



Things Past

Newsletter 110
August 2018

PO Box 289 Mt Evelyn Vic 3796
Incorporation Number: A0051327F

Dates for Your Diary

'Yarra Valley Vietnam Veterans', book launch, Sunday 19 August, 11.00 am, at Mt Evelyn RSL Hall, 49 Birmingham Road, Mt Evelyn. The book will be launched by Hugh Robertson, President of Melbourne Legacy; Guest Speaker is The Hon Tony Smith MP, Federal Member for Casey, and Speaker of the House. See p.11 for further details or contact mtevrsl@gmail.com.

AGM followed by General Business Meeting, Monday 20 August 7:30 – 9:30 pm, at Hardy House, 49 Birmingham Road, Mt Evelyn.

'A Conversation on Conscription', Anthony McAleer, Saturday 15 September, 1.30 – 3.30 pm at Hardy House.

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. Dates are subject to speaker availability and other factors.

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Warburton to Carrum Trail



The Warburton to Carrum Trail near Cambridge Road, looking north.

(cont'd p.2)

Warburton to Carrum Trail (from p.1)

Work was well advanced on the Warburton to Carrum Trail when we checked it out in April.

The route connects the Warburton Rail Trail at Lilydale, via the Olinda Creek Trail and the existing path beside Hull Road, with a new track along the Healesville Freeway Reservation in Mooroolbark and the Melbourne Water Pipe Track through Croydon (this last was part of the O'Shannassy Pipeline route, from c.1912), to the Tarralla Creek Trail, which joins the Dandenong Creek Trail leading to Carrum.

The new sections are a combination of concrete, bitumen and gravel paths, with new road crossings and signage. Entry points are marked by yellow bollards and distinctive yellow, red and white railings. The major construction work had been completed by the time we visited, but the new sections were still marked 'DANGER Construction Site Keep Out'. Cyclists and walkers were blithely ignoring the warning signs.

It's good to see these linear reserves fulfilling their potential as walking and cycling tracks, safe from motor traffic. The Trail also shows there is still undeveloped land in the midst of suburbia.



The Warburton to Carrum Trail at Hawthory Road.



The Trail at Wordsworth Street Mooroolbark.



The Trail from Cambridge Road, looking south.

Thanks to Marion Stott for information. See also: <https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/planning-and-projects/melbourne-road-projects/carrum-to-warburton-trail-bayswater-to-lilydale-link>

Karen Phillips

Photos Kevin Phillips.

Lilydale Express on Trove

The first two years of the Lilydale Express newspaper from 30 June 1886 to 28 July 1888 are now searchable on Trove. This has been made possible thanks to a generous donation from the estate of Jim Sawyer, a late Life Member of the Lilydale & District Historical Society.

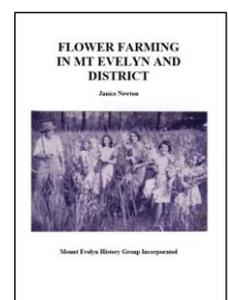
The funding is expected to allow coverage up to the mid-1890s, so more years should appear shortly.

Thanks to Sue Thompson, President, Lilydale & District Historical Society, for this information.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/result?I-title=The+Lilydale+Express%7Ctitleid%3A250&dateFrom=1886-06-30&dateTo=1888-07-28>

Flower Farming Updated

A new edition of Janice Newton's booklet *Flower Farming in Mt Evelyn and District*, with larger print and colour photos, is now available. The booklet is priced at \$5. Copies of the old edition are available free to members while stocks last.



Aborigines in the Yarra Valley and Northern Dandenongs as a School Text

Bree Faulkner, who runs the dance and performance school *Go Dance* in Mt Evelyn with her sister Chelsea, is studying Master of Primary and Secondary Teaching at Deakin University. She selected Mt Evelyn History Group's book on Aboriginal people, *Aborigines in the Yarra Valley and Northern Dandenongs*, as the text to

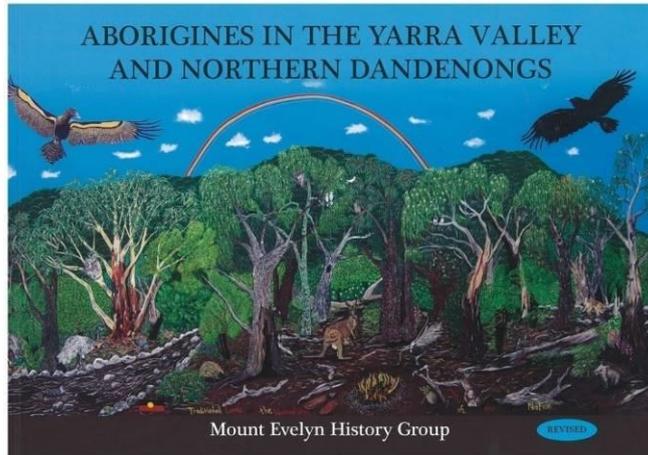
analyse for its suitability for teaching intercultural understanding in schools. Part of this assessment was an analysis of content page by page for modern interpretation and Aboriginal interpretation in text and illustration, including examples of racial profiling, challenging racial profiling, and Aboriginal approval.

