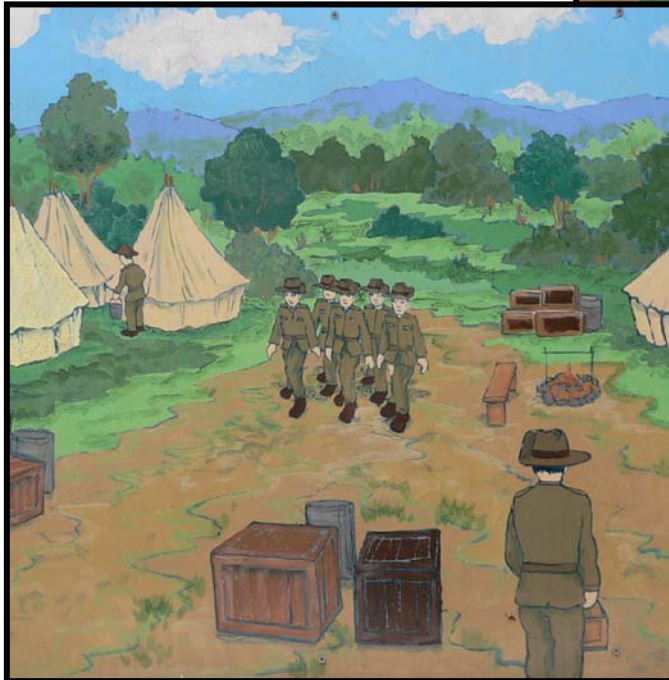


# Colouring Mt Evelyn's Timeline Fence



Pictures by Russell Danby  
Text based on Karen Phillips' captions

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Mt Evelyn Township Improvement Committee (METIC)  
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Painters  
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Cr Tim Heenan, Yarra Ranges Council

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## About Russell Danby

Russell Danby created the Timeline Fence murals. Russell has painted and exhibited since the 1970s. He attended Caulfield Institute (now Monash) to study Fine Art - Painting.

As 'Muralmaker', Russell has completed murals with participants from schools, hospitals, day programs and community groups. He also creates private garden and living space murals. Russell has won awards for his community murals with Banyule Council and has completed murals for other local government bodies.

### Contact Russell Danby on:

Email: [russell@muralmaker.com.au](mailto:russell@muralmaker.com.au)

Online: [www.muralmaker.com.au](http://www.muralmaker.com.au)

## About this book

Russell Danby's original sketches for the Timeline Fence are reproduced in this book, along with the murals as completed by the community under Russell's direction. The first ten sketches are those used to create the Fence. The final sketch, 'Fighting the Fires', was drawn by Russell but not used for the Timeline Fence. Paula Herlihy has adapted Karen Phillips' text for community members with lower reading levels.

**This book is for all of us who love to colour in!**

# Mt Evelyn Timeline Community Arts Project

The Timeline Community Arts Project was installed at the end of 2008 after four years in the making. Community leaders at first imagined a Township Profile Fence. They considered various sites before choosing a central location on the Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail (the Warby Trail) through Mt Evelyn.

Following consultation with Yarra Ranges, the project evolved into a series of historical murals that would tell the Mt Evelyn story and enhance connections to our place and community.

Local schools, groups and businesses were approached. They responded enthusiastically with offers to paint panels and provide sponsorship or resources. The result is a magnificent series of murals that tell the story of our township, developing through time in its unique setting.

The project would not have been possible without the generous support of:

Mt Evelyn & Districts Community Bank®

Yarra Ranges (Shire and Council)

Bowens Timber & Building Supplies

Project of Mt Evelyn Township Improvement Committee (METIC)

