



Things Past

Newsletter 104
February 2017
PO Box 289 Mt Evelyn Vic 3796
 Incorporation Number: A0051327F

Dates for your diary

General Meeting: Monday 20 February 2017, 7:30 – 9:30 pm Hardy House, 49 Birmingham Road, Mt Evelyn.

'Preserving our Local Histories': Saturday 18 March 2017, 1.30-3.30 pm. RHSV Support Group Convenor, **Cheryl Griffin** will speak on preserving our local histories with special reference to the role of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, of which we are a member.

General Meeting: Monday 17 April 2017, 7.30 – 9.30 pm Hardy House, 49 Birmingham Road, Mt Evelyn.

Meetings are 3rd Mondays of even months, 7:30 pm at Hardy House for General Business Meetings, and 3rd Saturdays at 1:30 pm on odd months (except January) for speaker/activity. However, dates are subject to speaker availability and other factors.

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Mab and Cal Younger

Robert Sydney Younger was working as a chemist in Warrnambool, when his wife Mabel Alice Alston died giving birth to their daughter Mabel Elizabeth Mary (Mab/Mabs) in 1916. He returned to Melbourne to be with his family before joining the Australian Army Medical Corps in South Africa and India.

He remained in the Army after the end of World War 1 until he married again in 1920. His new wife was Myrna Hearn, and they had two sons, Calton Hearn Younger and Geoffrey Robert Younger.

Mab was raised by her paternal aunts, Jessie and Isabella Walker Younger, in Powlett Street, East Melbourne, with Robert's father, James Younger. Mab said her grandfather James was connected in some way to the Herald and Weekly Times newspaper group, possibly connected to finance. Mab's grandfather was also very involved with Scots' Church in Collins Street, Melbourne.

James Younger had a holiday shack at what is now 57 Silvan Monbulk Road Mt Evelyn. By 1914 it was owned by his elder daughter (and eldest child) Jessie, as in the ratings years 1914-1915 she is listed

Opinions expressed in *Things Past* are those of the writers, not necessarily those of Mount Evelyn History Group.



Helen and Agnes Armstrong, and Mab on Andy Renouf's horse at Mt Evelyn. Herald and Weekly Times

as the owner of a property in 'Evelyn Heights' Wandin Yallock.

In 2013, Calton Hearn (Cal) Younger, then 92 years of age, responded to contact from Mt Evelyn RSL Secretary and military historian Anthony McAleer in connection with Mt Evelyn veteran Noel Anderson.

'I know Mt Evelyn very well. My aunts had a holiday shack there and I often cycled up with a friend for a weekend there. Several years after the war my aunts added an extension and went to live there. My half-sister Mab lived with them and after they died she stayed on her own. When she herself died, I think in



Dining outside at the holiday shack, Mt Evelyn

1988, I was her sole heir, so I owned the house for a short time. Her executor was our cousin, one Sir Rupert Hamer, who was rather surprised to find himself still her executor after more than 30 years. However he did a good job. It took me days to clear the house ... '

Mab wrote for the *Your Garden* magazine, and was assistant editor when she wrote about the 'fire-loving' native bush of Australia in her book *Garden Design in Australia and New Zealand* (1971). She described how Australian species growing in bushfire prone areas have specialised in the dormant buds most trees possess, sometimes called lignotubers. She says, *'They have provided for [the need for leaves to provide food] by incorporating in the branches and trunks buds which may never develop, but which are always waiting, ready to burst forth after calamity strikes. Not all the dormant buds respond; there are always some in reserve for the next time'*. This is in contrast with most introduced trees.

At night she would catch the bus from Lilydale to get to her stop in Mt Evelyn. Her faithful black dog greeted her at the bus stop.¹



At the holiday shack, Mt Evelyn.

Another neighbour, Valda Davenport-Willis, who lived across the road from Mab, tells how her Grandfather was a printer and printed Christmas cards for Mab every year. Valda was lucky enough one year to go with him to show Mab the catalogue of cards to choose from and went inside her house. Valda describes it as full of amazing things and 'like a museum'.

Mab made many of her family photographs available and some have been used in previous publications. They illustrate a holiday life in Mt Evelyn in the early years of the twentieth century.

Continued next page

¹ Neighbour Marinus Beimers.



The Youngers at Mt Evelyn, Mab's grandfather at extreme right

Mab's half-brother, Calton Hearn Younger, was born on 27 November 1921 in Berwick, Victoria. He flew with Bomber Command, spent three years as a prisoner of war in Stalag Luft III (the scene of the 'Great Escape'), and was forced to participate in the 'Long March' in the closing months of World War II. He wrote *No Flight from the Cage* (1956, 2013) about his wartime experiences.