Because she had completed her Primary Placement (work experience) at Mt Evelyn Primary School, Bree also based the fictional school for her assessment on Mt Evelyn, calling it Nyleve Primary School.

These assignments contributed to her finishing the recent trimester with an overall score of High Distinction. I asked her for a synopsis of her major assignment, which included a script and video describing the assignment to fellow teachers. What follows is that script, modified for an article.

Firstly, let's address why intercultural understanding and Aboriginal perspectives should be embedded into the classroom. It's seen as important in Australian society and is part of the Australian curriculum as one of the essential general capabilities. And it is so important in this modern age. Students are interacting daily face to face in their multicultural society and on a global scale through all forms of technology. As teachers, we must equip them with the communication skills required to respect and empathise with people from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Intercultural understanding also gives students a stronger sense of self and belonging which in turn positively affects their self-esteem and overall health.



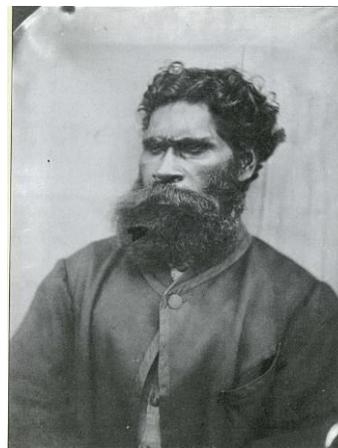
This book *Aborigines in the Yarra Valley and Northern Dandenongs* is built on local history and stories students will engage with emotionally, socially, and communally. Places mentioned in the text are local to Nyleve Primary school so teachers can plan visits. The text even includes

Melway references.

There is evidence in the acknowledgements that the authors sought comments from Wurundjeri Elder Aunty Kitty Coombes, and permission for the use of images from Wurundjeri *Ngurungaeta* (Headman) Murrundindi and Elder Aunty Joy Murphy Wandin.

You could start by simply exploring the cover artwork by Justine Indigo-Rose with the students. Ask them to make predictions about the text based on the cover. This is a great comprehension strategy to help the students with their reading. Asking guiding questions such as, where do you think this book is written about? Why do you think that? What types of trees do you think these are? What animals do you see? Why has the illustrator named some animals and not others?

The text showcases traditional, transitional, and



modern art works that invite interpretation. Many images challenge stereotypes, like this one of William Barak taken by German photographer Carl Walter in 1866. These images paint a respectful and positive picture of

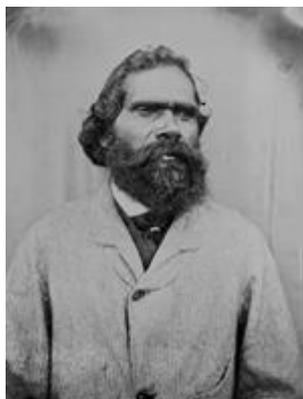
Aboriginal people as they were viewed by some of society at the time.

Two further images lend themselves to classroom discussion. The first is a humorous depiction of Clement Deschamps' first encounter with the Aboriginal people. This could be unpacked in class to reveal the way the artist plays with stereotypes about the Aboriginal people (naked,



spears, shields) as well as the Europeans (clothes, tent, bedding, tea kettle and teacup). Students could read the account in the text and discuss how likely it would be that local Aborigines (who, we are told, were on excellent terms with local settlers), visited the camp with hostile intent. And, if this were so, whether the young boy

would have been able to escape them! This can lead to exploration of what racial prejudice is, how it is depicted in this image, and how it can escalate into Clement's life-long fear.



