



Things Past

**Newsletter 105
May 2017
PO Box 289 Mt Evelyn Vic 3796**

Incorporation Number: A0051327F

Dates For Your Diary

Saturday 28 May 2017, 1.30-3.30 pm, at Hardy House, 49 Birmingham Road, Mt Evelyn. Tim Herlihy will speak on coin collecting.

Monday 19 June 2017, General Business Meeting, 7.30 – 9.30 pm Hardy House.

Saturday 24 June 2017, AOEHS Conference at Karralyka Centre Ringwood (Ringwood & District Historical Society).

Saturday 15 July 2017, 1.30-3.30 pm, at Hardy House. Marion Stott will speak on the Mooroolbark Walk.

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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Mt Evelyn resident Ernest Pearson, awarded the Military Medal 100 years ago during WWI.

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

Cave Hill Water Race

Exploring the environs of Olinda Creek in preparation for our recent tour, we came upon a strange relic that may have been part of the Cave Hill water race.



Above and below: Unidentified structure, possibly the outlet of the Cave Hill water race, August 2016.



Starting from Hardy Street, we walked south along the levee. The levees beside Olinda Creek were begun in 1938, using fill and machinery from the Cave Hill works.¹ The path continues beside the Melba Avenue Drain, which is fed by a creek flowing from the Cave Hill estate.²

Behind SP AUSNET we found a brick and concrete structure consisting of low walls and an outlet pipe. It is located on the edge of the former university grounds just outside the present boundary of the Sibelco estate, on what was once

¹ Healesville & Yarra Glen Guardian 29/1/1938,
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/60456226>

² Called 'Melba Avenue Drain' on Google Maps satellite view, though it runs south of Melba Avenue.

Cave Hill land. There is a dam, of unknown date, on the hill above it.



The remains of David Mitchell's weir on Olinda Creek, 2012.

The Cave Hill lime works and farm required large quantities of water. In the 1880s David Mitchell built a weir on Olinda Creek to divert water to Cave Hill. The weir, built of stone, brick and concrete, can still be seen south of Akarana Drive. Part of the water race has been preserved in the Lillydale Lake Reserve.



The Cave Hill water race leading from the weir, 1994.

The water supply for the steading is obtained from the Olinda Creek, from which it is brought by means of an open race two miles in length. At the end of the race is a tunnel through which the water is conveyed to a huge water wheel, over which it falls, the power thus created being utilised for driving a thrashing machine, bone

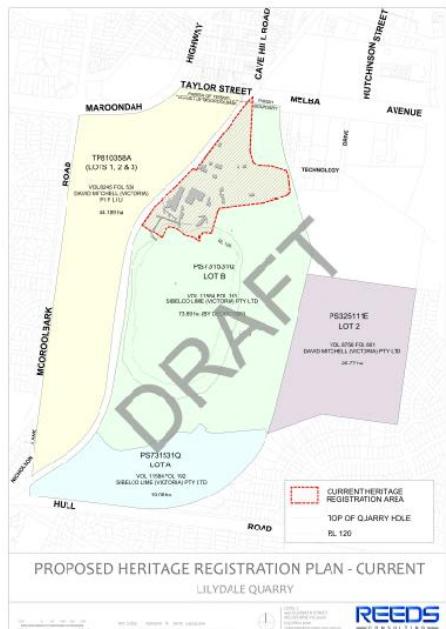
Continued p.8

Cave Hill Heritage Nomination



'The Lime Kiln', Arthur Streeton, 1935.
Reproduced with the kind permission of Yarra Ranges Regional Museum.

The Yarra Ranges Heritage Network (YRHN) has requested Strategic Planning Reports from the YRC Planning department. Their report for the meeting of 11 February 2017, which we attended, included updates on Amendment CI58 (see *Things Past* 104) and some comments about the redevelopment of the Cave Hill quarry area.



Nigel Smith, YRC Acting Executive Officer of Strategic Planning, provided this information as a report for the Heritage Network.

As the site nominator Yarra Ranges Council reduced the extent of nomination³ from approximately 43ha to 15ha, by removing most of the quarry pit extent.

³ 'Extent of nomination' is nomination for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register (so of State significance, not just on the local overlay as it is now).