Cal died on 1 January 2014.² Information about his life can be found on the Internet, including BBC interviews. **Paula Herlihy**

² 'Calton Younger – Obituary', *The Telegraph*, 3/2/2014.

John Hipwell

The '*Dictionary of Unsung Architects*' <http://www.builtheritage.com.au/dictionary.html> includes an entry on John Hipwell and his professional partnerships. Hipwell designed the Mt Evelyn Memorial Infant Welfare Centre in 1960, about the time he entered on his first partnership, Hipwell, Weight and Mason. See *Things Past* #98, April 2016.

The State Library has a collection of architectural photos by Peter Wille that includes some buildings designed by John Hipwell and by the partnership. The Infant Welfare Centre is not included but there is a house in Warrandyte with similar lines:

<http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/pictoria/gid/slv-pic-aab55149>

<http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/pictoria/gid/slv-pic-aab55148>

<http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/pictoria/gid/slv-pic-aab55150>

Melba in the back blocks

Sue Thompson has retraced Nellie Melba's 1909 tour through NSW and Queensland.

You can read about it on Sue's blog '*Nellie Melba's Back Blocks Tour 1909*'

<https://nelliemelbamuseum.wordpress.com>

Ann Lacey (née Moriarty): daughter of a Romantic Architect

A chance comment to Professor Rod Lacey, a colleague from ACU Aquinas Ballarat, about my research into Mt Evelyn, led me to an interview with his wife at the family home in Ballarat in 1997.

Ann Moriarty was born in 1938, and moved with her family to Mt Evelyn in 1942 to a 40 acre property incorporating the York Road bend and Bellbird corner through to the Falls. Ann's father Frank had paid, perhaps, £1500 for the land.

Frank Moriarty had gone to school at St Kevin's Melbourne, then gone on to study architecture at Melbourne University, where he was influenced by the ideas of Bob Santamaria. He was admitted as a registered architect in 1935 and was also credited as partially responsible for inspiring his school friend J H Esmond Dorey (1906-1994) to follow suit, becoming highly respected for his work in Tasmania.

Frank had a romantic view of gentlemen farming in the bush. He was friends with Joe O'Dwyer, a poet who lived in Montrose and who published poems such as 'Night', 'What Athene?' 'Night under the Rain', 'Must We Return' and 'Night Piece Elegiac' in *Meanjin* between 1942 and 1952. Mrs. O'Dwyer had a somewhat less romantic view of the bush than her husband. A statement of hers during a visit became part of the Moriarty family folklore. She said, 'Aren't the bellbirds bad today!'

Frank married Gwen Keane and they had three daughter and three sons in eight years. During the war there was not much work for architects, so Frank took the opportunity to move to the bush and build his own home, to enjoy wine and poetry and the view of Mt Kalorama from his study.

The Romantic House in the Bush

When Frank first went to Mt Evelyn he stayed in *The Outlook* Guesthouse on the corner of York and Birmingham Roads while his house was being built. He built a long, low creosoted (coal tar wood preservative) timber home, with a green galvanised iron roof. He also acquired cows to milk, a horse to ride, pigs, chickens and so forth. They had a kerosene refrigerator, a wood stove and pumped water from the creek. When the family arrived, the tanks were not quite ready so they stayed in *Brother Bill's* Camp next to the Recreation Reserve for a time before finally moving in.



For some time Frank worked from his Melbourne office in Queens Street, producing some designs for the Parish Priests in Melbourne. He also did a few jobs locally, designing the Van der Werf home on the edge of York Road and the new Convent building in Lilydale.

Friends and relatives from Melbourne visited frequently on weekends and Gwen Moriarty always baked for these visits. The family even offered visitors some of their war time ration books. Although there was not much money coming in, they grew their own vegetables, so could afford to be generous.

The cows sometimes escaped and the children did not enjoy searching for them as far as Montrose, and then having to escort them home. When the electricity arrived, power failures also created problems. The family lost many day old chicks when the incubator went off at a vital time.

Much of the land was timbered and Ann came across many echidnas, a wallaby, a platypus and an 8 foot

long goanna curled around a telephone pole, as well as plenty of snakes. She knew where to find all the wildflowers and many varieties of fern. Ann, or other members of the family, frequently decorated St Mary's Catholic Church with heath and gum tips from the bush.