Project Manager: Morrison House

Mural Artist and Project Worker: Russell Danby

Signwriter: Andrew Petrie, Pinstripes Plus

Writer: Karen Phillips

Historical Research: Mount Evelyn History Group



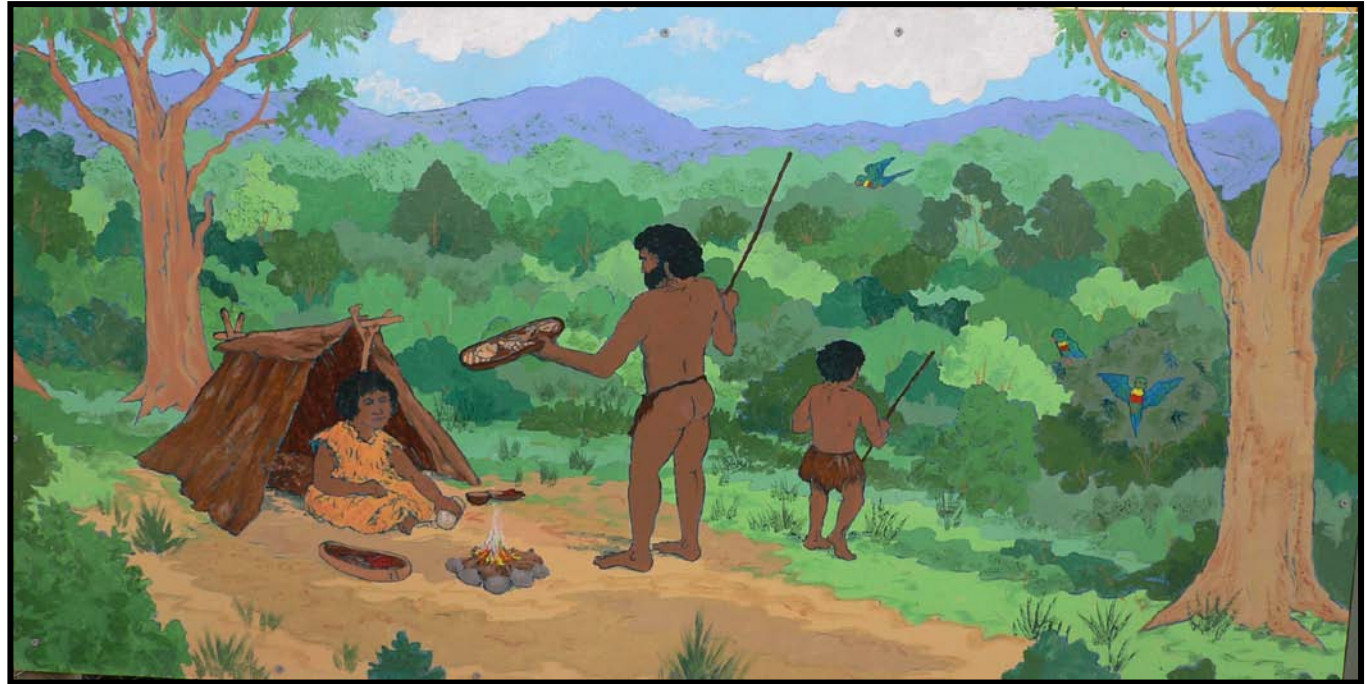
## The Wurrundjeri

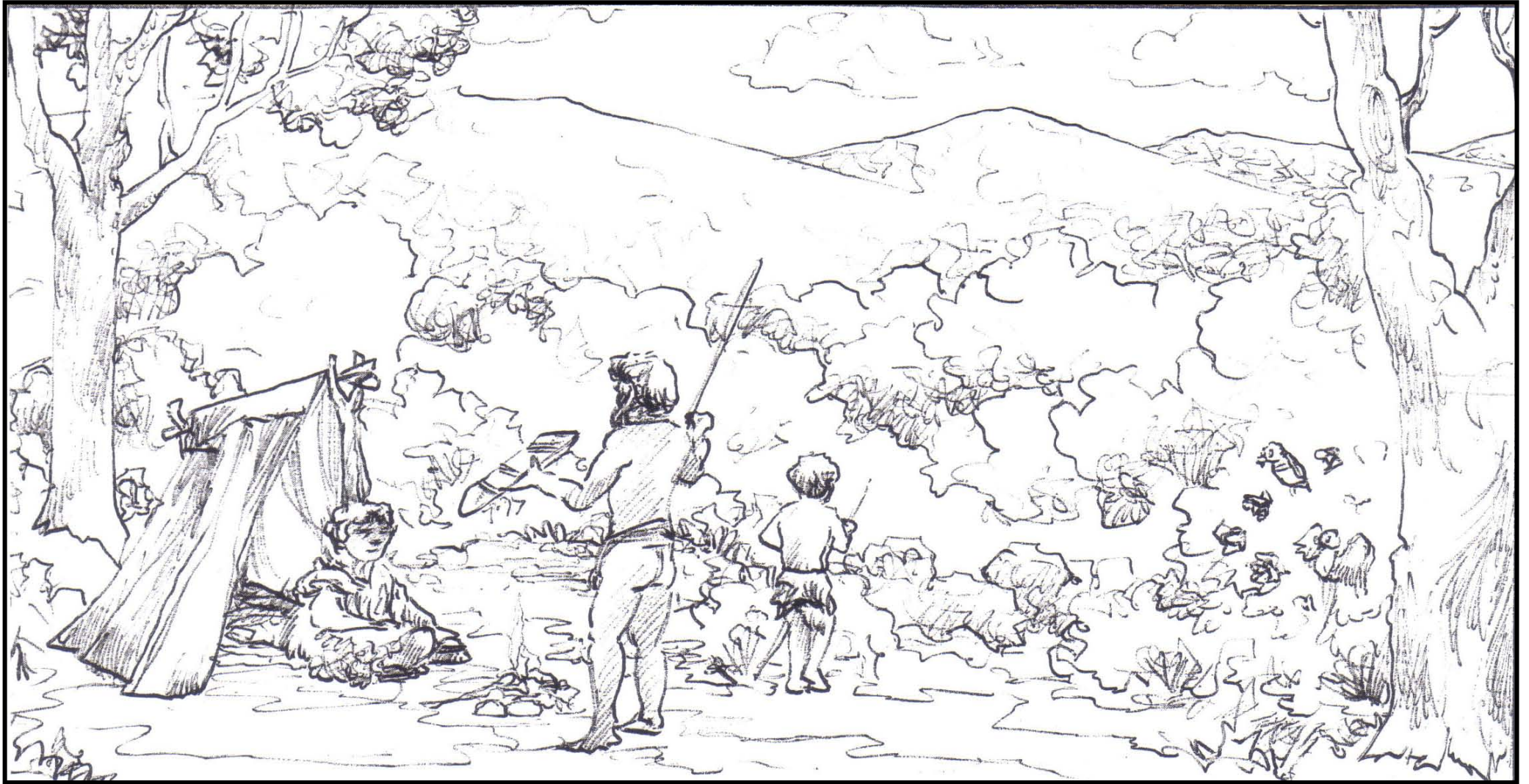
The Wurrundjeri Aborigines lived in this area for thousands of years before European settlement. They spent their summers beside the rivers and moved up into sheltered bush in winter. Their known camping places in Mt

Evelyn were beside Olinda Creek and at Billygoat Hill. Here a hunting party sets out from camp. The figure in front of the bark shelter is wearing a possum-skin cloak. The name 'Wurrundjeri' means a kind of edible grub found in manna gum trees.

Painted by St Mary's Primary School.

Sponsored by Mt Evelyn History Group Inc.







## Bullock Teams and Timber

When the land that is now Mt Evelyn was first surveyed in the mid-1850s, a timber mill was already operating on the site of Mt Evelyn Reserve. Bullocks provided the heavy transport in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.



Bullock teams like this one carried loads for projects such as the O'Shannassy Aqueduct. The western ridge of Mt Evelyn (the Birmingham Road area) was called 'Bullock Hill' in the early days.

Painted by Birmingham Primary School.

Sponsored by Mt Evelyn Veterinary Clinic & Animal Hospital.





# The Berry Farm

From the 1870s onwards, the slopes and valleys were dotted with small farms, where selectors struggled to make a living. Drought, bushfire, pests and isolation added to their hardships and many farms failed.

Crops grown in the area included fruit, flowers and berries.

The picture shows the berry farm that once flourished in what is now the middle of the town around Wray Crescent. Some of the farmer's land was taken for the railway. He went bankrupt - but that's another story ...

Painted by St Mary's Primary School.

Sponsored by Morrison on the Park Café and Winebar.









## Swaggies in Tough Times

The 1890s saw one of the poorest times in Australia's history. The government let people have land for 'Village Settlements' if they cleared trees and bush, built a house, collected water and grew crops.