In complete contrast to this drawing is this powerful photo of Wurundjeri chief Simon

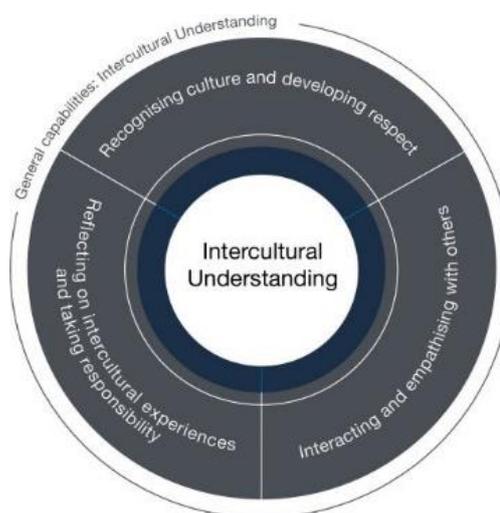
Wonga. I enjoy these images immensely.

The text has new vocabulary the students can engage with. Suitable words could be added to the weekly spelling homework. Teachers could pull reference from the convenient table of Woi wurrung animal, bird and plant names.

Lastly, using a framework such as the NSW Department of Education initiative *Eight Ways (8Ways) Learning*, students listen to the shared stories of the Aboriginal people, and in turn begin to share their cultural stories. And celebrate their diversity.

If you are exploring Intercultural understanding in the classroom, I would highly recommend this book. **Bree Faulkner**

Key Ideas for intercultural understanding



<http://interculturalcommunicationkit.weebly.com/>

8Ways Learning

 Story Sharing	Approaching learning through narrative	<i>We connect through the stories we share</i>
 Learning Maps	Explicitly mapping/ visualising processes	<i>We picture our pathways of knowledge</i>
 Non-Verbal	Applying intra-personal and kinaesthetic skills to thinking and learning	<i>We see, think, act, make and share without words</i>
 Symbols & Images	Using images and metaphors to understand concepts and content	<i>We keep and share knowledge with art and objects</i>
 Land Links	Place-based learning, linking content to local land and place	<i>We work with lessons from land and nature</i>
 Non-Linear	Producing innovations and understand by thinking laterally or combining systems.	<i>We put different ideas together and create new knowledge</i>
 Deconstruct/Reconstruct	Modelling and scaffolding, working from wholes to parts (watch then do)	<i>We work from wholes to parts, watching and then doing</i>
 Community Links	Centring local viewpoints, applying learning for community benefit	<i>We bring new knowledge home to help our mob</i>

Vic Smith (1917-?): a skier with vivid memories of Mt Evelyn

It was somewhat surprising to find someone passionate about skiing among the older long-term residents of Mt Evelyn in the 1990s. When Vic Smith was a young man, he worked for Mr Quinn, a former jockey who trained racehorses on a farm in McKillop Road.

He (Quinn) had a chap on the property looking after it, a Norwegian chap, Eric Jonson¹. Eric and another fellow called Andy Amish used to take skis up to Mt Donna Buang where people used to hire equipment to ski.

Later on Eric lived permanently at Harrierville and when they were building the Hydro-electric plant at Kiewa he was involved with the surveying. Eric was an Australian ski jumper champion and

if you're coming down from Mt Hotham, there's a place called Bon Accord Spur. If you take the short cut walk from there to Harrierville you will see a memorial cairn with a copper plaque there, to Eric.

After working with Eric on the farm Vic took up the sport too, having always been keener on the bush than the beach.

I've walked right across from Feathertop, to the Bon Accord Spur, The Razorback. I've walked that with skis on my back. For years we used to go skiing up to Mt Feathertop and I've walked across to Hotham. We used to go to Donna Buang for weekends a lot during the war (WWII). We used to go up there by train and we used to either get a bus or taxi or tourist coach to take us up to the mountain, then we'd walk back. At the end of the weekend we used to walk home and we'd have our skis over our shoulders, coming down the mountain to Warburton. Not with a group, just maybe half a dozen of us.

Early one morning in September 1995 Vic Smith met me for a pre-arranged, but relaxed, interview (in his pyjamas!) at his small holiday home at 2 Glenholme Avenue Mt Evelyn. He had no photographs from his early time at Mt Evelyn but his vivid memories more than compensated.

¹ Contemporary sources spell his name as either Eric or Erik, Jonson or Johnson. His family name was Grävbröt, but it was seldom used by Australians.

Vic was born in 1917 in Hoddle Street, East Melbourne. His mother's family hailed from Walhalla where Grandpa Hawkins was a gold miner and labourer for earth and sewerage works. Vic's mother was working at Frieze Brothers, a major men's clothing manufacturer in Hoddle Street, when she met his father, a carpenter, with Cornish roots, who was born in Bendigo. Vic's father came from a large family of at least eight children, including Will, Ernie, Vic, Violet, Cyril, Elsie and Alec.