St Mary's Catholic Church

All the family attended Church regularly. This small Church with its congregation of new Italian and Dutch migrants and some relatively impoverished families, must have been very different from previous experiences in Kew and St Kevins. To begin with, the organ lacked a middle 'C' and the congregation could not work out what hymn to sing until the organist started singing. Unimpressed with the incumbent, Frank encouraged his son Michael to become an altar boy. Not properly schooled in the role Michael Moriarty rang the bell every time there was a break in the service, much to the delight of the congregation. There were a series of 'terrible Irish priests' with 'Bog Irish accents'. Everyone knew when the tulip farming Tesselaars arrived, due to the smell of Dutch cigar smoke. Others in the congregation included the Lewis family and the family of the Mt Evelyn Primary School headmaster, Mr. Smith.

Education

Education was important to the Moriarty family. Gwen was herself a qualified school teacher with a degree in languages and, although there were no formal lessons at home, the atmosphere was one that enhanced learning. Frank Moriarty read poets such as Chesterton, Yeats, Belloc and talked with the Nuns at the Convent (Mt Lilydale College) about good literature. The boys attended school in Melbourne: Michael attended St Kevins in Toorak, as his father had done, and the younger boys Paddy and Kevin attended Marcellin College. (Michael ultimately became a lawyer, Paddy an Associate Professor of Civil Engineering at Monash University and Kevin an anaesthetist.)

The girls attended the Convent in Lilydale, although their parents kept them home during the winter term as they considered the school day too long at this time of year. Once the girls travelled by horse and cart to Lilydale but they were persuaded by the Rafferty brothers to 'wag school', so that form of transport was not used again. They had also tried the precursor to Adams Bus Line. Mr Adams had bought a small van with 'Bath Heater' painted on the side and no windows in the back. One child passenger fainted with the heat, so the Moriarty girls travelled to Lilydale in the steam train, the gradient so steep, it took half an hour.

On one occasion Ann had an argument with her sister and chose a different path to walk from the school to the Lilydale station. She became lost in a swampy bog. Wet and tearful, she was noticed by the train driver. He stopped the train, picked her up and let her warm herself up in the engine cabin.



The end of the World War II in 1945 was marked merely by the distribution of a medal and a drink and an early end to classes at the Convent, and the Queen's visit in 1954 was a non event. Ann was, however, lucky enough to be given a ticket by a family friend to see the Olympic Games in 1956.

Although many of the Nuns teaching at Lilydale Convent had only an apprenticeship at the school after matriculation, the girls each matriculated as the sole person in their class. They attended Melbourne University on Commonwealth scholarships, Ann going on to have a career as a Social Worker after a year apprentice as a teacher in Lilydale. Here she taught a class of 45 students, half of them 'straight from the boat' and speaking only Dutch or Italian. Elder sister

Deirdre ultimately became a solicitor, began the first female law practice and became the first Registrar of the Family Court.³ Younger sister Joan became a school teacher and Education supervisor as well as being actively involved with the Heidelberg Theatre Company.

Social Relationships in Mt Evelyn

As they did not attend the Mt Evelyn School, local social interaction for the older Moriartys was limited to neighbours and a few friends from Church. However, younger brother Kevin attended Mt Evelyn Kindergarten and Michael played football and cricket in the under 16s, also playing with the Mt Evelyn Rover football team.

Frank enjoyed the company at *The White Dog* and the Bramich family in Lilydale but one of his neighbours was not friendly. He used to cut their fences to let his young bull graze in their property. Frank Moriarty had a great fear of bulls since seeing a man gored to death by one in his youth. He was so angered that when he caught the neighbour cutting his fence he threw him into the blackberries. Problem solved for the future!

The Falkinghams were other neighbours with markedly different social and ideological background to the Moriartys, but a young Falkingham was able to form a friendly joking relation with them, commenting on the comparative worth of the Catholic *Advocate* and the Communist *Tribune* for use in their rabbit traps. Other neighbours, the Treadwells, had a good quality weekender and a tennis court at the end of a long bush track.

Although the Moriartys had limited interaction with the longer standing locals they formed friendships with at least four new migrant families. Mrs. Van der Werf from the Netherlands did some work for them in the home, helping out Gwen Moriarty, and Frank ultimately designed their house. When the Italian Ghiradellos from Silvan brought the electricity in from the road the two families became friends. The Moriartys picked fruit during the Christmas holidays for the Ghiradellos and later the Ghiradellos were offered the use of Moriarty land to grow potatoes. The family also knew Grania Lattanzi whose Australian mother married an Italian naval officer. The two were constrained to move to the country when Italians were declared enemy aliens.⁴

³ Deirdre is featured in Patricia Grimshaw and Lynne Strahan, *The Half Open Door*, Hale and Iremonger, Sydney 1982.

⁴ Grania Lattanzi became an author and gives the story of her family in 'My father Mario Lattanzi' *Italian Historical Society Journal* Vol 19 2011: 10-12.