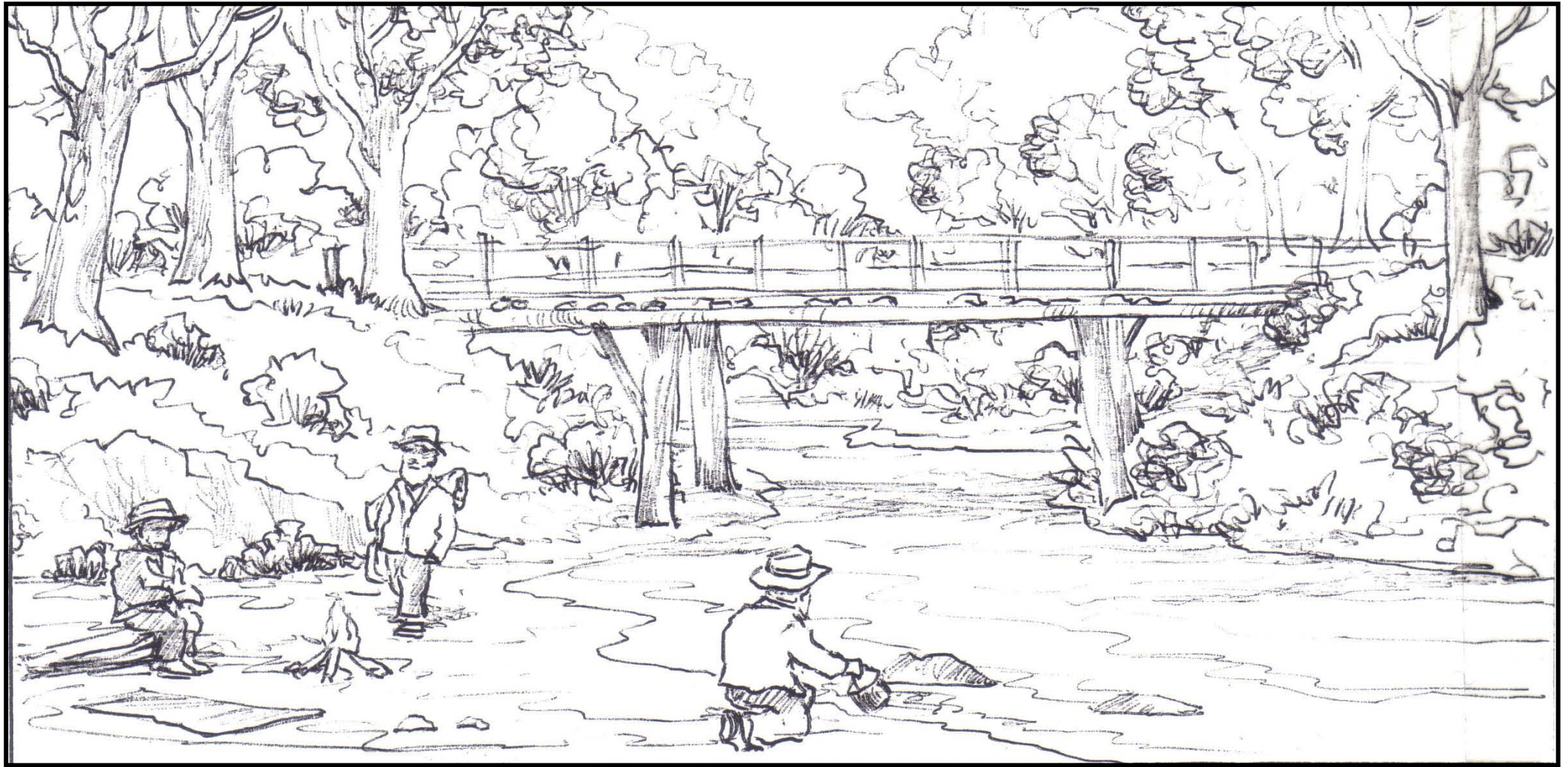
A village of small blocks between Swansea Road

and Olinda Creek was later called 'Valinda' or 'Olinda Vale'. Thousands of men took to the road with their swags to look for work. Here swaggies set up camp beside one of the old log bridges across Olinda Creek.

Painted by Pembroke Secondary College.

Sponsored by Kuranga Native Plant Nursery & Paperbark Café.







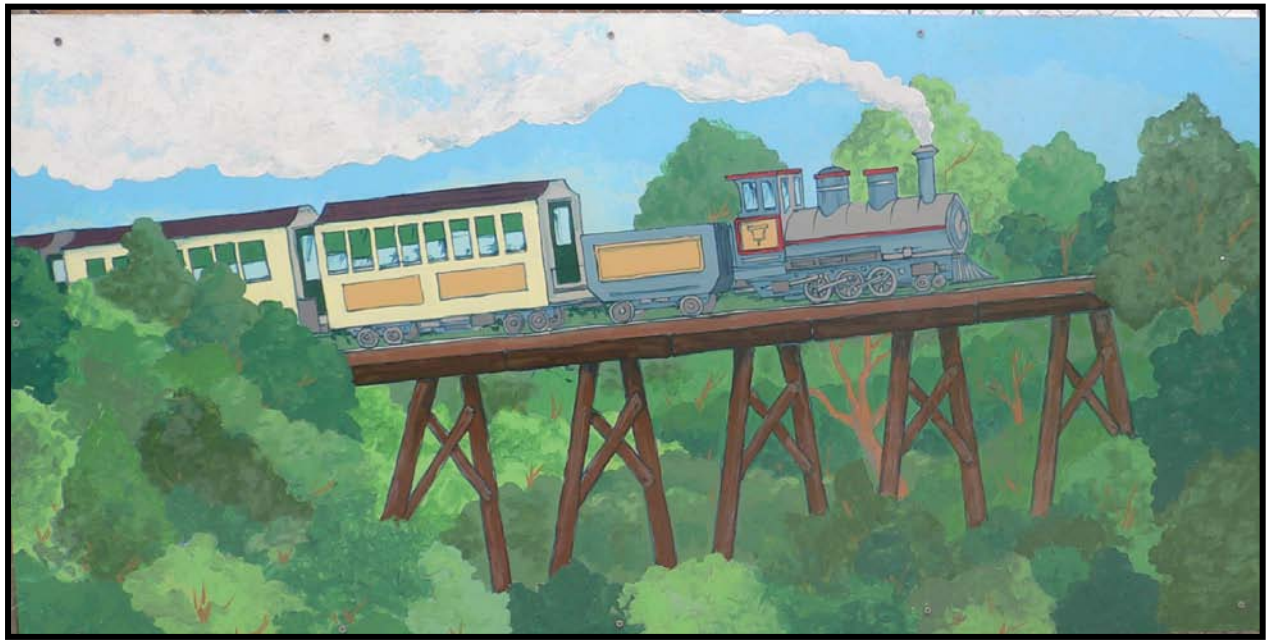
# The First Train

When the Lilydale to Warburton Railway was opened in 1901, farmers and timbermen could use it to take their goods to markets. Not everyone was happy. The government did not pay owners for land taken to build the railway. Joseph Alexander ruined