Vic had a little sister who died of appendicitis before school age and a brother, James, eighteen months his junior. When he was young, his father moved to Wattle Park and ran a violet and poppy farm on weekends, selling flowers to visitors to the Burwood cemetery at the end of Warrigal Road. Vic completed his state school education at Rathmines Road, Auburn.

About 1923, when the poppy farm got too much for his father, the family moved to Henry Street, Auburn. At the same time the family began visiting Mt Evelyn. Vic's father had worked for a land developer, probably J.G. Chew, cutting pegs for the surveys of the Junction Estate, fronting Clancy Road and going right through to Junction Road, and possibly as far as Bailey Road. The extended Smith family bought about 5-6 blocks quite large, possibly half acre ('down where at present there is a concrete mixing place'). There was a ladies' block that 'all the wives were mixed up in', ('Eva, Ernie's wife Honey...') a cousin's block and also a block for the Hawkins grandparents.

Holidays at Mt Evelyn

At one stage we had a car but the Depression finished all that. The poor old car was unregistered. We used to come up to Mt Evelyn by train. It used to divide down at Lilydale. Some would go on to Healesville and the rest up to here. Honestly, this was the town where the train would empty. It used to be too long sometimes to stop at the platform at Mt Evelyn. It used to have to stop and some of the carriages would be still to come, then the train would pull forward a bit more and these people could get out. This was the popular holiday place. More than even Warburton. Mostly working people and their families. This was the place where people could get the cheap land and put up a shack. You didn't need

council approval for it. That only more or less came after the war.

There was the main road going to the station that was the Avenue of Honour and the trees all had plaques. It is called Wray Crescent now after Hughie Wray, the estate agent. A bus would come from Silvan to pick passengers up.

We easily had twenty to thirty people. We came up for long weekends, Easter and Christmas. We had one hut on this first block made out of kerosene tins that had been cut open. One uncle, married to a Smith Auntie, was a plumber. They put up a frame of tree trunks, like saplings, and they covered it all with this kerosene tin roof and walls. That was the first place up here.

The house we built was really only one big room with two sort of bunks. There was a lean-to part, like a vestibule and you came in there. There was a fireplace up the end and right along each side there were double bunks. This was the main room. There was a wall of saplings along next to the bunks and there was just room to walk along. I don't think there were any windows but it was all kerosene tins opened out for the roof and walls. We used to cook on the open fireplace. There was a table ... seats I suppose. Part of this vestibule used to be this big double bed. Mother and father used that. All the extra visitors had tents outside.

There was a toilet, a hole dug in the ground quite deep. The men did that. It was a real building out of saplings and probably the kerosene tins making the walls. There was a seat. And there used to be a sign outside saying 'The Waxworks'.

About six different Smith families would come up.

Honestly, we had enough kids for two cricket teams. We played just outside the hut. The pitch was made of the clay that came out from where the toilet was made. The best thing was that we could have all the family up there and all the kids could run everywhere. The wives did all of the cooking. It was a change from the city. We used to have a lot of fun. Walk down to the Reserve, round to the swimming pool, collect heath and nice fresh gum tips. I remember going over to the jeweller's (Harold Schultz's) block at Christmas. All the kids. And we'd have a big bonfire and firecrackers. We

were a bit away from Billy Goat Hill but we still came. There'd be a lot of us go over.

There was a big dam up the town there where the Mitre 10 people are and we used to go there catching yabbies. And we'd be back at the house in the evening with a kerosene tin on the fire and the poor old yabbies going round and round and round and getting cooked. That was supper. I don't think our family was musical but there'd probably be some singing around the fire outside, carry on a bit and that ... the main thing that stuck in my mind was going and getting the yabbies. On the kerosene tin on the fire while (the adults) were playing cards, and that was supper.

I went for walks with my cousins, occasionally up Mt Dandenong, usually via Inverness Road where the Varty family lived. There was also a track from our place through the bush that took you to just before the National Fitness Camp. There was a nice pool of water there and our family and others made it deeper by putting logs and rocks across. All the members of our family and different ones would be there. We used to swim there. It was cold water there. Also at the National Fitness Camp there was a little concrete swimming pool built into the bank of the creek there.