The Dutch and Italian migrants arrived in sufficient numbers to form communities of their own but Hungarians in the late forties and early fifties were more isolated. The Orban family lived in a small cottage on the Moriarty property, probably rent-free, in exchange for some help from Mrs Orban in the home. The Orbans gave the Moriartys special Hungarian food at Christmas time.

Another Hungarian family, the Gallus family lived near the Recreation Reserve then moved close to the *Do Drop In* on the corner of York and Swansea Roads. Mr. Gallus was a qualified archaeologist, constrained by the terms of his migration to work at David Mitchell's Lilydale Lime Works. He was most concerned that his children succeed at school and would ask Gwen Moriarty to check their school work.⁵

The Moriartys also encouraged their children to be accepting of some other 'outsiders', the Gypsies. They sometimes camped near the Old York Road bridge, a particularly beautiful spot with a large gum tree, also made use of by the Boy Scouts, as well as along Swansea Road near Chateau Wyuna. Locals spread stories of fortune telling and chicken theft but the Moriartys accepted that they may have had bona fide means of income, possibly selling haberdashery.

The Moriartys, like most residents knew 'Aggie'. (Agnes Bin Nore) but Ann also remembered a shearer's cook who lived next to the Mimosa Tea Gardens in York Road who was reported to drink lemon essence. The Ghiradellos barred the sale of boot polish and methylated spirits at the same time in their Silvan store, as itinerant workers used to mix it to drink.

A Change in Circumstances

In 1955 Frank Moriarty died of heart disease, aged 47. The children had already worked on the Ghiradello farms and some other farms picking fruit and peas and Ann had worked in the Mimosa Tea Garden store voluntarily aged about 10. Ann now began to work in the Ghiradello's store part time. It was imperative that her mother, Gwen Moriarty, return to work.

⁵ Sandor (Alexander) Gallus (1907-1996) went on to work for the Education Department and to take a prominent role in Australian archaeology and the Victorian Archaeology Society. He was most famous for his investigations into Pleistocene remains in Koonalda Cave, South Australia and Dry Creek, Kooragang Island, Victoria. Professor Alex Gallus of Flinders Medical School is his son.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandor_\(Alexander\)_Gallus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandor_(Alexander)_Gallus)

As the children went off to work and study in Melbourne, Gwen became a teacher at the Convent for little monetary reward until her death in 1972. She believed that the Convent had looked after her family, that her needs were few and that it was 'the least she could do to repay them'. She lived alone in Mt Evelyn, visited at weekends by her children and keeping up her friendship with Mathematics and Language teacher from Lilydale High School, Mrs Lilius O'Dea, also a sole parent.

After completing her degree, Ann Moriarty taught in Papua New Guinea and worked as a tutor in University of PNG, returning to social work. She married historian Rod Lacey in 1963, living in Sydney, then USA while Rod completed his doctorate. They settled in Ballarat raising four children each of whom played musical instruments and completed University studies: Jonathan became an Electrical Engineer; Mark works in welfare and plays in Ballarat chamber group, Measure 4 Measure; Genevieve is known nationally and internationally for her outstanding recorder playing arrangements and performances; and Elizabeth is a lawyer, mother of four and sometime singer. Ann has only recently retired and volunteers her time now to teach refugee children in Ballarat, welcoming the newcomers as her parents had in early 1950s Mt Evelyn.

Janice Newton

References and Further Reading on Joseph O'Dwyer, J S Esmond Dorey, Alexander Gallus and Grania Lattanzi

Interview with Ann Lacey, 1997.

J S Esmond Dorey *Dictionary of Unsung Architects*
http://www.builtheritage.com.au/dua_dorney.html

Lattanzi, G. 'My father Mario Lattanzi' *Italian Historical Society Journal* Vol 19 2011: 10-12.

The full issue can be downloaded at
http://www.coasit.com.au/IHS/journals/IHS_Journal_19_2011.pdf (as at 16 December 2016)

Sandor Gallus:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandor_\(Alexander\)_Gallus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandor_(Alexander)_Gallus) (as at 31 October 2016).

O'Dwyer, Joseph. Poet and Community. *Meanjin Papers*, Vol. 2, No. 1, Autumn 1943: 18-20.

O'Dwyer, Joseph. Elegiac. *Meanjin Papers*, Vol. 1, No. 8, Mar 1942: 4.