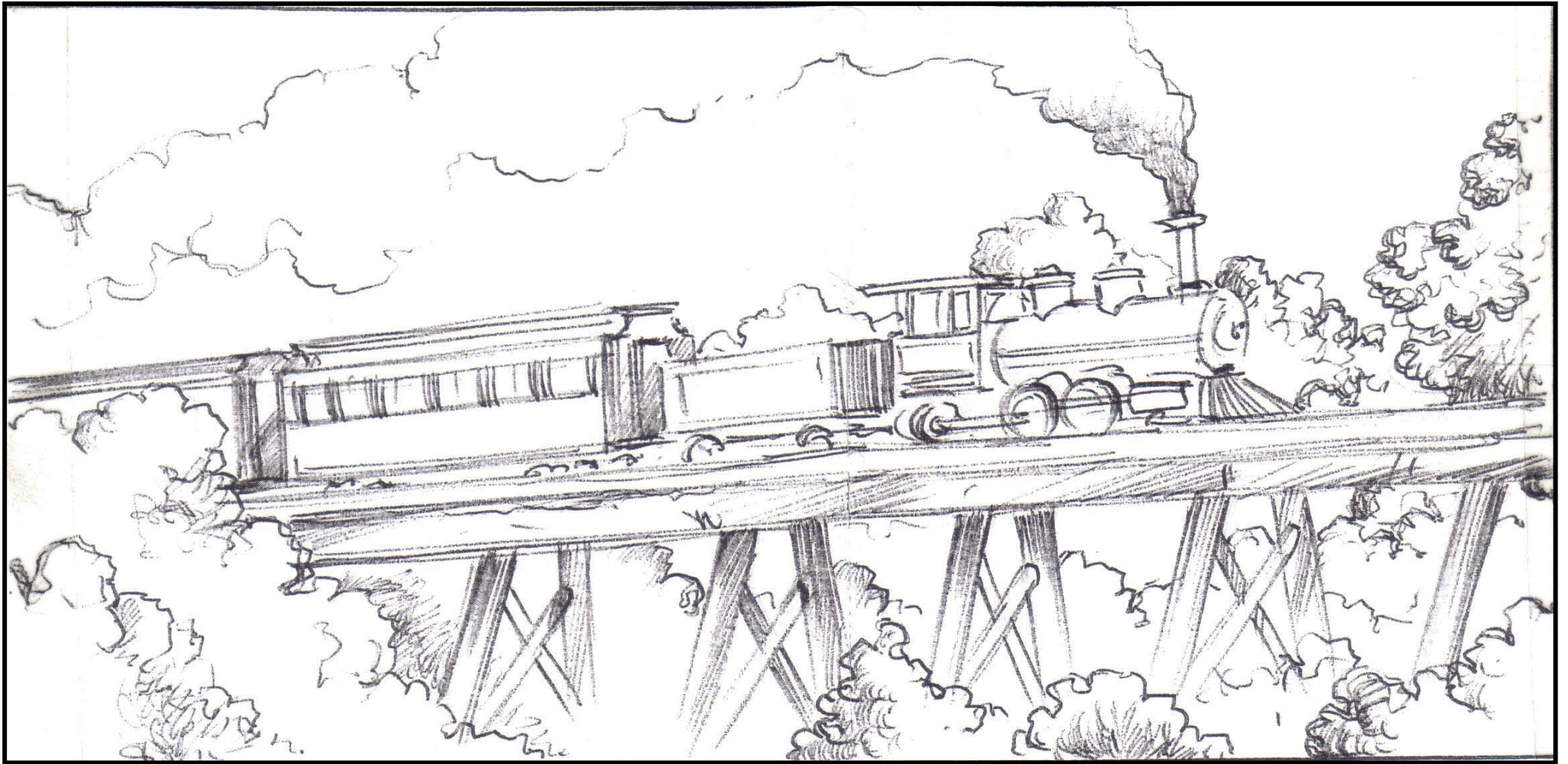
himself fighting for compensation. Alexander owned the berry farm on the site of Mt Evelyn township and also ran the 'Valinda' Post Office. Here the first train steams across the trestle bridge over Maroondah Highway to begin the climb towards Olinda Vale station (Mt Evelyn).

Painted by Mt Evelyn Special Developmental School.

Sponsored by Ark Sheet Metal.







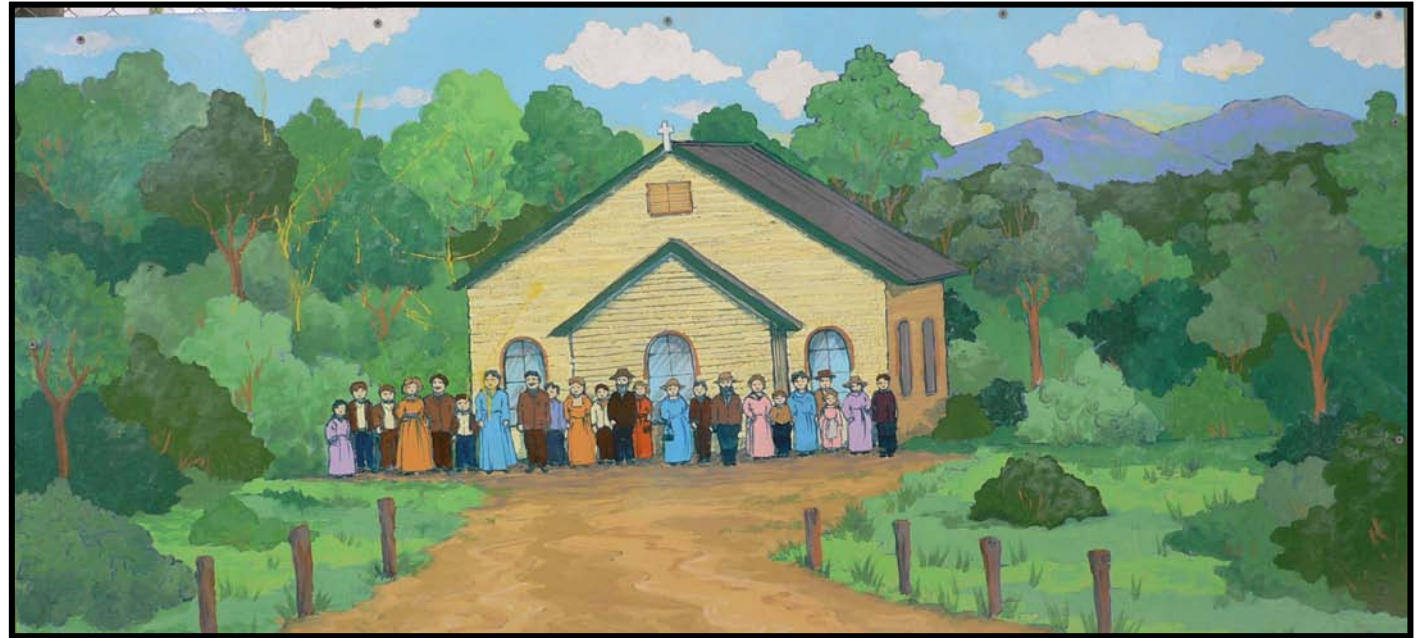
## Peace after War

32 men from Evelyn served in World War I. In 1918 a block of land in Watkins Crescent was donated for a church, in thanks-giving for the Armistice.