The Water Race

The water supply for Lilydale used to go through a trench, a dirt trench. Some of it is still on top of the hill there. It used to go right around the cascades on the Olinda Creek and in later years the Progress Association used to keep it open. It went all the way around the hills, around past the National Fitness Camp, only cemented in some areas where it went over gullies. There was a steel pipe then. There was a path beside it and you could walk right up to the Cascades, there up on the Olinda Creek before you get to the dam, and it was nice. There were all these rocks there and water running over them. It was a popular walk to go right around this trench and down along the hill above Swansea Road. It got pressure there and that was Lilydale's water supply. A lot of [it] might still be in public land because once you get around a bit it's forest area. It used to go across the track near the

(cont'd p.9)

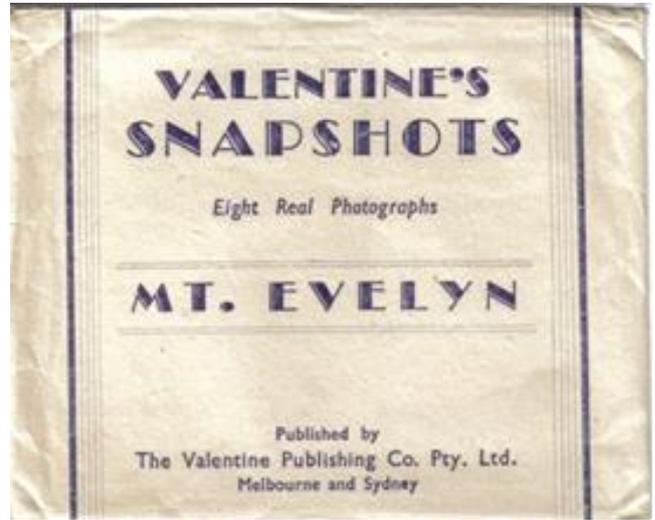
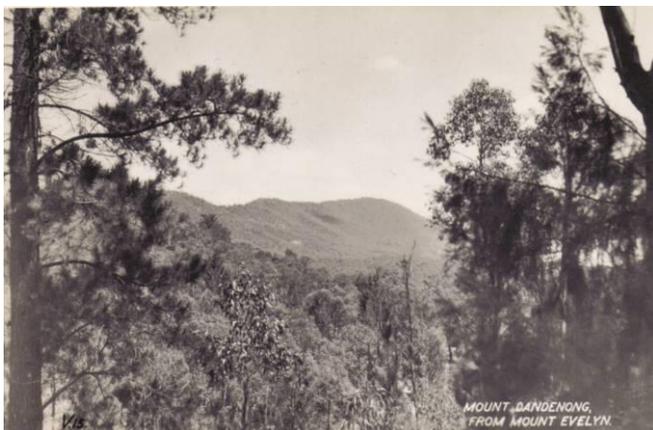
Rose Series Post Cards part 2: Valentine's Postcards

I was interested to understand where my collection of Valentine postcards fitted in with the fan fold postcard booklets of Mt Evelyn and the 'P series' Rose postcards, since many negatives have been used in all three formats. The Rose Stereograph Company (RSC) produced postcards for other companies such as The Valentine Publishing Company.²

My Valentine postcards were purchased by Olga Perewersew (1910-2006), a Russian immigrant to Australia in 1948. My husband Tim's father was Olga's executor, and we had met her several times. Tim and I helped to clear her house after her death, which is how the postcards came to me. Olga had cards of places other than Mt Evelyn and I passed these on to appropriate societies.



Two other Valentine postcards from Olga's collection are V15 Mount Dandenong from Mount Evelyn (below) and V17 Picturesque Creek Near Evelyn (above), which looks like the Horseshoe Falls on Olinda Creek in Quinn Reserve.



The eight photographs in this folder of Valentine's Snapshots are labelled:

V2 Main Street Mount Evelyn; V3 Picnic Ground Mount Evelyn; V4 Olinda Creek Mount Evelyn; V6 Railway Station Mount Evelyn; V8 St Mark's Holiday Home Mount Evelyn; V12 Log Catcher on Aquaduct (sic) Mount Evelyn; V13 Silvan Dam Near Mount Evelyn, and V16 Dandenong Range from Mount Evelyn (see below, and next page).



² Ron Blum, *George Rose, Australia's Master Stereographer* p.256.