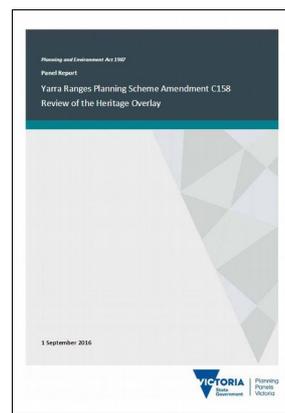
Musgrove, S. Book Reviews [Book Review]. *Meanjin Papers*, Vol. 5, No. 1, Autumn 1946: 80-85

C158 Heritage Controls in the Yarra Ranges

The Yarra Ranges Amendment C158 proposed the removal of tree controls to 90 heritage places; and the removal of paint controls to 34 heritage places within the shire. Members of the Yarra Ranges Heritage Network had expressed their dismay and had been persuaded that the changes were minimal and necessary. Fortunately the National Trust made a wonderful submission and appeared at a Planning Panel objecting to the amendment. 'The Panel Report has now been made available, and overwhelmingly supports the arguments outlined by the National Trust in [their] submission.'⁶

'The National Trust views the recommendations put forth by this independent Planning Panel as a major win for heritage places in the Yarra Ranges, and for heritage place throughout Victoria. The Panel recommendations provide detailed discussion and opinion regarding the role, need and function of paint and tree controls, and their practical application (or lack thereof), and can be utilised by the National Trust in arguing for and against Planning Scheme Amendments in the future.'

To read the excellent National Trust submission, click on [Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme Amendment C158 Planning Panel Submission](#) National Trust of Australia (Victoria) 8 August 2016.



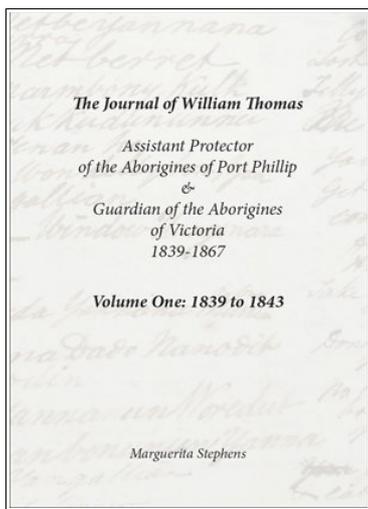
The Panel Report can be obtained here:

[Planning and Environment Act 1987 Panel Report Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme Amendment C158 Review of The Heritage Overlay](#)

Paraphrased from Trust Advocate and reports by Paula Herlihy

The Journals of William Thomas Assistant Protector of the Aborigines of Port Phillip and Guardian of the Aborigines of Victoria 1839-1843

All extracts and summaries, most relating to the Woiwurrung /Yarra tribe, are from publication of above title edited by Marguerita Stephens and published by Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for languages 2014. As far as possible language is as it was used in those times. Extracts will be identified by date, Volume number and page number.



1. Thursday 23 May 1839 (Vol 1, p19)

A Native Woman of the name of Tully Marine of the Wawoorong Tribe (whose husband of the same name had died about 6 months before & buried on the opposite side of the Yarra) was seen wandering about the place near the Missionary Station & our Huts no uncommon occurrence, the Blacks of my Tribe left the settlement this day but she still linger'd about, supposing her to be afflicted they left her behind. I found her to be very unwell gave her some food and left her to attend my office duties.

Margin Notes: Tully Marine was the Black who was confined with 2 others in Melbourne jail and set it on fire This account given me by Mr. G. Langhorn Missionary.

- Vol 1 pp 44-5. Thomas is travelling alone from Merricks to Cape Shank, where he hopes to visit a fellow passenger, Mr Jemmerson, becomes lost, disoriented, hungry and has an unusual encounter with an Eagle, the ancestor creator spirit of one moiety of many Kulin.

Thursday 22 August 1839

I imprudently proceed to find out Cape Shank without compass or load (stone). A few chopped trees I saw and follow'd them but soon lost them, having filled my pockets from the beach with a solid little fish like a cockle enough as I thought to last me a few days, in the evening being lost & not in the least anticipating a want of water I passed this day without water & having no means of getting fire at night lay me down in prayer.

Friday 23 August 1839

This morning after committing myself in prayer to God commenced my wanderings, being so thirsty I lost my appetite for the fish & by night began to feel strange sensations in my head but lay down overcome with fatigue in prayer to God for a kind of myrtle scrub it quite dark.

Saturday 24 August 1839

On my rising felt so ill & was awfully struck with God's preservation for I found I had been laying on a Cluster of Myrtle by a precipice of 40 feet at least... Was scarce able to walk I never expected to see human being again I could not eat but chewed grass to allay my thirst. Night came on again & I lay me down in prayer more for my Dear Wife and children than myself expecting that night would be my last, the thought of Death with the exception of my family was to me a release ...I had scarce laid down when I thought I felt a drop of rain this was to me my only hope & I prayed fervently that it might rain in about an hour it rained hard I caught the rain in my handkerchief & oh what delicious fare. I held out my coat putting the handkerchief inside until it got sodden thro, & I felt another man & tho' soon wet thro my strength came on, for before this my head & mouth appear'd to be swollen & my thoughts so wild I pass'd this my third night.