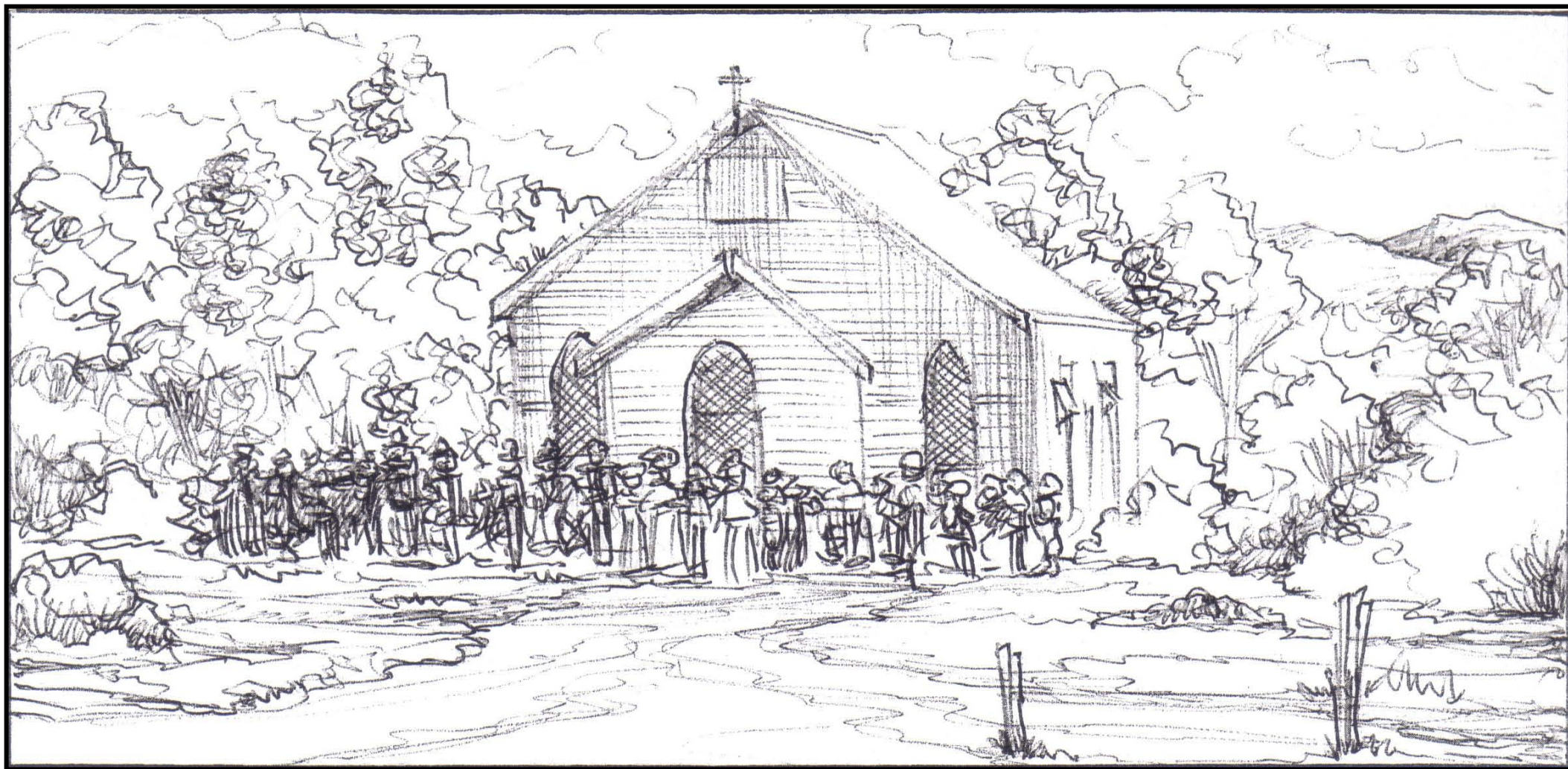
The Evelyn Sunday School raised funds to build the Union Church, which opened in 1920. The building was used by different churches and rented to Mt Evelyn Primary School as an extra classroom. Like most of our historic church buildings, it is now a private home.

Painted by Pembroke Secondary College.

Sponsored by Ray Donovan Real Estate.









## Scouts: 80 Years in Mt Evelyn

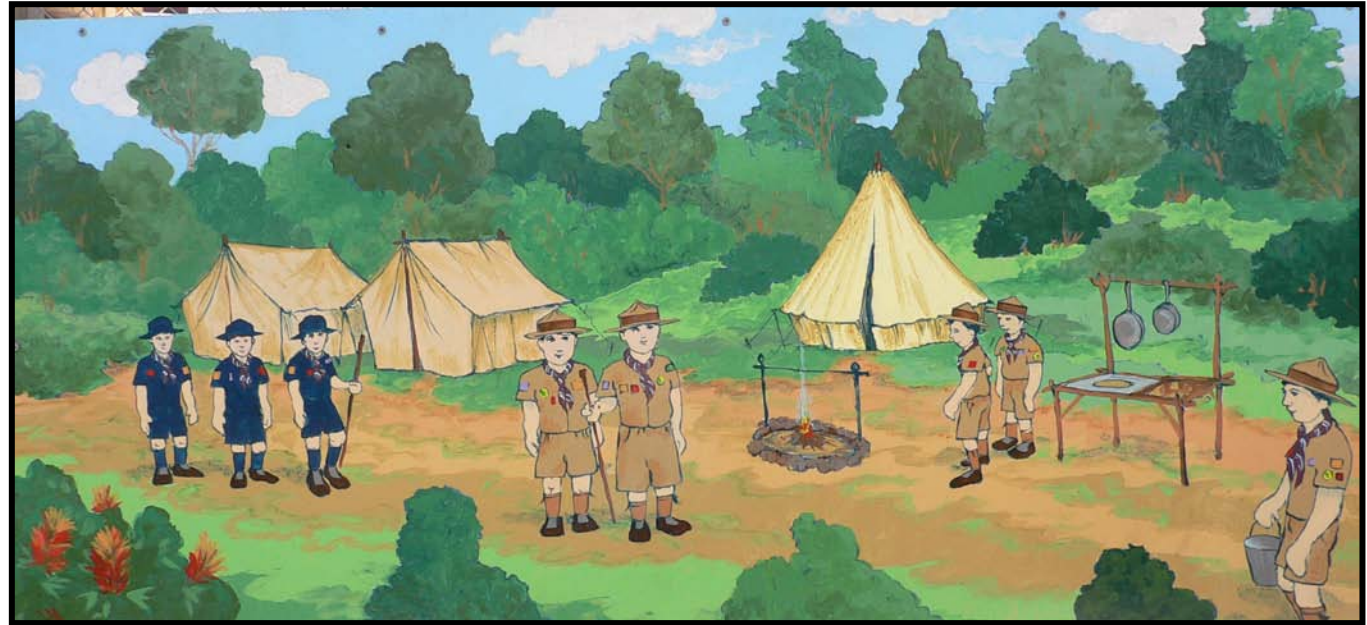
Mt Evelyn Scouts started in 1928. The painting shows Scouts in 'lemon squeezer' style hats enjoying one of the early camps.