OLINDA CREEK,
MOUNT EVELYN. V4



RAILWAY STATION,
MOUNT EVELYN. V6



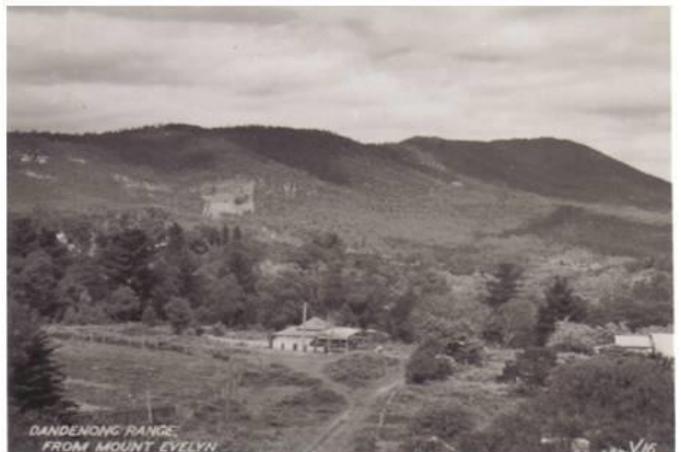
ST MARK'S HOLIDAY HOME,
MOUNT EVELYN. V8



LOG CATCHER,
ON AQUADUCT,
MOUNT EVELYN. V13



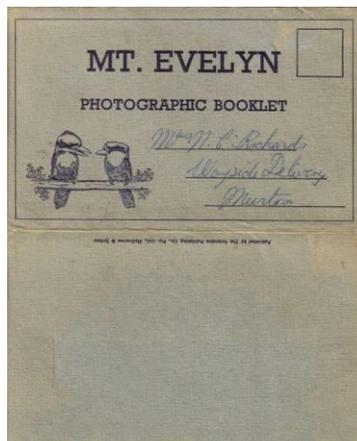
SILVAN DAM NEAR MOUNT EVELYN. V13



DANDEMONG RANGE,
FROM MOUNT EVELYN. V16

Mt Evelyn History Group is fortunate to have had two copies of the fan folders of the 1960s donated. Both were printed by an outside firm, but folded and assembled at the RSC factory.³

The 'Mt Evelyn Photographic Booklet' shown here was donated by the Treadwell family. This folder contains a wider format view of the



Main Street (same scene as V2) as the cover. In addition to wider format versions of the Picnic Grounds, Olinda Creek, St Mark's Holiday Home, the Dandenong Ranges from Mt Evelyn, the Railway Station and the V13 Silvan Dam scene, this folder contains a second Silvan Dam view, and a scene of the Tea Gardens at the Recreation Reserve.

³ Ron Blum, *George Rose, the Postcard Era*, p.251.

Valentine Series Postcards (from p.8)



The second booklet we have copies of, per Vicki Harrison, is similar to that above, but omits the scenes of Silvan Dam, and includes a scene of the picnic ground.



An interesting variant is the view of Main Street Mt Evelyn, titled 'The Rose Series P. 1877 Sunday Morning at Mt Evelyn', which includes a car parked in the street.



Paula Herlihy

Vic Smith

(from p.6)

National Fitness Camp towards McKillop. It didn't cross the Olinda Creek at all, just staying on one side of it. They used to have an area at the Falls blocked off with concrete and the pipe would come into there. The water pressure would force the water through the pipe and it would run almost all the way down to Swansea Road on the hill there where Pine Brae was. They probably had a dam there.

The Depression

During the Depression many people were forced to relocate to their holiday blocks or to start life anew in the area.

The Smith family were forced to move to Mt Evelyn in the Depression. They lost a house in Melbourne. Although someone was renting it 'we never got much rent from them' so Vic's father 'couldn't keep up the payments'. They moved on to another block, an old farm owned by a Mr Jones, quite a bit of land in a great big bend of the creek there. Old Mr Jones' son was a tram conductor at Camberwell and allowed Vic's father to live on the land rent free in return for building a house with material provided. They lived there for five years from about 1932. The Jones came up after the war permanently.⁴

Vic's mother took up work in the Depression helping out cleaning at *The Outlook* Guesthouse run by Richard and Ruby Knowles. (Vic's brother James went to school with Alf Knowles.)

Grandfather and Grandmother Hawkins (Vic's mother's parents) lived on their block on Junction Road during the Depression until relocating with their daughter in Footscray. Uncle Ernie Smith and his wife were living in Richmond with two little girls and 'it was pretty tough times so my father said to him, "Come up and join us. There's room at the house."'

A woman who had a block of land came during the Depression. Just her and her boy, Teddy. He was Chinese or part Chinese and their name was Moon. All she had was this old horse and cart and I'll guarantee the horse was over 30 years old. The horse died on the property some

⁴ It is possible that this Jones family were related through Vic's maternal grandmother and her sister, Elizabeth Hawkins, and Ada Jones née Barrett. Ada was the mother of Ron Jones who married Mavis and had five daughters and a son.

time after they came up. I don't know if there was a husband. Eventually they went up past the Yan Yean Reservoir, to Kinglake.