Officers have taken this action due to recognition that:

1. While the pit is large and impressive, the area removed from nomination is largely contemporary in its depth and extent and does not reflect historic workings.
2. The CHMP for the site focusses on the mine machinery, farm buildings and entrance space.⁴
3. The revised extent of nomination continues to include the important northern pit face and incline hoist above RL120m and the relationship between the tunnel and the pit face and hoist.⁵
4. While the pit is proposed to be mostly filled, the site developers have undertaken to document the pit in video and photographic detail as an aid to future interpretation.
5. Removal of the pit nomination area is in the interests of brokering a workable planning regime for a key urban renewal site in the eastern metropolitan region.
6. The developer will therefore not be required to seek Heritage Victoria permits for necessary works to fill the pit, as per the proposed (and declined) permit exemption 3.2.3 (Lovell Chen December 2016).'

This nomination is currently with the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria, who might accept these suggestions, or recommend that the entire pit be included. The report goes on to say, 'Council and the land owner would seek significant heritage planning exemptions for working in the pit area if this were the case, except for that covered under point 3 above.'

MEHG has made submissions into the proposed future use of the Cave Hill site. The quarry was a

⁴ 'CHMP' stands for 'Cultural Heritage Management Plan', which was completed in preparation for the nomination.

⁵ 'RL 120m' is 120 metres above sea level, which at this point on the north face ensures heritage infrastructure including the tunnel is protected.

major employer of Mt Evelyn people from the days when it was owned by the Mitchells.

The Mitchell family owned large tracts of land here, partly to provide firewood for the lime kilns. Several members of the family lived in Mt Evelyn, notably Charles Mitchell, Dame Nellie Melba's brother, who was Cave Hill Farm Manager.

More recently, Heritage Victoria has made an application to alter a nominated place through the addition of land under Section 27 of the Heritage Act 1995. Their Executive Director Nomination recommends the inclusion of the quarry pit:

'The view of the Executive Director [is] that:

- the quarry pit warrants inclusion in the VHR because it contributes to the understanding of

the Cave Hill Limestone Quarry as a heritage place.

- when considered with the area already nominated, the whole place meets Criterion A, Criterion B, Criterion D, Criterion F, Criterion H at the level of state significance on the same grounds as the nomination accepted on 7 January 2017.⁶

See also *Things Past* issues 63, 64, 72, 75, 98, 99 & 100.

Paula Herlihy



The dotted yellow line represents the originally nominated area. The unbroken yellow line is the additional area.

⁶ Executive Director Nomination for additional land to be considered as part of a nominated place, date 1 March 2017.

Coombe Cottage Garden Tour

On 21 January, sixteen members and friends of the History Group met at Coombe Cottage in Coldstream and enjoyed a guided tour of the garden and Melba display, led by Diane Logg.

Diane started the tour with the Cinesound newsreel footage showing Melba at home, encouraging her cocky to dance, and arriving on a ship with her granddaughter Pamela. Diane gave us a rapid tour of the display, since we could return to it at any time – entry to the display is free – and we moved on to the gardens and buildings. We were shown where the cocky film was taken, and the peacock chair Melba brought back to Coombe from Honolulu.



The rear of the Cottage, looking towards the Yarra Glen road.

I was agreeably surprised that Diane shared many ‘down home’ snippets of information about Melba, after first checking that we did have some knowledge of the diva and her life. It was not just a potted biography.

Melba bought the property during a concert tour in 1909.⁷ One story I had never heard was how Coombe came to be named. Melba named it after a property in England where she had spent many happy hours. She was hoping to create a similar peaceful place here.

A large English Oak that was already on the site (called the ‘big old oak’ even then) is still standing.

⁷ Megan Backhouse, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 3 October 2014, <http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/gardening/get-a-view-behind-coombes-cubist-cypress-curtains-20140929-10nfmx.html>.



The big old oak.

The cypress hedges were one of the earliest plantings, to provide shelter from the winds and to create several separate themed garden areas. One fascinating aspect of the hedges is that Melba had a tunnel created inside the hedge for her granddaughter Pamela to play in. One of our tour participants was elected to crawl into the tunnel and report back to us (he did not see the Irish fairies that had been sighted by a previous young visitor!)



Path leading to tunnel in hedge.

We toured the Mediterranean garden and the swimming pool with its wisteria-clad pergola, the Australian native garden, the rose beds and herbaceous borders, and the areas that were formerly tennis courts and a croquet lawn. Much of Melba’s original garden is being re-created where it had disappeared.