Land in Station Street was bought in 1950 and a hut was moved from Upper Yarra Dam as

the first Scout Hall. Scouting helps young people achieve their full potential and 'Be Prepared' throughout life. This is done through adventurous, fun, challenging programs that develop leadership, teamwork and community. In 2008 the Scouts celebrated their Australian Centenary.

Painted by 1<sup>st</sup> Mt Evelyn Scouts.

Sponsored by Mt Evelyn IGA.







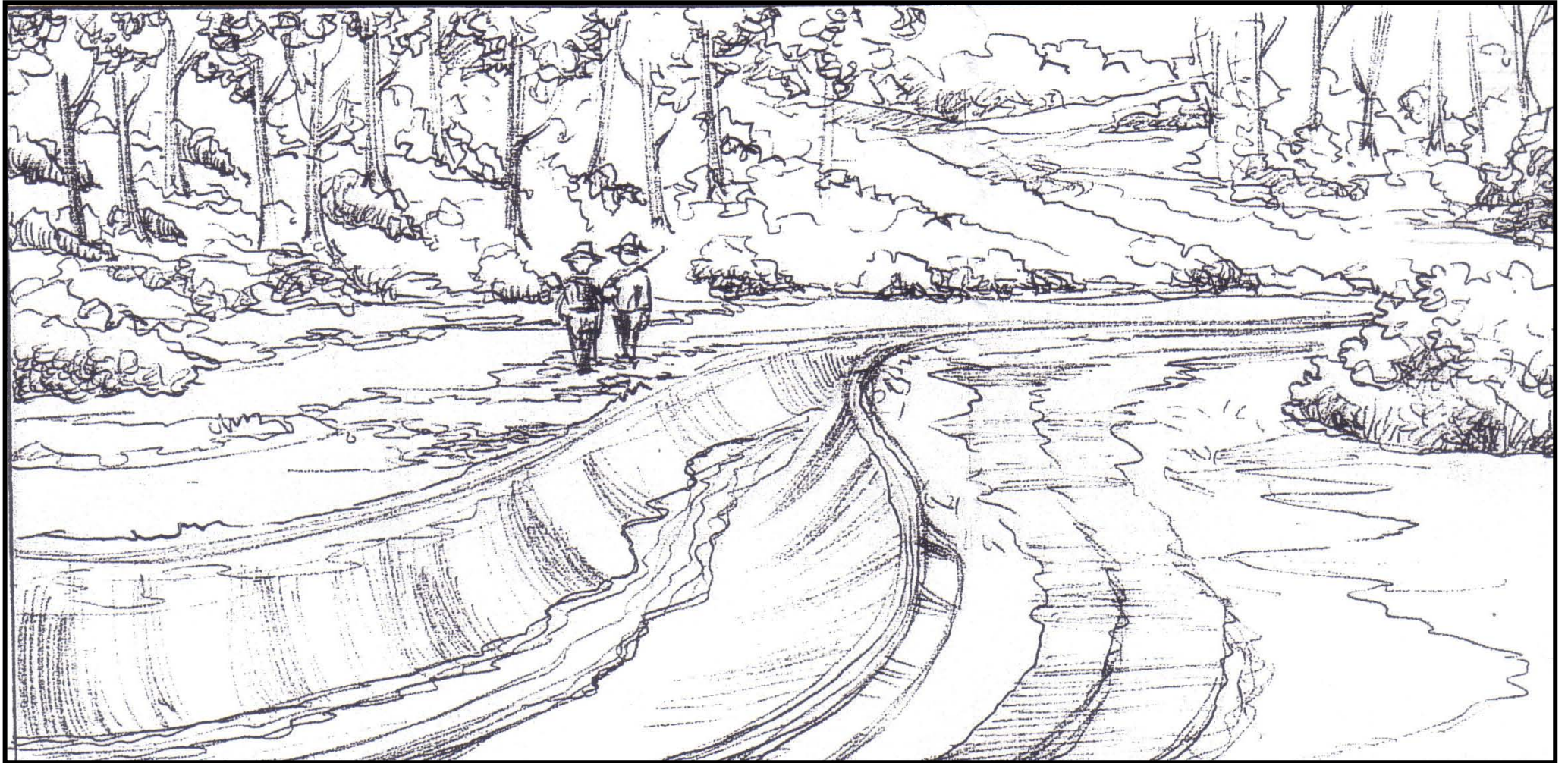
## The Aqueduct from Silvan

The 1920s and 1930s are remembered as Mt Evelyn's boom years. The town was a popular holiday place. Silvan Reservoir was being built and many of the workers boarded in local guesthouses.

An outflow aqueduct from Silvan Dam joined the older O'Shannassy Aqueduct near Ormeau Road. After the Aqueduct was closed the Melba Centre was built at this junction. The Aqueduct Walk passes through Mt Evelyn Primary School. The Walk has a section of the original channel beside the track at the Hunter Road end. Painted and sponsored by Mt Evelyn Primary School.