Sunday 25 August 1839

I found my strength had just gone & could walk but slow, I knew if I could get upon some rise & see the Sea I should be right and if I could but get a sight of it & kept the sea to my right hand I should come to Arthurs Seat. After following rise upon rise without success I was forced to sit down with my thoughts I must. An immense eagle struck my attention after I had lay'd about half an hour & came and perch'd over me kept hovering. I thought surely I shall be attacked by this huge Bird, I lay with what strength I had & lifted up my stick but he still kept about me, heavens me thought the Bird will attack me if so I have not strength to resist his claw, fear roused me I

got up brandishing my stick over my head & made for the next rise, he kept over me & his huge body at one time seem'd to dart down upon me not more than 3 yds above my head, so that I was forced to hollow and wave my stick, this bird follow'd me for I should say an hour at least in which time I had made much ground thro' fear & excitement & coming on a rise I saw the sea took as will as could its bearing & by midday came to it I sat down to rest & by 4 o'clock arrived at the native encampment & my quarters. I bathed my feet my man Ross made me some tea & I laid down with prayers of thankfulness, better felt than described ...

3. Vol 1 footnote p51-2. Letter to GA Robinson, Chief Protector 13 September 1839

I took one of my Men with the Cart to remove Aboriginal native (Wongo/a) who was lying in dying circumstances at the Station of Rev'd Clow, about 20 or 21 miles NE of Melbourne (Rowville) at the foot of the Koran Warabin Mountain (Dandenong) and have succeeded in bringing him to the Encampment on the Banks of the Yarra. It appears by the statement of Mr Clow Jnr that about 14 days back the young man Wongo was with some other natives at the Station, they left him for to hunt on the Koran warabin, where the Young Man was taken ill & left by His Companion who after hunting returned to Port Phillip & told Billeville, the father of Wongo, that Wongo was in the Mountain, the old man accompanied by another native of his Tribe went in search of him, & carried him to the Station afore mentioned, he had been on the Mountain 4 days without any food or being able to stir.

4. Vol 1, p 60 6 October 1839.

7 Blks (Yarra Tribe) return from seeking Bullen Bullen (Lyrebirds) 4 had guns they had not less than 17 Pheasant tails amassed. White people were about till dark trying to get the tails from them.

5. Vol 1 p 95 Monday 25 November 1839

This morning a General fray took place, respecting the Lubras. A young Lubra (child of Benbows) was given to the chief of the Yarra tribe she had in the night stole away from her new Koolin (husband Jacky Jacky) & fond child like returned to her parents, on the Chief's waking and Missing her he goes to the father's Miam with a tomahawk Cut her head & dragged her by the hair to his own Miam, none interfered or took notice.

You know you're part of history when ...

... you remember the daily ritual of wood collecting and use. We bought in mill ends that could be easily split for kindling and my father collected large wood wherever we went for 'back logs' and longer fires. After school each day I cut the kindling for kitchen and loungeroom fires, and in winter I set and lit the loungeroom fire, and carried in the wood for the evening. The kitchen stove stayed on all day every day until we got a small electric hot plate and oven we could use in the heat of summer.



It is summer in this photo of the kitchen in Yarra Glen, around 1966, so the slow combustion kitchen stove behind me is finally out and the small electric hot plate and oven (behind brother Steve's head) will be used for infrequent hot meals.

Paula Herlihy.

Readers, can you send us any snippets about ways you know you are part of history?

The Secret Life of Hoarde...err Collectors:

Books

We estimate the number of books we have at around 20 000. And this is after I determined to cut down on the number of 'doubles' we saved. We try hard to only let new books come into the house if the same number or more go out the same day, but too often we fail to carry out this noble plan.

The books are mainly cheap reading copies, purchased second hand. Yes, I have read most, but not all, of them. These days I don't finish a book if I am not engaged, because I think I don't have enough time left, so I will often speed read or skim a book, and only read closely if it engages me.

For a while we thought we would run a mail order book shop after we retired, but we found we were employable into our sixties, so this is not likely to happen.

One problem is that I admire the art work on the covers and illustration and am inclined to collect different covers as 'typical' of the eras in which they were produced.