Megan Backhouse states that William Guilfoyle and Edna Walling were garden consultants, but that Walling’s 1920s plans were not carried out. Diane confirmed Megan’s statement that Melba

did take Walling's advice to employ three female graduates from Burnley Horticultural College as gardeners. Employing women for this work was an innovation in the 1920s.⁸



The formal gardens with stone urns, herbaceous borders and the 'stag' gate.

Members of the Celotti family were later brought out from Italy to be the gardeners at Coombe. There is an excellent article about them in the Lilydale & District Historical Society's newsletter.⁹ Sue Thompson was approached by a member of

the family and offered the use of thirteen photographs taken in the Coombe garden in the 1930s and 1940s. By a happy coincidence, I was able to confirm this information, as my cousin Gaynor Hawken married a descendant of this very Celotti family!

Growing up in Yarra Glen, I passed the hedges of Coombe Cottage every time I travelled out from Yarra Glen through Coldstream. My father worked on the cars and machinery at Coombe as part of his business in the town. Sadly I never took him up on his offer to take me on a tour.

The Coombe Cottage Garden Tour is \$25 for the tour plus morning tea in the interesting restaurant, converted from the garages. The weather was beautiful, the morning tea was excellent, and we could not eat all the scones, jam and cream on offer! I will go again, in Spring!

Paula Herlihy



Viewing the swimming pool.

8 As above.

9 'The Celotti family at Coombe Cottage', *Now And Then*, Issue 3, July 2015.

Chinese Mine Near Olinda Creek

I was approached by Mr John Keane of Montrose to identify a mine in the area. To me it very much appears to be Chinese workings – oval shaped adits were made mostly by the Chinese or Germans. In this case the adit was too small for an average to large size man to stand, let alone be able to work such a mine. The tunnel is beautifully rounded and smooth diorite.



The tunnel entrance.

I estimate the approximate date of working to be in the late 1800s, as a lease was taken over by Andersons (1902-1928) bordering Tonkin's lease, which is on the East side.

The adit is West 20 degrees North. The tunnel is approximately 106 feet long, height 5 feet 6 inches, width 2 feet 6 inches to 3 feet. At 30 feet from the entrance there is a bench each side of the tunnel, which is 1 foot high by 6 inches wide and extends for 22 feet. Between these benches the walkway is 2 feet wide.



Inside the tunnel, looking back towards the entrance.

As the Chinese carry two buckets, one each end of a pole placed across their shoulders, perhaps these benches may be to rest the buckets on.¹⁰

At 68 feet the tunnel takes a slight left hand turn. At 100 feet an airshaft rises 34 feet to the surface.



Entrance to air shaft.

At 106 feet a very small tunnel on the right goes in 2 feet with a sudden turn parallel with the tunnel for a further 6 feet (as gold was many times raided, this would be a good place to hide what gold they had won until the time came to carry the ore out).

The site of the mine is approximately 300 yards from Olinda Creek Road (Kalorama) on the West side of the creek. Approximately 100 feet up the hill, another tunnel is directly under the existing adit with the entrance coming off 50 feet below. This adit is covered in. A water powered mill had been in place about 1902, water being pumped from the creek.¹¹

I have no record of what gold was extracted from this mine.

Close by the mine there had been a large garden of herbs, of which some can still be found today.

A large party of Chinese leased a large parcel of land, which was for the cultivating of ginger, rape seed, linseed and many other herbs, in the Mt Dandenong area. This site could have been one of these.

10 Since this Report was written, we now know that the tunnel was deepened by the people who lived there in the 1940s-1950s, hence the benches. They used it for storage of preserves and vegetables (John Keane).

11 The object in the creek turned out to be a water powered generator (John Keane).



Agnes Stagg explores the tunnel.

Report by Agnes Stagg, 12 May 2009, forwarded by researcher John Keane. Agnes Stagg is an expert on Chinese gold mining.

The tunnel in McKillop (mentioned in *Things Past* 15, 16 & 19 and reported in the *Ranges Trader Mail* 7/4/2009) is thought to be of similar construction to the Kalorama tunnel described above. The purpose of the McKillop tunnel has never been proved – it has been described as a mine, a World War II tunnel and an outlet for water from the O'Shannassy Aqueduct. Could this have been another Chinese gold mine?