# The Military Camp

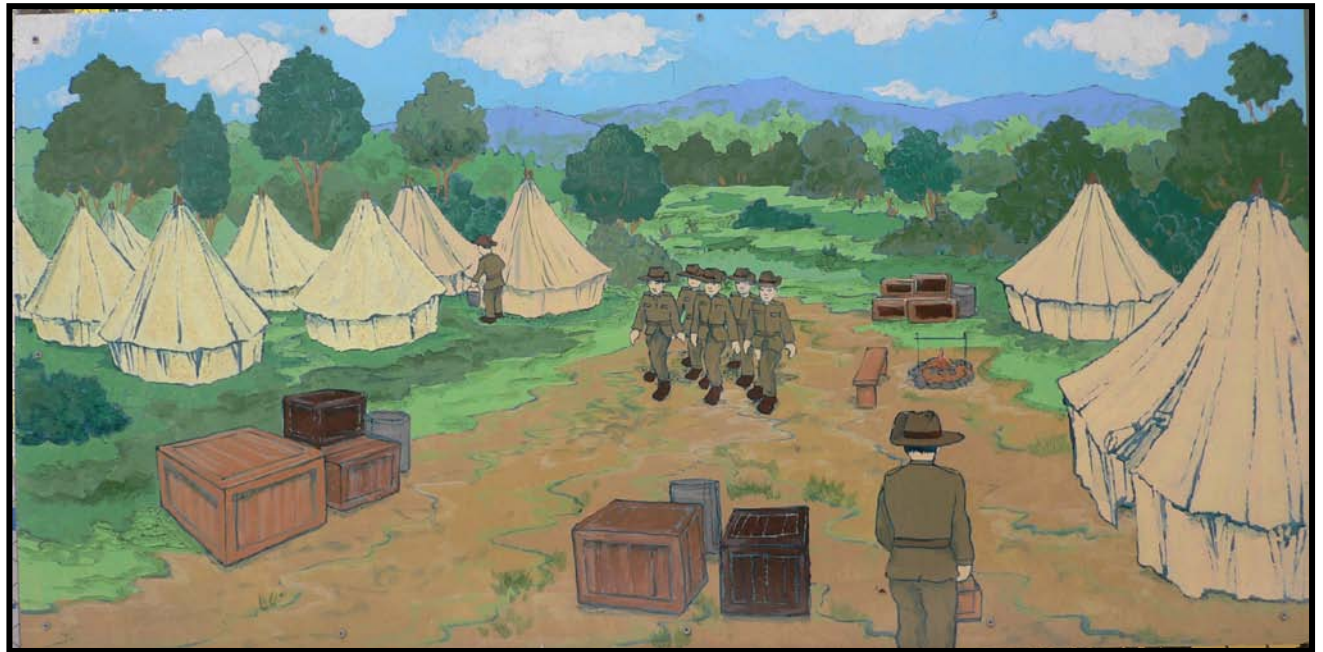
During World War II a Medical School was attached to the National Fitness Camp at Mt Evelyn Reserve.

Australian soldiers and about 50 Americans were stationed there for medical and general training. The Americans

were surprised that they could not buy some familiar items in the shops. The soldiers did their bush training and marching around the York Road hill. They took their weapons out into the bush, staged 'accidents' and practised bandaging the 'wounded'. Some people think there are wartime storage tunnels under the oval.

Painted by Birmingham Primary School.

Sponsored by Egon's Hair Shop.







## Opening of the Rail Trail

From the 1950s Mt Evelyn developed as a residential area. Businesses used trucks and cars were more common. People still travelled on the railway but not many businesses used the railway to carry goods. The line closed in 1965 and the reserve became a wasteland of blackberries and rubbish.

The Friends of the Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail cleared the land, made the track and repaired the bridges. Here cyclists and hikers watch the opening of a section of Rail Trail in 1997. The bridge over the highway at Lilydale (trestle bridge site) completes the Trail.

Painted by Mt Evelyn Primary School.

Sponsored by Ray White Real Estate.