There were quite a gang of men up here in the Depression, on the sustenance. They were doing road work. The amount of money and help they got would depend on the amount of children they had. And it meant they had to put so many hours in to cover the amount of money they received. My father was on it and his brother Ernie was on it. Jimmy McBain and the Vartys. Old Joe Varty had the biggest family of the lot so him and my father was the last two working. Well, he had more kids, so it meant he got more help and he had to put more time in. And at that stage my father was the ganger, in charge of the gang of men, so he and Joe were the last two (working).

Up this way, too, during the Depression, a bit later in the Depression, they were building the Silvan Dam and a lot of men did work there. Uncle Ernie Smith used to be up there on the cement race, when they were concreting the channel. They put a new channel right through. There's still the remains of the old concrete channel at the back of the school there. (Now there is a big pipeline going to Croydon. It goes from Silvan Dam, right across the bottom of the ranges there, right through to up above the hill at Montrose, the hill on the side of Canterbury Road. The high point is at the back. That's where they have a pressure dam now for pushing the water on to Croydon.)

If they were on the sustenance, they took better care of their clothes, made them last longer. They also joined together for leisure activities. A man called Jimmy McBain had a mouth organ band. My brother and other ones used to gather at his house up at Mt Evelyn to practise. My brother James played the drums. One of the Varty brothers, Herbert, was quite musical and he used to play. There could have been eight to ten people. They mainly played for concerts and their own amusement.

Growing and Selling

On the original block owned by Vic's parents, there weren't many trees on the land as the woodcutters had gone through before. 'We grew some stuff on the land, strawberries and raspberries.'

Later, during the Depression, Father sold off his block with the house on. He built another house on one of the blocks at the old camp. He had it for a long while but we had to live down at the farm because it meant you could make a bit of a living there because of having the picnic ground nearby.

We used to put a little bridge across the creek. There were tables and chairs along the creek. We built a kiosk out of logs and things where we sold ice cream and lollies and soft drinks and vegetables that we grew. All we grew there was on the flat land around the creek. It was like a big horseshoe bend. We used to grow vegetables and some berries, strawberries and raspberries. Also blackberries in season. For a living it was far better than being in Melbourne.

During the war quite a few of the Smith family blocks were sold off. Vic's family returned to Melbourne and 'I think Dad sold the house we had on Junction Road' but kept another block. A cousin and the grandparents also kept their blocks much longer.

Education, work and marriage

After competing primary school at Auburn, Vic went to Swinburne and studied engineering (later when the war ended he switched over to carpentry). One of his Smith cousins was in engineering and managed to get Vic a job when he was only 16. He was machining, using lathes and all that, fitting and turning work at Marbutt Engineering in Brunswick. Ultimately Vic became a carpenter, as his father had done.

Quite late in life when he was working as a carpenter at Kew Cottages Mental Hospital, Vic met a New Australian nurse from Estonia. Leida and Vic became a couple, holidaying together and marrying after they had both retired from work, Vic already in his sixties. They purchased a block of land and built a house in Metung, which Leida adored. Sadly they enjoyed only a few years together there before Leida died of a heart attack during a holiday journey to Brisbane.

Throughout the interview Vic was concerned that I was getting *his* history rather than that of the town, but his family memories give us great insights into the Mt Evelyn of the 1930s, and also to one holiday maker/ resident who loved to ski.

Janice Newton

Honour for Anthony

Congratulations to Anthony McAleer, who received the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours, for service to the community and to military history.

Anthony has been Secretary and Newsletter Editor of the Mt Evelyn RSL since 2011. He is the author of a number of books on military history connected with the local area.

Anthony is a member of Mt Evelyn History Group.

Portrait of General Savage

Anthony McAleer drew our attention to this portrait (below) of General Savage by Mt Evelyn Artist Ernest Buckmaster, which hangs in Legacy House, Melbourne.

Lieutenant General Sir Stanley George Savage, KBE, CB, DSO, MC, ED (26 June 1890 – 15 May 1954) served in World War I and World War II. He founded Legacy in 1923.

Buckmaster painted the portrait for the 1946 Archibald Prize but it arrived too late for the judging. It was presented to Legacy the following year by members of the old 24th Battalion.