'The Art in Cartography'

Take a look at these delightful maps from the National Library showing Australia's resources:
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-03-11/old-maps-australia-art-cartography/8314730>

Dating from the 1920s to 1940s, they 'put the Art into Cartography'.

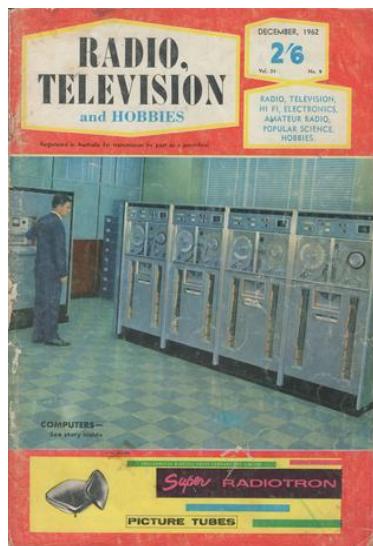
'Maps curator at the National Library of Australia, Martin Woods, says these types of maps were produced for government circulation, school textbooks or as part of campaigns to change public awareness or support industry.'

An illustrated map of Melbourne drawn by Melinda Clarke in the 1980s is now being updated. The original was drawn from some 7,500 photos, many taken from a hot air balloon.
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-03-09/the-melbourne-map-project-updated/8335630>

When Computers Were New

Kevin Phillips came across the journal *Radio Television & Hobbies* for December 1962. The lead story deals with the technology of the computer, before many of its applications were even imagined.

'In order to fall within the true definition of a computer, a calculating machine must possess a "memory" or some form of storage, arranged so that information produced by the arithmetic unit or fed in from an external source may be assessed at random as a problem is processed.'



The cover photo shows 'a portion of the Univac Solid State 80 (USS 80) Computer installed at the Remington Rand - Chartres Service Centre in Liverpool Street, Sydney. On the right of the picture are the tape spool cabinets containing memory and

program tapes. Magnetic drums and ferrite core matrices also form part of the memory system.' Cutting-edge stuff.

Cave Hill Water Race, from p.2

*crusher, chaff cutter, corn crusher, root pulper, etc. Besides working the wheel, the water flows down a shoot into a hydraulic ram, by which it is forced into a large iron tank placed in a position to provide a supply for the lime kiln, garden and stock in some of the home paddocks.*¹²

There must have been some outlet for the water. The unidentified structure we found may be the outlet, as it bears a family resemblance to David Mitchell's weir at the head of the water race. It would have discharged into the Melba Avenue Drain, which would then return the water to Olinda Creek.

Karen Phillips. Photos Kevin Phillips.

12 'Cave Hill', *Leader* 11/11/1893

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/196641055>

Our British Road Names

The subject of our British road names came up at a recent History Group meeting.

The practice of naming major roads after places in the British Isles seems to have started in the former Shire of Lillydale early in the 20th century. The originals are cities, towns and counties in England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. Mt Evelyn has Birmingham, Hereford, Inverness, Swansea and York Roads.

The British road names were concentrated in the Shire's South Western Riding, which then included Ringwood and Croydon, as well as Mooroolbark, Kilsyth, Montrose and parts of Mt Evelyn and Lillydale. It's possible that one of the South Western Riding Councillors (Taylor, Allen, Chandler, Kinsella, Jeeves) carried the scheme through.



Swansea Road c.1930. Louise Hordern Collection.

To the modern way of thinking, the names seem out of step with the time. This was immediately after Federation, when Australia had just become a nation. Why hark back to the old country *then*, of all times? The names would later be ridiculed: '... they are unfaithful to the things they label, therefore hideous ... what on earth have they to

do with this very Aussie little bit of Australia?'¹³ But in the early 1900s no contradiction was seen in linking Australian identity with loyalty to Britain and British origins. The names were distributed at random – there was no attempt to impose a map of the British Isles on the Shire of Lillydale.

The names in question are: Bedford, Belfast, Birmingham, Cambridge, Cardigan, Colchester, Derby, Dorset, Dublin, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Hereford, Hull, Inverness, Lincoln, Liverpool, Manchester, Oxford (the former name of Mt Dandenong Road), Pembroke, Plymouth, Sheffield, Stirling, Surrey, Swansea and York Roads. There are also Devon, Maidstone and Sussex Streets, and Kent and Norfolk Avenues.