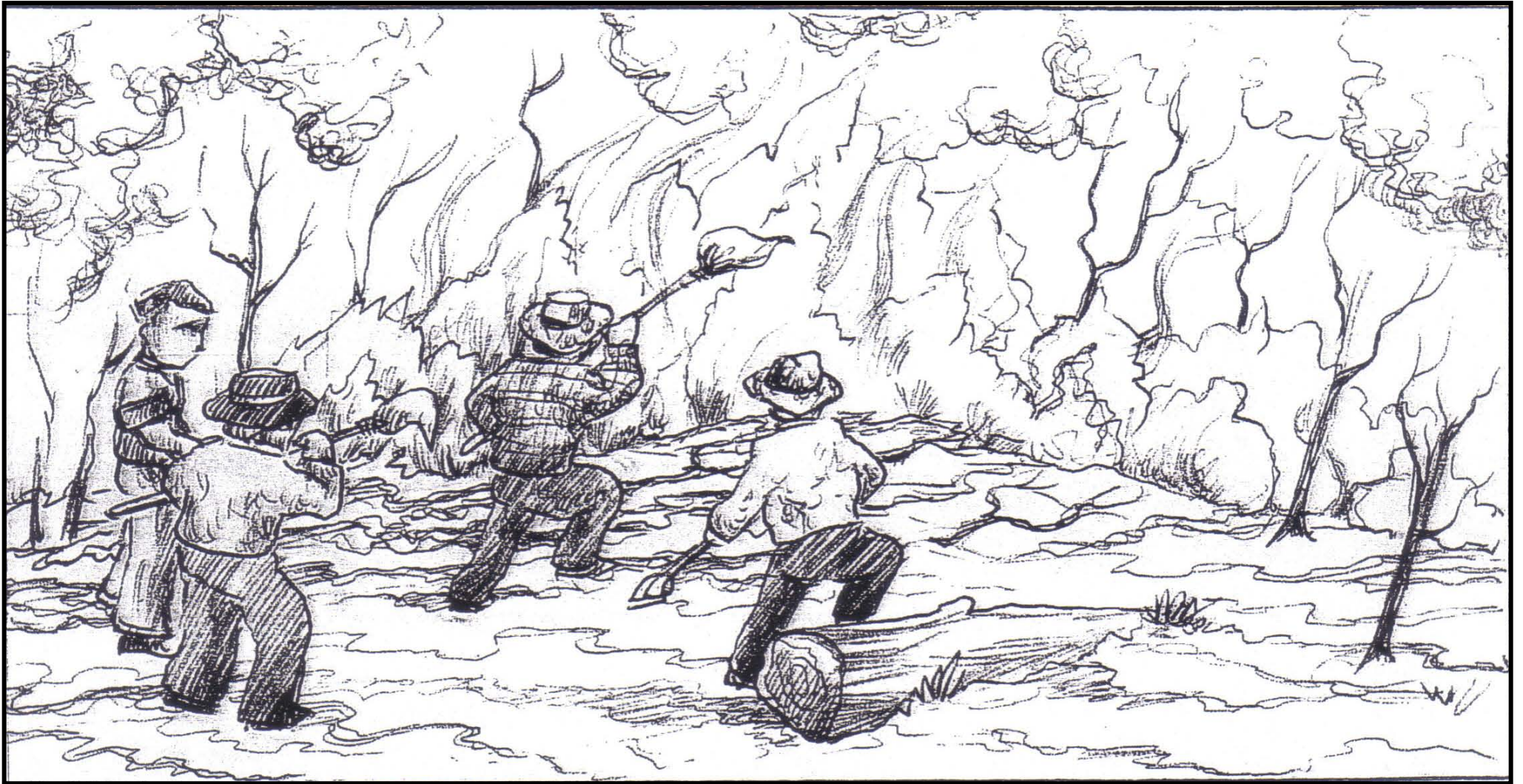








## Fighting the Fires





# Glossary

'Lemon squeezer' hat	Broad-brimmed hat, with a high crown, pinched at the four corners. Looks a bit like a lemon squeezer.
Aborigines	The first people living in a land.
Americans	People from the United States of America.
Aqueduct	Channel to carry water. The Mt Evelyn Aqueduct was concrete lined.
Armistice	When the sides fighting a war agree to stop fighting. An armistice is not always the end of a war but in 1918 it was the end of WWI.
Bankrupt	Someone who cannot pay their debts. They are forced by the law to pay people they owe money to by methods like selling their house.
Billygoat Hill (Melway 118 D 11)	Part of Mt Evelyn bounded by the curved section of Russell Street, Forge Road at one end and the straight section of Bourke Road to Fernhill Road at the other.
Bullock	Castrated bull. Bullocks were as strong as bulls but not so fierce.
Bullock Hill	The Birmingham Road hill area.
Centenary	100 years since the beginning; 100 <sup>th</sup> anniversary.
Compensation	Payment for the land taken to build the railway. This was the first time nobody was paid.
Edible	Eatable; used for food.
European(s)	Pale skinned people from Europe who settled in Victoria in the 19 <sup>th</sup> century. Europe includes England, Ireland, France, Holland and Germany.
Evelyn	An early name for Mt Evelyn.
Guesthouse	A big house where people paid to stay for a holiday.
Jamboree	A large gathering of Scouts from all over the country or overseas.
Manna gum	A tall gum tree that grows along creeks and rivers, also known as White Gum or Ribbon Gum ( <i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i> ). Its upper bark peels away in long 'ribbons'.
Melba Centre	A Day Training Centre for people with an intellectual disability.

National Fitness Camp	The National Fitness movement in Australia started in 1939 to prepare to fight in World War II. Brother Bill's holiday house for poor children was opened in 1940, and became Mt Evelyn's National Fitness Camp.
O'Shannassy Aqueduct	A channel built between 1911 & 1914 to deliver water for Melbourne from the O'Shannassy Reservoir to Surrey Hills Reservoir.
Olinda Creek	A creek that flows through Mt Evelyn, called 'Gnurt-bille-worrund' by the Wurrundjeri and 'Running Creek' on early maps.
Olinda Vale	An early name for Mt Evelyn.
Reservoir	A dam for water storage.
Residential area	A place where people live.
Selector	Farmer who chose some government land to work on that he hoped to pay for and own.
Silvan Reservoir	Reservoir created by the Silvan Dam, starting point of the Mt Evelyn Aqueduct.
Swag	A blanket holding everything a person owned, rolled up and tied with rope to make a bag.
Swaggy, swaggies	Swagman. A man walking around looking for work and using a swag to carry his things.
Trestle bridge	A bridge supported by wooden frames.
Upper Yarra Dam	The 3 <sup>rd</sup> largest of Melbourne's reservoirs. Water from Upper Yarra travels along open channels and underground pipelines to reservoirs all over Melbourne.
Valinda	An early name for Mt Evelyn.
Village Settlements	A government scheme to give land to people cheaply if they lived and worked there.
World War I	A war lasting from 1914 to 1918.
World War II	A war from 1939 to 1945 which involved most of the world's nations.
Wurrundjeri	The Aborigines who lived in what is now Mt Evelyn and the Yarra Valley.



# About Mount Evelyn Township Improvement Committee (METIC)

James Merlino (Yarra Ranges Councillor on the Committee of Management of Morrison House) and Jan Simmons (CEO of Morrison House) called a public meeting in 1998 to look at ways to revitalise the town. Following this meeting, the Mount Evelyn Township Improvement Committee Incorporated was formed.

METIC is structured into 10 Strategic Directions, with representatives from the areas of:

- Arts & Culture
- Community Life
- Education & Lifelong Learning
- Environment
- Planning
- Family
- Growing Business
- Health & Wellbeing
- Safety & Security
- Youth

Today we see a vibrant community, building partnerships between METIC and the Shire, underpinned by the management, administrative and grant seeking expertise of Morrisons.

Email: [metic01@gmail.com](mailto:metic01@gmail.com)

Websites:

<http://metic.comfypage.com>

<http://www.mtevelyn.vic.au>

## About Mount Evelyn History Group

An informal group of enthusiasts convened in the 1990s to produce a history of Mt Evelyn. *Tracks to Trails: A History of Mt Evelyn* was published in 1997 and the second (Centenary) edition in 2001. The Mount Evelyn History Group incorporated in 2008.

We aim to encourage a high standard of research, writing and history-related skills, and encourage historical appreciation and activities in the community. The latest issue of our monthly newsletter, *Things Past*, can be downloaded from our website.

Postal address: P.O. Box 101 Mt Evelyn VIC 3796.

Email: [historygroup@mountevelyn.vic.au](mailto:historygroup@mountevelyn.vic.au)

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[herlihy@alphalink.com.au](mailto:herlihy@alphalink.com.au)

Newsletter: Karen Phillips (Secretary), [karen.m.l.phillips@gmail.com](mailto:karen.m.l.phillips@gmail.com)

Website: <http://www.mt-evelyn.net/Community-Groups/Mt-Evelyn-History-Group.aspx>

### MOUNT EVELYN HISTORY GROUP INC MEMBERSHIP FORM

July 20.... to June 20....

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO

The Treasurer, Mt Evelyn History Group Inc. PO Box 101,  
Mt Evelyn VIC 3796

Name(s).....

Address.....

.....

Postcode.....Phone.....

Email .....

Subscription: \$5 per person per year. No concessions. Please  
enclose cheque payable to Mount Evelyn History Group Inc.  
This form may be photocopied.