The General had insisted on wearing his greatcoat for the portrait, hiding his impressive array of decorations.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/22425515>

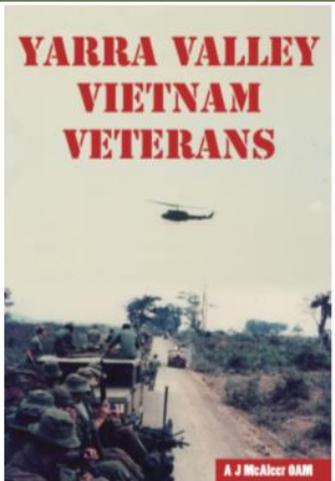
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanley_Savage





THE MT EVELYN RSL
SUB-BRANCH
IS PROUD TO INVITE YOU
TO THE LAUNCH OF OUR NEW BOOK:

**YARRA VALLEY
VIETNAM
VETERANS**



A J McAleer OAM

Fifty years after they served Australia in the Vietnam War, sixteen veterans of that conflict from the Yarra Valley sat down with the Mt Evelyn RSL's historian and revealed, some for the first time, their wartime experiences.

Their stories tell of our nation's involvement in Vietnam and spans the period 1964 to 1972. They served with the Navy, with the Regular Army, with the CMF and as National Servicemen. Their backgrounds varied as much as their experiences 'in country' during that time.

It is a story of sacrifice and endurance, bravery and loss, good times and bad times. It reveals the environment they were forced to exist in and the role they played, from the mundane to the terrifying.

Surviving all of this they then returned home to a nation where many people ignored or even condemned them. For most, those decades after the war were an ongoing battle to deal with the physical and mental scars.

With a Foreword by Neville Clark MC

When: Sunday
August 19th, 2018
Time: 11.00 am
Place: Mt Evelyn RSL Hall
49 Birmingham Rd,
Mt Evelyn
For further details:
mtevrsl@gmail.com

To be Launched by:
Hugh Robertson
President of Melbourne Legacy

Guest Speaker:
The Hon Tony Smith MP,
Federal Member for Casey,
Speaker of the House

Plus Guest Performers

A Note of Appreciation

Thank you for another beautiful newsletter (May 2018 edition). I am so thankful that our local historians got together when their children were at primary school and started researching the history of Mt Evelyn and the families and weekenders who lived and visited here. Otherwise, had these transcripts not been made, all that history would have been lost.

Also, a big thank you to Ian James, who obviously took copious notes at his participation in the Aboriginal Network Forum which allowed the reader to learn more about Victorian Aboriginal history comprising in part of sites, land use and practices.

And Paula, thank you, now we have a comprehensive list of the historically valuable scenes in and around Mt Evelyn depicted on the Rose Series postcards, for future generations.

And only for the record, I thought the spelling of roustabout looked a little suss, so I looked it up and it is actually a word and an occupation, however, the one meant for this sentence [a roustabout in a sheep shed] I think, is rouseabout.

Robyn Taylor 13 June 2018

Thank you for your kind words and engaged reading, Robyn. *The Macquarie Dictionary* (by which we stand or fall) redirects 'roustabout' to 'rouseabout'. That is, 'rouseabout' is the more common spelling in Australia, but 'roustabout' is equivalent in meaning and is not incorrect. **Eds**

You Know You're Part of History ...

... whenever you're confronted (usually by your children), saying that something can't be kept any longer because it's past its 'use by' date. 'Use by' date? If we hadn't eaten it immediately, we simply looked for mould or checked its smell!

Also I have had a few people remind me of this recently: 'You know you're part of history when you can remember being told to go outside and play after breakfast. You went off who knew where and returned in time for tea at 5pm!' One friend who had children in the 1970s recalls them being asked by a neighbour's child, 'Are you ALLOWED to play in the house?' **Isabel Martini**

'The comment about being sent outside to play brought back memories, but I think that we were expected to show up for lunch, and that always interrupted the activity/project/game that we were involved in.' **Alison Martin**

'In connection with playing outside, a friend mentioned recently that children are becoming increasingly near-sighted. If the eyes don't get used to focusing on the distance in childhood, apparently they fail to develop proper long-distance vision. If that's true, our mothers and their generation were on the right track.'

Karen Phillips

'That (the benefit of the great outdoors for eyesight) was mentioned at the Landcare/MEEPPA Tree Forum! I had a Malaysian Chinese friend at Uni who always walked for an hour after tea to look at green things, which she said aided health'. **Paula Herlihy**

From Kev's Rain Gauge				
Rainfall (in mm) for Mt Evelyn, McKillop, and Melbourne for the last three months.				
	May	June	July	2018 YTD
Mt Evelyn	107.2	83.1	56.7	362.5
McKillop	134.7	96	65.3	404.7
Melbourne	65.6	43.2	19.4	234.6

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

Kevin Phillips

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