Other roads with British place names were probably not named directly for their British or Irish originals. Bayswater, Canterbury, Croydon and Montrose Roads would have been named after their respective suburbs, and Wicklow Avenue for the property 'Wicklow Hills' in Croydon. Stradbroke Road in Montrose was more likely named after the Governor of Victoria 1921-1926, the 3rd Earl of Stradbroke, than the Suffolk village of that name.

A vague explanation exists for the naming of Dorset Road, which runs from Croydon to Ferntree Gully. It was formerly called McGivern Road after the original selectors. Croydon historian Muriel McGivern writes that the Sellick family 'reputedly' named it Dorset Road. The tradition in the family is that George Sellick asked for it to be named after his county in England. George Sellick left England in 1857 as a boy of nine or ten and he came from Somerset, not Dorset. He might or might not have been consulted about the naming of Dorset Road nearly 50 years later but he did *not* name it after his native county.

For more information on road names see our booklet *Street Names of Mt Evelyn* by Paula Herlihy (new edition published in 2016)

Karen Phillips

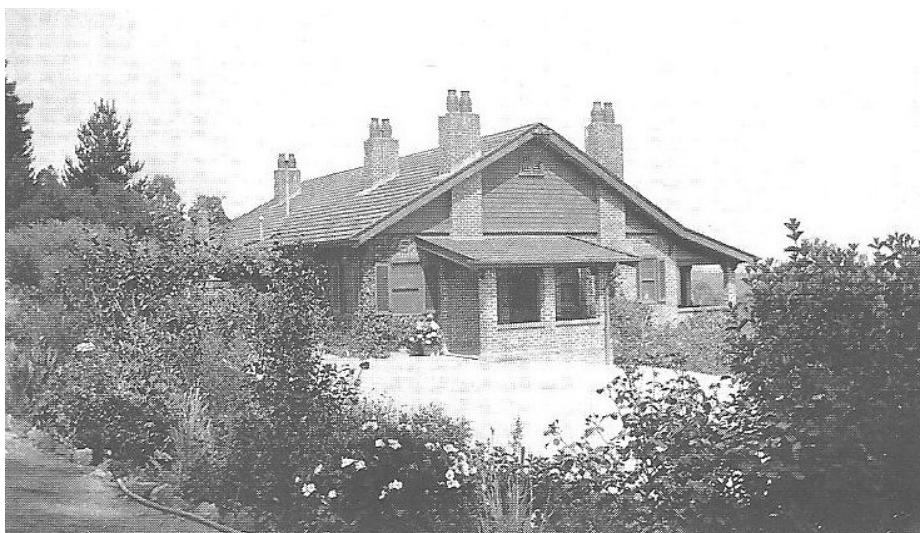
¹³ Ian Mair, *The Age* 12/8/1961, in M. McGivern, *A History of Croydon*, Vol. II, p.32.

Dalmeny Update

Greg Luke has brought us up to date with tree care recently undertaken in the garden at Dalmeny:

'Recent activities at Dalmeny included the bi-annual ARBORIST visit, resulting in removal of one tree (Silver birch, *Betula pendula*) which was replaced with a like tree (purchased locally by chance). The Arborist suggested a change to *Betula nigra* but we were fortunate to find an excellent example of *B. pendula* at a local nursery (2.5m in height and in impeccable condition).

The Atlantic Cedar above the tennis court suffered significant wind damage, losing several



Cirdec (Dalmeny) c. 1930.

large boughs. Arborists cleaned up the mess and rebalanced the tree.

Re-balancing of existing trees and removal of dead wood has resulted in a fine outcome. Ongoing maintenance of this garden (not to mention the building) is very important as we approach Dalmeny's centenary year (2023).'

We may be a little closer to answering a long-standing question: who was the architect who designed Dalmeny (originally called Cirdec)? We have a suspect in Philip B. Hudson.

Hudson designed Wyreena in Croydon (formerly called Hayward, built for the Catomore family and now a Community Arts Centre). Hayward was designed c.1923, which shows that Hudson (or his firm, Hudson & Wardrop) designed at least one private home in the outer east of Melbourne at

about the same time that Cirdec/Dalmeny was built.

There are similarities between Dalmeny and Wyreena in the use of brick and timber, the pitch of the roof, and the interior woodwork. Having the chimneys protruding through the roof, as they do at Dalmeny, was a feature typical of Hudson.