As a mathematician I collect books connected to Lewis Carroll (mathematician Charles Dodgson), who as a child created a newspaper called 'The Rectory Umbrella' for his brothers and sisters in the way the Watkins children did in Mt Evelyn in the 1940s (see *Things Past* numbers #57 and #69).

Reproduction has always limited illustration. In 2016 we live in a golden era where illustration in any colour can be scanned into a computer and reproduced cheaply at home.

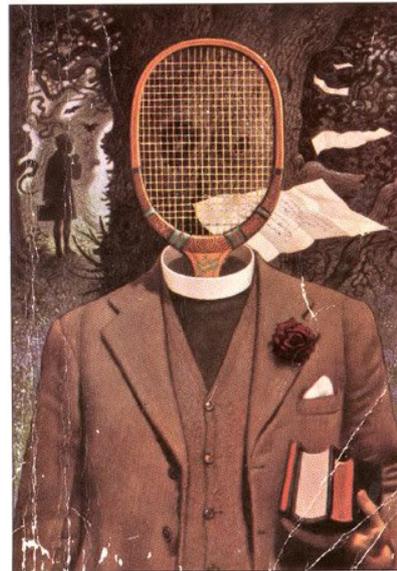
Carroll did his own illustrations for the first (hand written) version of Alice. Here is his unhappy Alice, "It was much pleasanter at home," thought poor Alice, "when one wasn't always growing larger and smaller, and being ordered about by mice and rabbits..." (1865)



Perhaps the best known are those of John Tenniel (1898), who had the advantage of working with Dodgson.

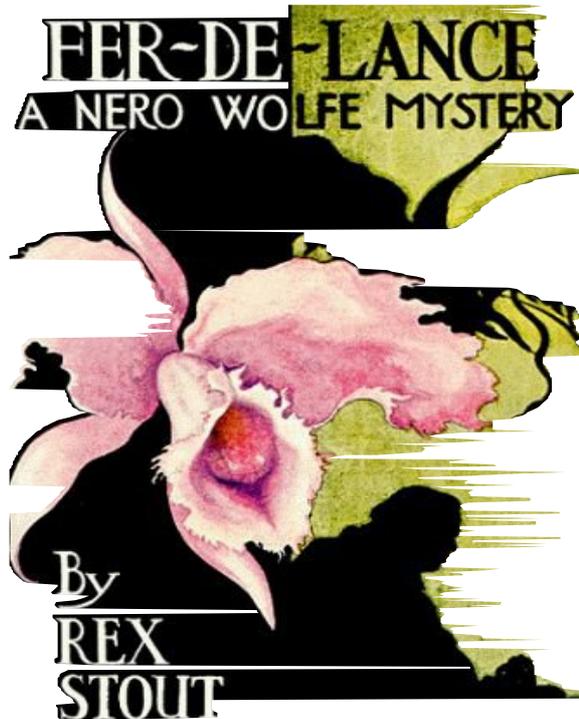
The Alice of 2016 has Johnny Depp as the Hatter, in rich and glorious colour.

Agatha Christie The Murder at the Vicarage



I own the set of books and covers for the Agatha Christie mystery novels in the sixties created by Tom Adams, and recently acquired the book outlining their history, *Agatha Christie: the art of her crimes*. Other covers I own and admire include the Heinemann hardback covers for Georgette Heyer's period

romances, and many created for the Rex Stout Nero Wolfe novels. Nero Wolfe's (the character's) obsession with orchids means that orchids are worked into some stunning designs.



I was struck when watching the current New Zealand film, *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*, by the sight of the central character, 13 year old Ricky, carrying around books as he hides out in the bush, and swapping his books over lovingly in his brief brushes with civilisation. A true bibliophile with limited opportunities to indulge his habit!

For a good laugh combined with intelligent good sense, I recommend that you have a look at <http://www.artofmanliness.com/2014/09/12/a-gentlemans-guide-to-collecting-books/>. Writer Nate Pederson suggests, 'Regardless of the sort of collection you build, consider with each purchase how the specific selection echoes and enhances the central theme expressed in your library. This will help you stay focused and not lose yourself in the pursuit. (Book collecting, as with any collection, bears some similarities – both positive and negative – to hunting and gambling.)'

An occasional series by Paula Herlihy.

Letters from Members

Pokemon

Isabel Martini's youngest daughter has sets of some of the earliest Pokemon cards, including the Base, Jungle and Rocket series. She has recently returned from Japan where she and a friend represented Australia in the World Cosplay Summit, reaching the finals of the international competition. She has portrayed Ash (the human in Pokemon) in the past, but not this time!

