mentioned that a photographer named Walter was one of the party. He was presumed to be Charles (Carl) Walter. The article also mentioned eucalypts 400 feet tall growing in one of the gullies the walkers passed through. The National Library of Australia has a photo by Charles Walter that probably shows this stand of eucalypts: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-148497725/view> See also 'The giant trees of the Dandenong', *Illustrated Australian News for Home Readers*, 3 March 1868 pp.7-8, with an engraving from a photo by Walter <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/60450619> (also in State Library). The article states that the trees are *Eucalyptus radiata*, a sub-species of *E. amygdalina*. This was the former classification the Mountain Ash (now classified as a separate species, *E. regnans*). *E. amygdalina* is the Black Peppermint of Tasmania.

## The Lion Seat: travelling

On Sunday 24 January, a group of interested people met at the Winged Lion Seat to load it for transport. Peter Paterson had the forethought to bring a power screwdriver to undo the woodwork from the seat. It took five burly blokes to lift the better-preserved lion, 'Leontyne', onto Brian Donaldson's truck. The other lion, 'Leonora', was taken by trailer to be stored at Janni Van Dreven and Alan Price's home.

Brian (from Evelyn Recycling in Clancy Road) arranged wrapping to protect the lion during transport to Ballarat. It will be sent from there to Queensland, to one of the few artisans able to prepare it to take a mould, then returned to Ballarat for the mould to be made. We expect to receive the mould about April or May this year.

Meanwhile we will need to decide on the structure for creating, erecting and selling the copies. Mt Evelyn History Group will call a meeting of its Lion Seat Sub-committee some time in February to finalise the next steps. Anyone wishing to put their name down as a possible sponsor for a seat in the town (e.g. in memory of a parent, or for other reasons), or to purchase their own seat, please contact the Mt Evelyn History Group on [mtevelynhistorygroup@gmail.com](mailto:mtevelynhistorygroup@gmail.com).



**At the recycling depot, above, Brian, Alan, David and Peter wrap 'Leontyne' in protective packaging for the trip to Ballarat. Photos Gwenda Donaldson and Paula Herlihy.**

We do not have a final costing yet, but we are pretty sure you will have the choice of purchasing the concrete ends only, or ends plus wood for the seat or a seat fully erected on site. The project is not viewed as a commercial concern, rather community and educational, so there is no anticipation of commercial prices. Most input is voluntary or (hopefully) covered by Work for the Dole.

Sue Colverson (METIC President and Pastor at the Discovery Church) will apply for a Work for the Dole Project which, if successful, will include a paid supervisor for the seat construction. We are uncertain who will do the financial side of taking and filling seat orders – whether the Project Manager or METIC.

Sue has had support from Council officers in the YRC Planning section. With Cr Maria McCarthy's support, Sue is confident we can organise the placement of the seats around the town.

Brian Donaldson, who came to Mt Evelyn in 1988, remembered that about 1989 the Lion Seat was moved from its site near the Wray Crescent/Snowball Avenue corner. An article in the local paper stated that the Shire of Lillydale was having moulds made to reproduce the seat.

As we know, the copying never happened. The seat was stored at the Shire depot, later under the classrooms at Morrison House and then erected at Morrisons Reserve. Both lions have suffered damage, possibly from the seat being overturned at some stage. Their faces are grazed and one has lost an ear. Where the original seat will be placed is still undecided.

The current reproduction project will complete the unfinished business of nearly 30 years ago.

**PH & KP**



**Above, the crew dismantles the Lion Seat. Below, loading 'Leonora' onto Alan Price's trailer was a team effort – the concrete lions are very heavy.**



### Stamps, from p.3

From 1923 Blamire Young, the designer of the 'Kangaroo and Map' stamp, lived at Montrose just over the border from Mt Evelyn, diagonally opposite where the York On Lilydale is sited today. Blamire Young died at his home on 14 January 1935 and is buried in Lilydale cemetery. In 1976 a stamp was issued in his honour (right).<sup>2</sup>



I have some of the early 'home grown' Victorian stamps. I have some of the Kangaroo and Map stamps. I have lots of 'Georges'. I have the Blamire Young stamps of 1976. When I hold such a stamp, I am carried back in time to when it was in circulation.

The Australian Post Office now issues so many stamps in a year that it is too huge a task for me to keep a complete collection, Since I have no-one in the family (yet!) who shares my passion, I no longer purchase every Australian stamp mint in case I miss the cancelled copy.

It is the cancelled copies that I collect, because mint stamps are just ink on paper, with little or no provenance. Cancelled stamps have the romance. They are evidence of those early times. They have been through the post – sometimes you can even read the cancellation and know the date they were used and the town they were posted from!

*An occasional series  
by Paula Herlihy*

### Notes

- <sup>1</sup> 'Stamps of Victoria', <http://www.stampsofvictoria.com/>  
<sup>2</sup> Elly Fink 1983, *The Art of Blamire Young*, Golden Press Pty Ltd, Australia.

### Lost worlds on Facebook

Get your fix of nostalgia on these Facebook pages. They have some great photos.

'Lost Melbourne': <https://www.facebook.com/LostMelbourne/>

'Lost Country Victoria': <https://www.facebook.com/LostCountryVictoria/>

'Lost Dandenongs': <https://www.facebook.com/Lost-Dandenongs-305213398167/>

### Library Lovers' Day

Libraries and Historical Societies are natural allies. Did you know that Valentine's Day, 14 February, is also Library Lovers' Day? See: <https://www.facebook.com/libraryloversday>

### The oval c.1950

Below is another of the Victorian Railway photos dated c.1945-1954 (others were featured in #94). The location is not stated but the photo seems to look north across the oval at Mt Evelyn Reserve from the hillside above. The caretaker's house is visible among the trees at right, with a pavilion or kiosk on the far side of the oval. The line through the forest on the distant hillside is probably Glenholme Avenue.



Above, the oval at Mt Evelyn Reserve. Victorian Railways collection, State Library Victoria.

### From Kev's rain gauge

After a dry start, end-of-month downpours gave us the highest January total since 2010.

Rainfall for January 2016 for Mt Evelyn, McKillop, Melbourne and the Melbourne average.

| Mt Ev  | McK    | Melb   | Melb Av |
|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| 76.6mm | 74.5mm | 48.0mm | 47.1mm  |

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

*Kevin Phillips*

### Contact us

As a courtesy, please address any issues with the content of *Things Past* to the Editor.

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