'There are similarities to Wyreena, which I visit once a month to present a series on the local radio (98.1FM)', Greg wrote. 'The outbuildings at Wyreena are also interesting'.

Philip B. Hudson shot to fame shortly after the two houses were built, when he and his partner

won the international design competition for Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance.

'Phillip Burgoyne Hudson [1887-1952] and James Hastie Wardrop [1891-1975] won the competition for the design of the Victorian National War Memorial, known as the Shrine of Remembrance, in 1924. ... The Shrine was built between July 1928 and November 1934. Kingsley Ussher, architect, joined the firm as a partner in 1929.'

Archive Grid,

<https://beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid/collection/data/884777122>

Both Wyreena and Dalmeny are heritage listed in their respective local government areas and both are on the Victorian Heritage Register:

<http://vhd.heritagetouncil.vic.gov.au/places/146902> (the photo of Dalmeny has been misplaced to another entry on the database). For a history and photos of Wyreena, see 'Reflections of Wyreena', <http://www.artsinmaroondah.com.au/common/File/downloads/Wyreena/ReflectionsOfWyreena.pdf>

We would love to find evidence to link Philip B. Hudson definitely to one of Mt Evelyn's most notable houses.

Karen Phillips

Before and After

The antique corner chair, re-covered in rose-pink floral fabric about 1955, had seen better days. The fabric was worn through and the upholstery was coming adrift.



The owner put it out on the hard rubbish, but then thought better of it and asked if anyone in the family still wanted it. They did.

With some TLC from Master Craft Upholstering in Ringwood, the chair has been restored to its former beauty.



Corner chairs have been made at least since the 18th century. There are photos of similar examples online, described as 'Antique French' but undated. This one was possibly made in the early 20th century, in an older style.

Photos Steve & Graham Leadbeater

Good News for Trove

The Federal Government's mid-year budget review has included funding for the National Library of Australia's online database, Trove. After cuts through the government's efficiency dividend were announced in late 2015, the library had ceased funding digitisation in July 2016.

The funding allocated in the mid-year budget review includes \$16.4 million over four years from 2016-17. The National Librarian has put out a circular to staff giving more detail on how the money will be spent to 'enable the Library to support Trove to meet Australian's expectations for continued and contemporary access to large-scale digital collections; to upgrade critical Information Technology infrastructure; and to support other vital programs and services'.

With more than 55,000 visitors a day, Trove is the Commonwealth's fourth most heavily used website, after the Bureau of Meteorology, Centrelink, and the Department of Human Services.

Thanks to those parliamentarians, historical societies and individuals who have lobbied for continued funding for this wonderful resource. Trove has transformed historical research since it started in 2008, making digitised newspapers, photos, maps and art works instantly available online.

Thanks also to Tom O'Meara (Upper Yarra Historical Society) for sharing the good news.

For further information see:

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/2016/12/20/library-gets-boost-help-deliver-trove>

Repairing a Leather Binding

The National Library of Australia website has an illustrated article on repairing a leather book binding. 'The little red book that could. A conservation approach to detached leather tightback boards' can be found at: <https://www.nla.gov.au/blogs/preservation/2016/12/19/the-little-red-book-that-could>

Another Conservation Article

The National Archives of Australia restored a Robur Tea poster by Montrose artist William Blamire Young (1862-1935):

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-02-28/national-archives-restores-robur-tea-poster/8293588>

For more on Blamire Young, see *Things Past* 21, 22, 61 & 101.

MEHG Facebook Page

This Facebook page (Mount Evelyn History Group Inc) is now our official page, as of 1 March 2017. Please note the new page has 'Mount', not 'Mt'.

We hope the 802 people who liked our old page can like this one, and continue to receive information about Mt Evelyn's past.



Updated regularly, it lists upcoming History Group activities, as well as providing a forum for discussion and comment on historical and anecdotal information about Mt Evelyn and surrounding areas.

Visit us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/MtEvelynHistoryGroup2016/>

From Kev's Rain Gauge

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

	Feb	Mar	April	YTD
Mt Evelyn	53.2	56.1	79.7	233.6
McKillop	70.4	64.5	107.9	289.8
Melbourne	40.2	26.4	123.4	221.6

McKillop readings courtesy Jean Edwards

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

Kevin Phillips

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