Marbles re-visited

Isabel Martini writes that, her memory refreshed from Googling, she now recalls 'tiger eye', cat's eye, aggies and allies, plus pee-wee and tombola marbles. Marbles were originally made from stone (including marble), which were selected for, or cut to approximate, size and then ground into shape by hand or machine. (Possibly using a similar procedure to today's gemstone tumbling?).

'Aggie' derives from agate (some of the earliest marbles, dating from the mid-19th century, were made in Germany of this stone). 'Allie' (from alabaster), originally meant a very good marble, but like 'aggie', eventually came to mean any sort of marble.

Tiger eye marbles were pretty variable as far as I could tell. I guess they were originally made from the tiger eye stone, but I recall them more as being

opaque white but with fairly circular coloured 'patches' opposite each other, presumably representing the eyes. Cat's eyes (clear glass marbles with coloured vanes), you obviously know about. Peewees were smaller than the usual, while tombolas were giant playing marbles. I also came across the term 'taw' ('tor?') which I recall as being an allie you shoot with.

Red colouring in an opaque white marble had a special name - blood-something, but I don't quite recall it. I find it funny that there were so few of the many, many names for different marbles (online) that I actually recognised. Maybe it was just me tuning out (most girls didn't play marbles, although I know quite a few liked to watch the boys playing), but a couple of sites seem to think that marble names in Australia were mostly pretty regionalised. ... But - just as I was dropping off to sleep last night, I recalled the name of those opaque white marbles with red swirls - 'blood-reels'. And no, it doesn't seem to be a common name.'

Janice Newton adds, 'Thank you Isabel for this fascinating material. Last week I watched minority children in central highlands Vietnam play hopscotch and marbles. But for the latter the field seemed to be very large and they launched the marbles by bending the middle finger backwards and using it to catapult the marble.'

I have a faint memory that the 'Toms', Tombolas' or 'Taws' were used at the start of some games, rather like lawn bowls, petanque or bocci, except that normal sized marbles were aimed at the Tombola and the person closest started the game, with the order established by next closest and so on.

The writing on the wall

The National Trust journal of November 2016-January 2017 had a fascinating article by Nick Gadd, 'Signs of Life', about ghostsigns (old advertisements on buildings for products, trades or businesses that no longer exist). Some are beautiful examples of the signwriter's art. Though an interesting part of our social history, ghostsigns rarely receive heritage protection.

You can find Nick Gadd's photos and stories, arranged under suburb name, on his blog melbournecircle.net

For more on ghostsigns, see:

<http://johnhunter2008.jalbum.net>

<http://findingtheradiobook.blogspot.com.au> (on the Melbourne signwriting company Lewis & Skinner)

<http://www.ghostsigns.co.uk>

Mount Evelyn, NT

Some of us were surprised to find that there is another Mount Evelyn, far, far to the north.

Mount Evelyn is an 848' (259 m) mountain peak in the Northern Territory. The nearest peaks are Mount Ebsworth, Mount Stow, Mount David, Mount Lambell, Mount Harvey, and Mount Felix⁷. Located south of Jabiru and northwest of Katherine, Mount Evelyn is partly encircled by the Katherine River, Jim Jim Creek and South Alligator River.

The area is managed by the Gunlom Aboriginal Land Trust. The Indigenous name for the mountain appears to be *Gulung Mardrulk*; it is said to be a cult site of a *Nagorkun-Narlinjilinji* 'sickness dreaming'⁸.

We don't know who named this peak 'Mount Evelyn', nor when. As far as we know, the mountain and the name have no connection with our town.

⁷ <http://peakery.com/mount-evelyn-australia/>

⁸ 'The Northern Territory and Central Australia : Report from the Select committee on the native and historical objects and areas preservation ordinance 1955- 1960'.

On-line M.E. & You

The New On-line Newspaper M.E. & You has some great articles for Mt Evelyn people.

There are some lovely pictures of the Illawarra Flame trees in the main street, and they are running a competition asking for photos of the trees.

A great article on the RSL's ceremony marking the centenary of Edward Albert Pearson's Military Medal award contains a photo of three family members who came down from New South Wales to attend the ceremony.

You can subscribe (for free) on the website <http://www.mtevelyn.news> (on the righthand side), or via this link: <http://eepurl.com/cqmDOF>

And all the past issues are listed here if you missed any: <http://www.mtevelyn.news/past-issues/>

From Kev's rain gauge

Rainfall (mm) for Mt Evelyn, McKillop, and Melbourne for the last three months, and rainfall totals for 2016.

	Nov	Dec	2016 totals	Jan
Mt Evelyn	60.8	68.25	890.1	44.6
McKillop	59.4	87.15	1070.6	47
Melbourne	44.6	47	584	31.6

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

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